



## **WestEd Center for Child and Family Studies BEGINNING TOGETHER for Infant Care Teachers**

The BEGINNING TOGETHER Institute focuses on inclusive practice issues pertinent to teachers and child care providers working in the infant/toddler field. The Institute is designed for participants who have completed training in the four *Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC)* modules and features a variety of sessions including a parent panel; opportunities to dialogue with faculty and other participants; as well as in-depth, interactive workshops. Early intervention specialists, *Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC)* early childhood faculty, and parents of children with special needs collaboratively present specific workshops.

The BEGINNING TOGETHER Infant Care Teacher Institute occurs over one four-day period or two two-day periods (Friday/Saturday) as desired. These four days should occur within a one-month period in order to support continuity in the training. Follow-up technical assistance in implementation is available as well. Fees are based on the number of participants and the amount and type of technical assistance and coaching requested.

Among those workshops are:

- **When Concerns Arise**  
Examines the emotional responses of families and providers to identification of disability in children, concerns with families, and understanding roles of providers and families in the identification.
- **Inclusive Group Care & Individualization (Adapting Routines and Environments)**  
Meeting individual needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities and special needs by building on providers' knowledge and skills, as well as through modifications and adaptations based on the *Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC)* environment and routine design.
- **Building Relationships among Caregivers, Families and Specialists**  
Working collaboratively with families, specialists, and others on behalf of infants and toddlers with disabilities and special needs to promote quality of life and positive outcomes for the child and family.
- **Inclusion and Access through Legislation: The Americans with Disabilities Act**  
Understanding how the Americans with Disabilities Act applies to situations in infant/toddler care.
- **Partnering with the Early Intervention System**  
Accessing early intervention and early childhood special education services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C federally and in local states.

### **Methodology Used to Present Material**

Experienced educators who are BEGINNING TOGETHER Faculty will present all sessions. Presentation format will be designed to address the variety of learning styles, knowledge, and experience that adult learners bring to training. The BEGINNING TOGETHER Faculty will convey philosophical, theoretical, and practical information, using training techniques that include cooperative and experiential learning activities along with lecture, discussion, and video presentation.

An integral part of the BEGINNING TOGETHER training philosophy is the concept of creating a community of learners. Hence, the BEGINNING TOGETHER Faculty will create a supportive learning environment, and will introduce collaborative activities in which group participants will become resources to one another. In other words, the members of the developing community of learners will receive help as they help others in the group, and the entire community will work together to make lasting changes in practice.

### **Participant Certification**

The certification process is an integral part of BEGINNING TOGETHER training. Certification is dependent on the participant's full attendance at the Institute and the satisfactory completion of agreed upon requirements. If desired, WestEd will work to arrange college credit for this training.

### **Responsibilities**

WestEd will:

- Plan the institutes in consultation with representatives from the sponsoring agencies
- Arrange air travel for staff and faculty
- Design agendas
- Consult with faculty regarding content and handouts of sessions
- Provide and ship print materials, including the BEGINNING TOGETHER manual; handouts; and supplemental materials for all sessions
- Provide Institute coordination onsite for the duration of the training
- Provide BEGINNING TOGETHER bags, binders, folders, and nametags for all participants
- Provide coaches for technical assistance if requested and budgeted in the proposal.

The sponsoring agency will:

- Recruit and enroll participants for this event who have received training in the four *PITC* modules
- Organize and staff Institute registration
- Provide meeting rooms and audiovisual equipment for each Institute (a training site logistical needs list will be provided)
- Provide lodging and meals for WestEd staff and faculty for the duration of the Institute
- Make arrangements for the lodging and meals of participants
- Provide coffee, tea, and snacks at breaks in the morning/afternoon during the Institute

For more information, please contact Karen Charest [kchares@wested.org](mailto:kchares@wested.org) or 760-682-0271