Taking a Stand!
DEC’s Position Statement on Child Maltreatment

Division for Early Childhood (DEC)
September 2016

Why is DEC taking a stand?
• Young children are disproportionately affected by child maltreatment.
• Children who have a disability are at a higher risk for maltreatment, and children who have experienced maltreatment are at a higher risk of developing a disability.
• Young children who have been maltreated are participants in early childhood programs.

Who is this for?
• Children at risk of being identified with a disability or delay
• Children identified with a disability or delay
• Children at risk for maltreatment
• Children who have experienced maltreatment

We use the term maltreatment to include child abuse, neglect, and trauma.

DEC’s Position
• Individual Responsibilities
  • Be vigilant in our role as mandated reporters and aware of personal biases.
  • Work toward prevention and intervention.
  • Use strength-based and family-centered approaches.
• Organizational Responsibilities
  • Meaningfully collaborate across service systems (e.g. child welfare).
  • Incorporate content related to this topic into existing coursework in pre-service programs and into professional development opportunities.

Recommendations
1. Identify evidence-based practices and embed them within DEC Recommended Practices.
2. Examine and incorporate content into preparation programs and professional development offerings specifically related to young children who have been maltreated.
3. Identify research gaps and collaborate to support the continuation of this research agenda.
4. Identify and address policy issues related to supporting young children with disabilities who have been maltreated and their families.

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