**Division for Early Childhood (DEC)**

**Website Scavenger Hunt – Answer Key**

**Directions:**

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) website is an ongoing source of information for people who care about or work with young children, and especially young children with or at risk for disabilities.

The URL for the website is <https://www.dec-sped.org/> That is where you’ll find all the answers to this scavenger hunt.

1. **In 2014, DEC identified the evidence-based and Recommended Practices for supporting young children with or at risk for disabilities and their families. What are the eight topical areas of recommended practice?**

Leadership

Assessment

Environment

Family

Instruction

Interaction

Teaming and Collaboration

Transition

1. **DEC has a position statement on challenging behavior. What does that position statement say about culturally sustaining and equitable practices?**

Culturally Sustaining and Equitable Practices

DEC strongly believes that culturally sustaining practices—those that acknowledge, value, and support children’s home cultures and help children develop a healthy identity—are essential to healthy child development. Culturally sustaining practices seek to bridge the diverse cultures that children are immersed in, with the goal of helping them be engaged and successful in all settings (Paris, 2012). Examples of culturally sustaining practices for the teacher or caregiver include becoming aware of one’s own implicit biases, being motivated to change these biases, and reducing the influence of biases in decision making. Another example involves being aware of children’s families and cultures and incorporating that knowledge into practice (Kalyanpur & Harry, 2012) (DEC RP F1). In classroom settings, this should involve making sure each child’s

family and culture is represented meaningfully and deeply in the curriculum and classroom. Educators must commit to learning about equitable practices and develop, implement, and evaluate policies that support equity (Allen & Steed, 2016; Paris, 2012; Price & Steed, 2016). An awareness of and commitment to overcoming implicit bias and an understanding of culture may prevent educators from making decisions about how to address challenging behavior that are influenced by sex, race/ethnicity, or other cultural differences. A culturally sustaining approach will help prevent such biased disciplinary actions by better equipping early care

providers to critically examine their own practices and to fairly assess and address challenging behavior.

1. **What are two other topics on which DEC has position statements that can inform your work?** See options at <https://www.dec-sped.org/position-statements>
2. **In 2009, DEC partnered with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to create a position statement on inclusion. According to that position statement, what is the definition of inclusion?**

**Definition of Early Childhood Inclusion**

Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society. The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify

high quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation, and supports.

1. **The CONNECT modules are terrific sources of information and video on how to partner with families and support young children with or at risk for disabilities. At which URL on the DEC website can you find the CONNECT modules?** <https://www.connectmodules.dec-sped.org/>
2. **DEC journals are great sources of ongoing information for people in the early childhood field. What are the names of the two DEC journals?** *Journal of Early Intervention, Young Exceptional Children*
3. **Where will DEC’s 2020 conference be held?** Minneapolis
4. **Every other month, DEC shares free resources to support professionals who work with young children through a publication called Resources within Reason. What was the topic of the December 2019 issue of Resources within Reason?** Using Similarities & Differences to Support Inclusion
5. **At which URL can you find each issue of Resources within Reason?** <https://www.dec-sped.org/resourcessupportpractice>

While you’re at that URL, why not sign up to get a free copy of the resources every other month?

1. **At which URL will you find the latest news from the early childhood special education field?** <https://www.dec-sped.org/news>
2. **At which URL will you find the latest news from the early childhood special education field?** <https://www.dec-sped.org/>
3. **What is the URL for the section of the DEC website that has examples of advocacy letters?** <https://www.decpolicy.org/advocacy-letters>