Moving an Early Education Program into an MTSS Framework

Part 1: Introducing MTSS in Early Childhood

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What is your current role?

- Early childhood teacher
- ECSE/EI teacher
- K-12 teacher
- Principal
- School psych
- Speech pathologist
- Administrator
- Other
Where are you in implementing tiered models like MTSS?

• How many of you have been implementing MTSS models for many years but not in early childhood?
• How many of you have been implementing MTSS models in early childhood settings?
• How many of you are currently using the Pyramid Model in your EC programs?
• How many have not been implementing in MTSS in EC but have that as a goal?
Participant Objectives:

1. Articulate one rationale for moving an early learning program into an MTSS framework.
2. Name one benefit of using site-based Instructional Leadership Teams (ILTs) to guide the shift into an MTSS framework.
3. State one method for evaluating current Tier 1 practices and identifying areas for improvement.
4. Describe an application of the strengths-based problem-solving process.
What is MTSS?

• Goal: to identify children who may be struggling to learn and intervene early so they can catch up to their peers.

• It can be designed to identify children who are struggling in academic or behavioral areas.
MTSS is not...

• The responsibility of just a few specialists—general educators are key!
• An excuse for delaying a special education
How is MTSS different from typical practice in early education?

In typical practice in early education…

• We don’t usually systematically address the range of individual differences that exist across children.

• We often wait for significant delays before we provide additional support (and then it is a referral to special education).
How is MTSS different from typical practice in early education?

• MTSS identifies who needs the additional support and provides a *continuum of evidence-based practices* within the general education settings.

• The focus of MTSS is *prevention*—providing additional support as soon as it’s needed for success.

• The aim of MTSS is to use *proven* instructional strategies.
Some challenges to moving into MTSS in Early Education

1. Difficulty of finding highly effective developmentally appropriate **Tier 1 curriculum** and instruction that can improve outcomes across domains
2. Lack of methods for doing **universal screening** across domains
3. **Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions** for providing additional instructional support are scarce.
4. Developing the **instructional leadership teams** to coordinate MTSS
5. Others?
What Strengths Do You Have to Build Upon?

For example, you may have:

- A strong Tier 1 to address children’s social-emotional competence
- An ongoing system of professional development and coaching
- What are some of your program’s strengths that you can use in building a MTSS framework?