

Resources within Reason

Designing for Each Child

Compiled by Camille Catlett March 2017

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a set of evidence-based practices that can enhance the quality of environments and interactions for diverse young learners. UDL supports access and participation through the provision of multiple and varied formats for instruction and learning. The DEC Recommended Practices extoll practitioners to “consider Universal Design for Learning principles to create accessible environments” (pg. 9)¹. Here are some resources for using UDL to support each and every child.

The Evidence for UDL

The [National Center on Universal Design for Learning](#) shares [guidelines](#) for the effective implementation of UDL that are based on research from several very different fields, and from many different researchers at many different universities and research organizations.

<http://www.udlcenter.org/research/researchevidence/>

Pages 31-33 of the DEC position statement on [Promoting Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities: Recommendations for Curriculum, Assessment, and Program Evaluation](#) offer multiple examples of what multiple means of representation, engagement, and expression might look like for young children.

http://static.parastorage.com/services/wix-labs-pdf-viewer-statics/1.32.0/images/PDF_icon.svg

Envision UDL in Early Childhood Settings

Weary of adapting the environment, materials, and interactions to support individual children? Watch this video to learn how one program shifted to using UDL practices and built in flexibility that can be adjusted for every child's strengths and needs. Watch [Building Inclusive Child Care](#) to see what UDL looks like in a classroom setting.

<http://webapp.northampton.edu/streamingvideo/bicc.wmv>

To see what UDL might look like in outdoor and community settings, read [Universal Design and Outdoor Learning](#).

http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/upload/pdf/Dimensions_Vol41_3_Harte.pdf

To become more familiar with UDL, consider looking at an environment through the lens of this tool: [Universal Design for Learning \(UDL\) Checklist for Early Childhood Environments](#). Portions of this checklist could easily be adapted for use by college students as an observation and planning tool.

http://northampton.edu/Documents/ECE/Checklist_and_Questions.pdf

Learn More About UDL

If you're interested in a brief article that explains the rationale behind UDL and how it can support children with disabilities as well as their peers, you may want to start with [The Universal Design for Early Education: Moving Forward for All Children](#). The article offers multiple examples of how to apply the principles of UDL in settings supporting young children.

https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/ECC/ECC_Universal_Design_Early_Education.pdf

[Integrating Principles of Universal Design into the Early Childhood Curriculum](#) is another example of an article that offers examples and recommendations of how to use UDL to support each young learner in diverse early learning settings.

http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/upload/pdf/Dimensions_Vol41_1_Dinnebeil.pdf

Additional resources for learning about and supporting the use of UDL may be found in the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center's collection of resources on [Universal Design for Learning](#).

<http://ectacenter.org/topics/atech/udl.asp>

Resources within Reason is a free, bi-monthly, one-way listserv provided by the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC). All resources are evidence-based, readily available and free. Resources within Reason may be freely shared or reproduced. Past issues may be accessed here: <http://www.dec-sped.org/resources-within-reason>

To receive Resources within Reason directly, visit <http://www.dec-sped.org/resources-within-reason> and click “Join the Listserv”.

To suggest resources or request topics for the listserv, please contact Camille Catlett at 919.966.6635 or camille.catlett@unc.edu

Visit the [DEC website](#) (<http://www.dec-sped.org/>) to learn more about resources, practices, products and professional development opportunities that can help support young children with or at risk for disabilities and their families.

¹ Division for Early Childhood. (2014). *DEC recommended practices in early intervention/early childhood special education*. Los Angeles, CA: Author.
<https://divisionearlychildhood.egnyte.com/dl/tgv6GUXhVo>