



The Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS) is a statewide project which supports programs serving prekindergarten children with disabilities by providing training and technical assistance (TA). The primary recipients of services are the coordinators for programs serving prekindergarten children with disabilities in each of Florida's 67 school districts. The project, funded by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, is based at the University of Central Florida, with field staff working to carry out the TATS mission throughout the state. Facilitators based at each of the nine Professional Development Partnerships (PDP) provide direct services to the districts within their region. A transition consultant provides statewide TA and training on the transition process as part of Florida's Transition Project, a project within TATS.

One of the technical assistance activities is to create a community of practice for each of the identified priority areas. The TATS communities of practice are:

- Program Effectiveness/Program Quality
- Inclusion
- Evaluation and Assessment
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Transition
- Family Involvement

The purpose of each community of practice is to

- share expertise, issues, and solutions
- exchange knowledge
- develop individual capabilities
- present opportunities for participants to network and learn from each other
- link together parties with a common goal or focus
- generate new ideas.

The communities are comprised of key stakeholders within the system of services for prekindergarten children with disabilities, including both professionals and families. Membership in a community of practice is not limited to experts in that particular topic, but rather it is a learning community of individuals with shared interest from various areas of expertise and perspectives. Participation is voluntary and the communities are open to all interested individuals who share common concerns and are invested in seeking change and improving implementation of the community focus.

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Some activities of communities of practice will include

- phone or email conferences
- websites with information and chat boards
- listservs
- meetings/conferences/institutes
- discussion forums.

Each community is represented on our webpage where you can access resources, discussions, state and national experts, meeting summaries and notices of upcoming meetings.

If you are interested in joining one or more of the TATS Communities of Practice, click on the following link to make your selection: www.tats.ucf.edu/registration/copjoin.html. TATS will send out broadcast emails announcing the addition of new information to the web (resources, discussions, chats) or events (teleconference, meeting).

We encourage you to share this announcement with local and regional staff and families throughout your network.