Co-Teaching in Early Childhood
Considerations and Configurations
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Objectives

- Define Co-Teaching
- Identify considerations for establishing co-teaching partnerships unique to ECSE
- Consider solutions for developing co-teaching partnerships
What is co-teaching?

- Two teachers teaching together


Let's ask the expert: Marilyn Friend

- A service delivery mechanism
- Two or more professionals with equivalent licensure and employment status
- Share instructional responsibility and accountability for a single group of students for whom they both have ownership
- Occurs primarily in a shared classroom or workspace

Friend, 2018: http://coteach.com/?page_id=105

ANY CONCERNS HERE FOR EC/ECSE????

What’s “Easy” in Early Childhood Co-Teaching?

Models for Co-teaching

[Diagram showing different models of co-teaching]
What’s Happening in Early Childhood?

Where are the children?

All children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>locations</th>
<th>3-year-olds</th>
<th>4-year-olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Preschool</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Kindergarten</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Ed classrooms (not any of the above, estimate)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/None*</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from: National Institute for Early Education Research, 2018
Data sources from 2016/2017
*39.6% of 3-5 yo were NOT enrolled in PS or K in 2014, according to kidsdata.org

Where are the children?

Children in ECSE – 5.68% of population of 3-5 yo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service provision</th>
<th>CA</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive (Services in EC program)</td>
<td>45.19%</td>
<td>45.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate (Not enrolled in EC program)</td>
<td>42.06%</td>
<td>33.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual enrolled (Enrolled in an EC program, services in a different location)</td>
<td>12.74%</td>
<td>21.51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from: U.S. Department of Education, 2017
CA Teacher Preparation:
Where’s your co-teacher?

Who’s teaching the children?

Early Childhood Ed: EC Teaching Permits
- Assistant
- Associate Teacher
- Teacher
- Master Teacher
- Site Supervisor
- Program Director

Early Childhood Special Ed: ECSE Teaching Credential
- Preliminary (BA+)
- Clear

Paras not included

Changing Role in the Program
Coursework + Experience

CA Teacher Preparation:
Who's your co-teacher?
Administrators to the rescue!
Unlike in K-12, these are not issues teachers can manage on their own.

You’ve Identified Your Co-Teacher…
Now what?

Laying the Groundwork
If co-teaching is a marriage:
• You’re gonna want a pre-nup
Danger ahead!
If you don’t have some meaningful conversations about….

How do kids learn?
Many theories of how children learn result in differing styles of approaching ECE

Possible Solution for this Issue....

National Association for the Education of Young Children
Division for Early Childhood
Council for Exceptional Children
What should children learn?

Early Childhood
- Whole child focus
- (Frequently) driven by child’s interests

Early Childhood Special Ed
- Whole child focus
- Child’s individual goals related to their unique learning needs

Possible Solution for this Issue....
For programs receiving state and/or Federal funding
Who is responsible for the children's learning?  

Early Childhood Team  

Special Education Team  

Possible Solutions for this Issue  

• Define Roles and Responsibilities  

But HOW?
Identifying Roles and Responsibilities

Can start with established checklists

BUT

Will need to personalize these lists!

And revisit regularly!

Using an Activity Matrix

- EC: Brings knowledge of classroom structures
- ECSE: Brings knowledge of children's learning needs

Zone Defense

- Extension of established Roles/Responsibilities informed by particular classroom and student needs.
- Includes EVERYONE in the classroom
Don’t Forget the Paras or Assistants!

• EC Classrooms will not be successful without them!
• Need to provide support and training for their roles in the co-taught classrooms

Questions?
Insights?