



The project “Course on Coaching, Mentoring and Technical Assistance” created a coordinated statewide mechanism of assuring that those who engage in delivering early childhood education technical assistance services have access to a common base of knowledge that prepares them to be effective. A 2.0 CEU course, “The Art and Science of Early Childhood Technical Assistance,” was developed and has been embedded as part of the requirement for the Technical Assistance Provider Endorsement to North Carolina Early Educator Certification. Rather than continue a pattern of episodic access to professional development for the technical assistance workforce, this initiative created an embedded, cross-sector core technical assistance curriculum that is contextualized for North Carolina and targeted to technical assistance consultants who have at least attained a Bachelor’s Degree.

Over the course of the project, a total of 38 trainers (36 Child Care Resource & Referral staff, two mentor/evaluators with the Early Educator Support, Licensure and Professional Development Unit with the Division of Child Development and Early Education, and one Head Start representative) were trained to deliver the 2.0 CEU course, “The Art and Science of Early Childhood Technical Assistance.” This saturation of trainers ensures that the course is available statewide.

These 38 trainers had great success implementing the 2.0 CEU with technical assistance partners in their regions, training 341 technical assistance practitioners (269 of whom were Child Care Resource & Referral staff).

In addition to the 2.0 CEU Course, a three semester credit hour online graduate level course was developed and piloted by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Across N.C.’s early childhood education system (inclusive of licensed child care programs, Head Start, NC Pre-K and local public and private pre-kindergarten programs), the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, the NC Partnership for Children, Head Start at federal, local and state levels, the Department of Public Instruction’s Office of Early Learning, the Early

Course on Coaching, Mentoring and Technical Assistance

PARTNERS



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Course on Coaching, Mentoring and Technical Assistance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Intervention branch of the N.C. Division of Public Health, and the early childhood departments of N.C.'s institutions of higher education have invested considerable resources to support the continuous quality improvement of services delivered to young children and their families and to ensure that early childhood education programs and practitioners have access to technical assistance services that help them achieve improved and sustained quality.

N.C.'s early childhood education technical assistance workforce is quite diverse, with differing levels of education and experience, and is both self-employed and employed by local and regional child care resource and

referral agencies, local Smart Start organizations, Head Start, N.C. Pre-K, the N.C.-Rated License Assessment Project at UNC-Greensboro, public schools and health departments. This project created the coordinated statewide mechanism needed to assure that those who engage in delivering early childhood education technical assistance services have access to a common base of knowledge, are well-prepared and effective.

These courses will continue to be offered through the Child Care Resource and Referral Network and online through DCDEE's online platform, Moodle. For more information about the training, go to <http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/> or <http://www.childcareresourcesinc.org/ccrrs/nc-child-care-resource-referral-council/> ■

The Art and Science of Early Childhood Technical Assistance Number of Trainers by Region*

