

Current Early Childhood Barriers and Innovative Solutions

Summit PAC Early Childhood Assessment Team

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Current Issues in Early Childhood

- Cultural Changes
 - COVID-19
- System Changes
 - Developmental Speech Norms
 - Universal Pre-K

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Impact of Covid-19 on Development

- Preschool is a time of rapid development
- Heightened risks in the areas of:
 - Physical/Motor
 - Social Emotional
 - Cognitive/Linguistic

(Saltha, 2021)

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Impact of Covid-19 on Development

- Risk Factors
 - Relationships
 - Special Services
 - Communication
 - Parent’s mental and physical health moderates children’s social emotional development
(Hendry et al, 2022; Linnavalli & Kalland, 2021)
 - Due to increased adult stress
 - Children’s behavior was affected
 - Children’s academic achievement was affected
(Egan et al., 2021; Di Giorgio et al., 2021; Tracey et. al, 2022)

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Impact of Covid-19 on Development

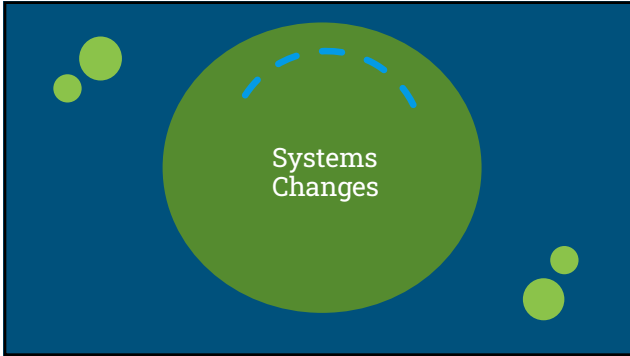
- Risk Factors
 - Relationships
 - Special Services
 - Communication
 - COVID-19 related challenges exacerbated equity issues
(Jalongo, 2021)
 - Reduced access to early intervention
 - Changes to timelines and formats of developmental evaluations
(Steed, Stein, & Charlifue-Smith, 2023)

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Impact of Covid-19 on Development

- Risk Factors
 - Relationships
 - Special Services
 - Communication
 - Comparing data from 2018/2019 to 2021/2022, new pediatric speech disorders diagnoses in children ages 3-5 increased by 107%.
(Khan, T. et. al 2023)
 - Study participants born in 2019 and 2020 with fewer opportunities for socio-communicative diversity showed lower expressive vocabulary scores.
(Feijoo, S. et. al, 2023)

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2019 ASHA Position on Developmental Speech Norms

- A Pre-COVID summary of developmental acquisition ages for articulation indicates that consonants were mastered by 90% of the samples (in thirteen different studies) by age 6 years, 4 months. (Storkel & Holly, 2019)
- This differs from the previously and commonly used Iowa/Nebraska Norms which reports an upper limit of 9 years, 9 months. (Smit, et al., 1990)

Speech Norms
 Universal Pre-K

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Renewed Best Practices for Comprehensive Articulation Analysis

ASHA defines best practice as *using a richer representation of development, specifically reflecting the range and variability inherent in development and that an accurate diagnosis can only be achieved by combining multiple measures to converge on a diagnosis.*

Practices and habits of a quick articulation assessment are not sufficient to determine the impact of articulation errors on a child's learning experience.

Speech Norms
 Universal Pre-K

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Universal Pre-K - What is that??

According to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood website:

Universal Preschool Colorado allows families to choose the right setting for their child, whether it is in a licensed community-based, school-based or home-based preschool setting. Families of children in the year before they are eligible for kindergarten, and qualifying 3-year-olds, can apply for Universal Preschool Colorado.

- Speech Norms
- Universal Pre-K

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Universal Pre-K Considerations

- Sustaining a workforce
- Professional development
- Standards and ratings

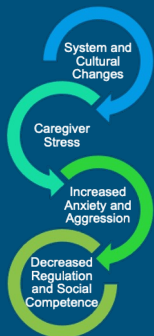


(Bellam & Whitebook, 2003)

- Speech Norms
- Universal Pre-K

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These stresses impact kids



(Jeon et al., 2019)

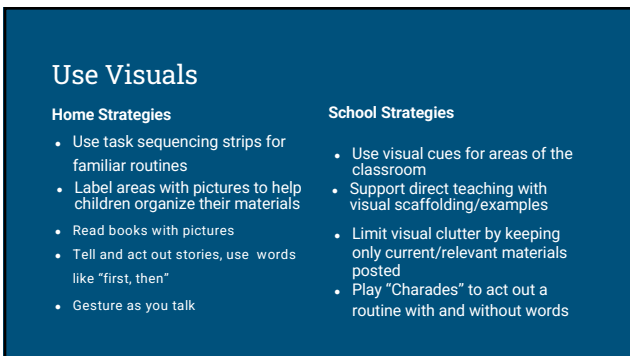
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Maintain Routines

Home Strategies

- Create a consistent schedule
- Think aloud - think ahead
- Allow your child to make choices about their day
- Incorporate mindfulness techniques during the bedtime routine

School Strategies

- Provide visual schedules
- Directly teach expectations
- Prepare students for novel experiences (e.g., social stories)

Build in opportunities and model being flexible with changes to routines

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Be a Role Model

Home Strategies

- Build on play
 - Observe your child's play
 - Follow their lead
 - Add the next step
- Create a space to re-regulate
- Label your own feelings out loud
- Take care of your own emotional regulation

School Strategies

- Model emotional regulation strategies
- Provide books with emotional language
- Provide social problem solving strategies
- Pre-plan free play time

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Authentic Assessment

- Quality Early Childhood Assessment
- Summit ECAT Solutions

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Quality Early Childhood Assessment is...

- Focused on the whole child
- Family centered
- Play-based
- Authentic
- Naturalistic
- Inclusive



(Bagnato, 2007; Linder, 2008; Grisham-Brown & Hemmeter, 2017)

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Home and Clinical Solutions



ECAT Diagnostic Evaluation



Developmental Wellness Check



School Readiness Assessment

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School Solutions



Child Find Assessment Team



Educator Trainings



Childcare Center Consultation

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Contact Us

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