

Adapting the Research Connections Teaching Modules for Campus, Web-Based and Blended College Courses

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Research Connections Teaching Modules

- Embed theory, research, evidence based practices in early childhood teacher education courses**
- Use as a tool to get theory, research and evidence based practices into the hands of early care and education teachers who are already working with young children**
- Introduce at beginning of students' curriculum pattern by adapting all five teaching modules for use across the course content in an introductory early care and education course**

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Identify and use peer reviewed professional journal articles, policy briefs, and other resources**
- **Understand the linkage between theory, research and evidence based practices**
- **Use reference citations to professional sources in academic course work, early childhood teaching materials, and informational information for families**
- **Implement evidence based practices in early childhood classrooms and programs serving young children and their families**
- **Discuss, evaluate and implement early childhood practices using theory based research**

Online Course Example

- Web Based Platform: Blackboard
- College Course: CHD 2003 Child Development in the Life-Span
- Textbook: Santrock, J.W. (2008). *Essentials of life-span development*. Boston: McGraw-Hill

Instructions for Adapting Teaching Modules

- Download the Teaching Modules as word documents from the Research Connections website and save to your computer.
- Modify each Teaching Module to link to your course content.
- In Blackboard go to "Control Panel" then "Assignments" to **create a folder** in Blackboard for your Research Connections Teaching Modules Assignments.
- Open the folder and click on the drop down menu "Select" in the upper right hand corner of the screen. Click "Assignment" and then click "Go". **Note:** You will need to repeat this step for each Research Connections Teaching Module Assignment that you want included in the folder.

Instructions for Adapting Continued

- Type the assignment title and number of points for the assignment. In the box type or paste student instructions. Click "Browse" at the bottom of the screen and upload the Research Connections Module/Assignment you have adapted for your course. Note: You will need to repeat these steps for each of your assignments.
- When a student uploads an assignment it will be indicated in the Blackboard Gradebook with an ! exclamation point. Click on the ! and read/print the assignment. You will be able to add your comments/feedback and type the points earned by each student into the Gradebook . Remember to click Submit.

Instructions for Creating an On-Line Group Discussion

- In Blackboard go to the Control Panel and click Manage Groups. Then click Add Group. Name the group and type/paste the assignment instructions and the students' names who will be assigned to this group in the description box. Click submit.
- The group you have created will appear on the screen. To the left click modify and then click Add Users. Assign students to the group from the Course Roster.
- Go to the Announcements page and click Groups. Click on each individual group to create a discussion Forum. Type or copy and paste the Student Instructions, Discussion Period Dates, Points to be Earned, Discussion Guidelines, and Discussion Questions into the box.
- Note: You will need to create a separate Forum within each individual Group for every discussion assignment that you want your students to complete

Creating a Research Connections External Link in Blackboard

- From the Announcements page click Control Panel then click External Link in the tool bar at the top of the screen. In the first box label/name the External Link and paste the Research Connections URL into the second box. Type instructions or additional information in the text box. This will provide a link to Research Connections for your students.

Adaptation Example

Research Connections Module 1

Read: Chapter 1 Introduction; Research for Life Span Development pages 25-33 before completing this assignment. Save this form to your computer. Upload the completed assignment into this Assignment when completed. Then join the discussion in Groups (February 1-8).

Part 1: Initial Exploration of the *Research Connections Web Site* **8 Points**

To complete this assignment go to the home page of the *Research Connections* site, www.researchconnections.org. The website is also listed in Blackboard External Links. Preview the Research Connections home page and begin by exploring freely, clicking on a number of links to see what you may find. Complete the following tasks and questions. Write responses in complete sentences.

Adapted Discussion for Module 1

Student Instructions: Go to Blackboard Groups to participate in discussion.

- List and define the research term you selected and give an example of this term from a real life early childhood classroom teaching experience or a research study or article you have read.
- Explain the importance of ethics in research. How and why do ethical practices and considerations for conducting research with children differ from those for adults?
- Describe a time when you or someone you know participated as a subject in a research study. Did the researcher follow ethical guidelines? Explain.
- Analyze and discuss why professional journals and not popular magazines should be used resources for articles and readings in child development and early childhood education. Describe a professional journal that you find useful and share something you have learned from one of the articles.
- Describe how the Research Connections website could be used by early care and education teachers to inform themselves of theory and research based teaching practices to use in their classrooms. Explain why the use of theory and research based teaching practices in early care and education programs is important.

Example Adaptation of Worksheet II

***Research Connections* and Early Childhood Development Assignment 2 – Total Possible Points 20**

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- Your Name _____ Due Date _____

- **Read:** Chapter 2, Biological Beginnings, Chapter 3 Physical and Cognitive Development in Infancy, and Chapter 4 Socioemotional Development in Infancy
- **Part I: Risk Factors 7 Points**
- List a Specific Risk Factor in Young Children’s Development to Investigate:

- Back-up (if you are not successful in finding information on your first risk factor)

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- Your main source of information will be the *Research Connections* web site, www.researchconnections.org. The website is listed in Blackboard External Links. From the *Research Connections* home page, click on “Understanding Research” and from there, go to the alphabetical “Research Glossary.”

Worksheet Module II Student Discussion Board Example

- “It is very important to know risk factors in young children's development because knowing what risk factors may help early childhood professionals to better help a child develop properly no matter what risk factor that child has. I researched low birth weight. I learned that a low birth weight baby weighs only 5 1/2 pounds at birth. I also learned that some of the consequences of low weight babies are they typically have more health and developmental problems than a normal weight baby. By the time a low birth weight baby reaches school age they are more likely to have learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, or breathing problems such as asthma. About 50 percent of low birth weight children are enrolled in special education programs. In the U.S. the number of low birth weight babies has increased in the last two decades. “

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Spring 2009

Research Connections Webinar Panel Member

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