

The New Mexico SpecialQuest State Leadership Team includes state partners and family leaders working together in support of building capacity to increase inclusive settings through a well-trained professional work force.

- NM Head Start Collaboration Office
- NM Public Education Department, Special Education Bureau
- NM Department of Health, Family Infant Toddler Program
- NM Children, Youth and Families Department, Office of Child Development
- NM Early Childhood Higher Education Task Force
- UNM/Center for Development and Disability
- Parents Reaching Out (PRO)
- Education for Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs (EPICS)
- NM SpecialQuest Community Graduates: Alamo Navajo Early Childhood Center and La Clinica de Familia Early Head Start
- Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)
- NM Association for the Education of Young Children
- NM Governor's Commission on Disability
- NM School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- NM School for the Deaf

*“Be ever watchful for the opportunity to shelter little children with the umbrella of your charity... For, as they must bear the burdens of our mistakes, so are they in their innocence the repositories of our hopes for the upward progress of humanity.”*

—Conrad Nicholson Hilton



*For more information contact the following SpecialQuest State Leadership Team Representative:*

*birth-five*  
**SpecialQuest**  
 **New Mexico**

## THE QUEST FOR INCLUSION



**How are you supporting inclusive practices in your community?**

*Through SpecialQuest Birth-Five, New Mexico will help develop an early childhood professional workforce trained and prepared to work with all children.*

## History of National SpecialQuest:

SpecialQuest training initiative began with a collaboration between the Conrad Hilton Foundation and the Office of Head Start in 1997. The mission was for Early Intervention, Early/Head Start and Child Care to develop skills and strategies for accessing and using services, resources, and technology to include infants and toddlers with significant disabilities and their families in Early Head Start settings through a team-based approach.

## SpecialQuest Birth-Five:

Through this new initiative, resources have been allocated to support states in forming leadership teams to utilize the SpecialQuest approach and materials to further their efforts in implementing inclusive practices.

- New Mexico is one of ten states chosen to participate in this initiative.
- The NM SpecialQuest State Leadership team has developed plans and strategies to increase inclusive opportunities for children with special needs from birth-five in early care settings.

## New Mexico SpecialQuest Vision:

All families of young children (birth through five) receive quality supports, services and systems of care that are accessible to all groups, respectful of individual and family choice, child and family centered, culturally competent, and within community-based systems, which work together to enhance positive outcomes for families and children in New Mexico.

## Key Concepts:

### **Belonging:**

Every human being has the right to be part of the ebb and flow of community life, regardless of his or her unique needs and gifts.

### **Family Leadership:**

Family involvement is essential. Developing family leadership is critical to successful delivery of quality services.

### **Collaboration & Teaming:**

Different disciplines working together will benefit families and communities.

### **Life-Long Learning & Continuous Improvement:**

Issues can be solved, challenges met, and barriers overcome when those involved in inclusive efforts continue to learn from their experiences and consciously pursue opportunities for ongoing growth.



*The New Mexico SpecialQuest State Leadership Team is asking for your commitment to work towards including all children and their families in all aspects of community life.*



You can support inclusion by embedding the SpecialQuest approach, materials and resources into professional development and service systems. You can access these resources for free online at [specialquest.org](http://specialquest.org).

You can also check out the materials and supporting DVD's/ VHS tapes at the UNM Center for Development and Disability Training Library at <http://cdd.unm.edu/linc/index.htm>

[www.specialquest.org](http://www.specialquest.org)