



BENEFITS of the SpecialQuest Approach and Materials

SpecialQuest Multimedia Training Library: Early Childhood Inclusion Training Resources That Work

Data gathered from over 500 Early Head Start programs participating in nationwide training have shown that using the SpecialQuest approach to professional development on inclusion created and sustained change in early care and education programs.

Programs and communities using the SpecialQuest approach and materials find themselves:

- Increasing the number of young children with disabilities they serve in inclusive settings
- Supporting families as informed decision-makers
- Enhancing collaboration among service providers and families
- Increasing services to families
- Providing training throughout their communities
- Coordinating the skills of interdisciplinary service providers and valuing their multiple perspectives.

*“I didn’t realize what I didn’t know,
or needed to know, about serving
young children with significant disabilities,
and their families before SpecialQuest.”*

Using the components of the SpecialQuest approach in professional development activities increases the comfort, confidence, and skill of service providers in serving young children with disabilities and their families.

- SpecialQuest participants report a change in their own perspective as they come to see the child with a disability as a child first and find themselves welcoming all children into their programs.
- SpecialQuest materials provide practical examples and strategies for involving families in collaborative decision-making and leadership roles.
- SpecialQuest sessions include family members of young children with disabilities and service providers from a variety of disciplines and agencies in ongoing problem-solving to support the inclusion of young children with disabilities.
- The foundation of collaboration and respect in the approach and materials allows early care and education programs to design more accessible services and to engage in inclusive, community-wide planning that ultimately—and greatly—benefit children and families.

