

The SpecialQuest Approach to Professional Development on Inclusion for Young Children with Disabilities and their Families



SpecialQuest is designed to touch the “head, heart, and hands” of families and professionals working together to create inclusive communities for young children with disabilities. This relationship- and team-based approach enhances and sustains inclusive services, family leadership skills, and integrated, collaborative service delivery. Teams participate in intensive and engaging learning experiences which use parallel process and continuous improvement strategies. In addition, teams are supported with coaching, facilitation, and follow-up supports over time to implement high quality inclusive services. The SpecialQuest approach is built on a solid foundation of current theories of adult learning, systems change, and sustainability. The SpecialQuest approach has two components, values and design, which are woven together to create successful professional development.

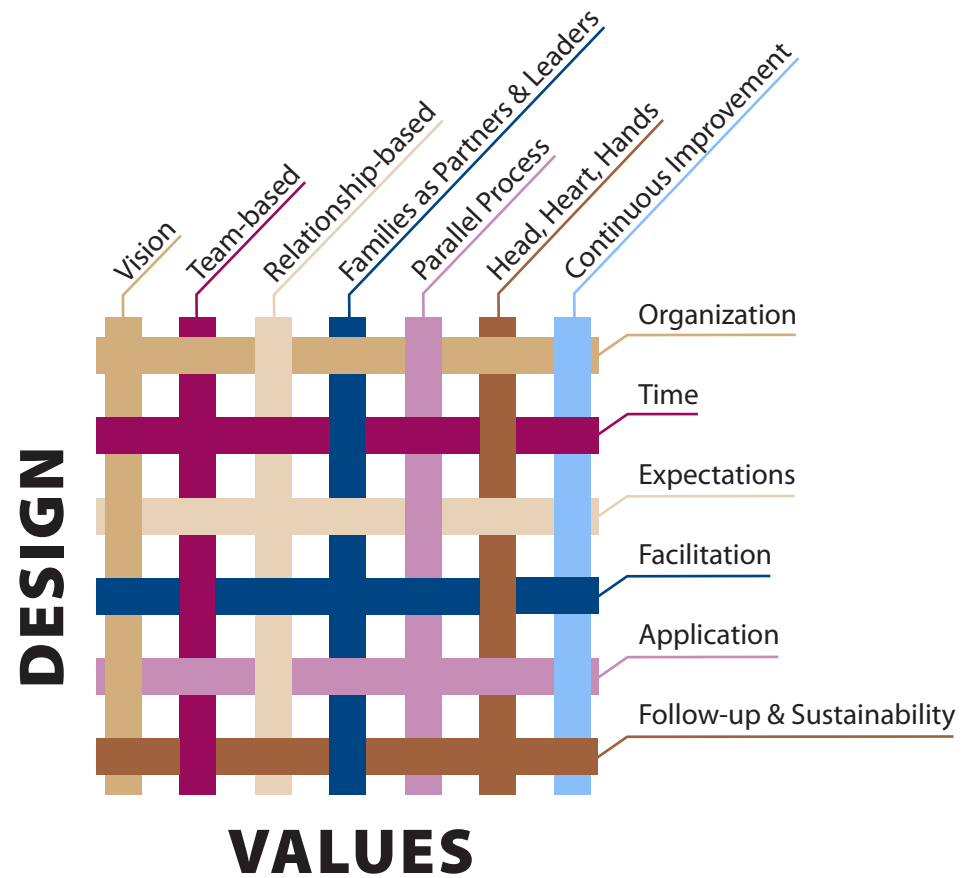
Weaving Values and Design into Effective Professional Development on Inclusion to Benefit Young Children with Disabilities and their Families

Values

- The elements under the values component are interrelated. Each element is critical to the SpecialQuest approach and required for full implementation of the SpecialQuest approach to professional development.
- Values guide the SpecialQuest approach and must be evident throughout each design element of a professional development process.

Design

- Learning strategies are designed to be respectful, individualized, and experiential.
- Learning is applied by teams to create and sustain program and systems change.
- Content reflects effective practices in inclusive service delivery, family engagement and leadership development, and teaming and collaboration.



Go to www.specialquest.org for a more detailed description of the SpecialQuest Approach.