

ncrece Professional Development Study

The National Center for Research on Early Childhood Education (ncrece) is conducting research on professional development designed to improve the quality and effects of early childhood education. Researchers at the University of Virginia, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of California-Los Angeles, and University of North Carolina-Greensboro lead the Center's work, in collaboration with state and local preschool programs throughout the country. **ncrece**, which is funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, plans to conduct a randomized, controlled evaluation of the effects of two forms of professional development supports designed to improve teachers' interactions with children and their implementation of curricula, including:

1. A course, *Support of Language and Literacy Development in Preschool Classrooms through Effective Teacher-Child Interactions & Relationships*, in which teachers will: a) gain knowledge and skills to identify behavioral indicators of effective teaching as defined by the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), and b) link these interactions to students' development of language and literacy.
2. Ongoing, individualized consultation using the MyTeachingPartner approach. The MTP Consultancy has been shown to be effective in improving the quality of teachers' interactions and children's outcomes in early literacy and language development. Teachers receive observationally-based, non-evaluative, practice-focused support and feedback through web-mediated consultation.

ncrece is currently selecting programs to partner with us in implementing an evaluation of these professional development approaches. Programs may be eligible if they have large numbers of classrooms serving 4-year olds. Teachers will be randomly assigned to participate in one of four groups: 1) Course/Consultancy, 2) Course/No Consultancy, 3) No Course/Consultancy, and 4) No Course/No Consultancy.

Programs will receive at no cost:

- The **ncrece** course and MTP Consultancy for selected teachers
- Training for identified course instructors on course implementation and the CLASS
- Training for identified consultants on the MTP Consultancy
- Additional resources (including video cameras for participating teachers) related to implementation and evaluation of the course and consultancy

Programs will be asked to:

- Coordinate the recruitment of teachers
- Help identify instructors and an institutional mechanism through which to teach the **ncrece** course
- Work with the **ncrece** study team to identify local consultants
- Coordinate participants' completion of study-related surveys
- Permit participating teachers to assess randomly selected children in these classrooms
- Assist in the tracking of selected children into kindergarten
- Facilitate the IRB approval process for their programs, as needed

Timeline:

- Spring or Summer 2008 Course implementation
- Fall 2008- Spring 2009 Consultancy and child assessments
- Fall 2009-Spring 2010 Tracking of participating children into kindergarten

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