

Research on Technical Assistance Models & Frameworks

A meta-analysis was prepared, for ECPC through a formal contract with Pucket Institute, to describe the core elements of technical assistance that lead to sustainable program and organizational change (Dunst et al, 2018). Twenty-five technical assistance models and frameworks were analyzed in order to identify the essential elements of TA that facilitates program and organizational change. Through this analysis, authors determined that there is no one consistent definition that clearly conveys the essential practices used by a TA provider; rather, there are components of TA practice utilized among the various models and frameworks that have shown positive outcomes for quality improvement.

Findings from this analysis contribute to the improvement of TA efforts used to support early childhood (EC) and early intervention (EI) professionals focused on improving the quality of organizations, programs and teachers to deliver high quality early childhood experiences.



Dunst, C. J., Annas, K., Wilkie, H., & Hamby, D. W. (2018). *Scoping Review of the Core Elements of Technical Assistance Models and Frameworks Technical Assistance on Program, Organization and Systems Change*. Morganton, NC: The Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute.

Dunst, C. J., Annas, K., Wilkie, H., & Hamby, D. W. (2018). Review of Studies and Evaluations of the Effects of Technical Assistance on Program, Organization, and Systems Change, *International Journal of Evaluation and Research in Education (IJERE)*, 8(2), 330-343.

The Purpose



Evaluation refers to the practices used by technical assistance providers to understand what changes have been made as a result of their work with an EC/EI program. Evaluation supports understanding if goals have been achieved and if plans were implemented with fidelity.

The Practices



Process Evaluation - methods for determining if the TA practices, activities, or interventions specified were implemented as planned and resulted in identifiable outputs

Outcome Evaluation - methods of determining if the practices, activities, or actions have resulted in desired changes and affect progress or benefits in the EC/EI program, organization, or system

Fidelity of Use of Intervention Practices - the extent to which the key characteristics of targeted EC/EI practices that are the focus of technical assistance were implemented in a manner in which they were designed to be used and consistently delivered

Fidelity of Use of Technical Assistance Practices - the extent to which the core elements of TA were used as intended and in a consistent manner with EC/EI program staff responsible for use of the EC/EI intervention practice constituting the focus of technical assistance

Lessons Learned - learnings gained from use of technical assistance to promote EC/EI program staff use of the targeted EC/EI intervention practice(s) constituting the focus of technical assistance and the use of that information to make changes or improvements in the overall implementation of program activities

Why are these Findings Important?



Evaluation provides necessary data allowing TA providers and their EC/EI partners to adjust/change their approach and/or strategies to accommodate unexpected challenges along the way. Evaluation also provides the necessary data that shows if technical assistance was effective in helping EC/EI personnel/ programs to make improvements in their work and to achieve the goals and outcomes planned. The studies reviewed for this analysis showed that when TA providers used measures evaluating both technical assistance fidelity and implementation fidelity, the results had a greater impact on program improvement.