

**Increasing Student Pass Rates in Developmental Courses by
Incorporating Discipline-Specific Content**

Project 3Rs

(Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic)

***A Central Piedmont Community College - Smart Start of
Mecklenburg County Collaboration***

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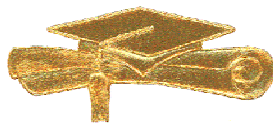
The Need

- During the 2005 North Carolina legislative session, House Bill 707 was passed. This bill resulted in changes to North Carolina's five-star rated license for child care facilities and family child care homes. Ratings of 2 to 5 stars would be based on two components – Program Standards and Staff Education – rather than the previous three components (Program Standards, Staff Education and Compliance History). These ***changes required that licensed programs increase the education levels of their staff members*** in order to maintain their current star rating. Centers had until January 2008 to satisfy these requirements.



The Need

- The 2005 Smart Start-funded study for the Mecklenburg Partnership for Children entitled *The Educational Status of Childcare Professionals in Mecklenburg County* provided data about barriers to college education for early childhood professionals. When students were asked, “What one thing would realistically be the most helpful in encouraging you to take college-level courses in early childhood education?” three of their top six answers were “More classes offered at convenient times,” “Assistance with child care” and “Lessening of general education requirements that are not Early Childhood courses.”
- The same study examined early childhood students’ (fall 2004) scores on English, Reading and Math placement tests. ***57% of EC students placed into developmental English courses, 63% of EC students placed into developmental Reading courses and 86% of EC students placed into developmental Math courses.***



The Plan

- During the summer of 2006, EC faculty members and the Smart Start program evaluator met with division directors to discuss the possibility of developing/offering developmental English, Reading and Math courses especially for EC majors. The courses would be *contextualized*; EC curriculum content would be integrated into the primary subject areas to make English, Reading and Math concepts more meaningful, and to reinforce students' understanding of EC concepts.
- An EC faculty member submitted the grant proposal in the fall of 2007.
- The grant was implemented in 2007-2008.

PLAN FIRST!

Components of the Grant

- Faculty members from the divisions of Early Childhood, English, Reading and Math will be funded to co-develop seven developmental courses: REDo80, REDo90, ENGo80, ENGog0, MATo50, MATo60, MATo70. The EC instructor (grant coordinator), Reading instructor, English instructor and Math instructor will receive an overload assignment of 5 semester credit hours during the second short session of the spring 2007 semester to develop the first four contextualized courses: ENGo80, REDo80, MATo50, MATo60. These courses will be offered in fall 2007.
- In fall 2007, the instructors will receive reassigned time to co-develop the remaining three developmental courses: ENGog0, REDo90, MATo70. These courses will be offered in spring 2008.



Components of the Grant

- Two part-time peer tutors (one Math, one English) will be hired to assist students for two hours following each class.
- Funds will be provided to pay for substitutes at child care facilities that employ participating students, “allowing students to attend classes/tutoring sessions that are only held during the day (the time that full-time faculty primarily teach) and removing “the additional burden of attending classes after work, which may create transportation and child care issues for the majority of our students – and early childhood professionals who are parents themselves.”
- Funds will be provided for supplies, books and reference materials.
- Classes will be capped at 22 students.



Components of the Grant

Participating students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Declaration that they are working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education at CPCC
- Employment in a licensed child care facility in Mecklenburg County, working with children 0-5 years
- Successful completion of early childhood coursework beyond EDU119
- Eligibility for developmental Reading, English and/or Math courses as determined by placement test scores



Implementation and Outcomes

In fall 2007, REDo8o, ENGo8o and two sections of MATo5o were offered.

- **REDo8o-6o**: 2 students enrolled, 2 students completed the course with a final grade of B or C (100% pass rate)
- **ENGo8o-6o**: 6 students enrolled, 6 students completed the course with a final grade of A or B (100% pass rate)



- **MATo5o-7o**: 11 students enrolled, 8 students completed the course with a final grade of A, B or C, 3 students received a final grade of W (73% pass rate)
- **MATo5o-72**: 9 students enrolled, 8 students completed the course with a final grade of A, B or C, 1 student received a final grade of D (89%)

Implementation and Outcomes

In spring 2008, REDo90, ENGo90, MATo50 and MATo60 were offered.

- **REDo90-60**: 1 student enrolled, 1 student completed the course with a final grade of C (100% pass rate)
- **ENGo90-60**: 5 students enrolled, 5 students completed the course with a final grade of A (100% pass rate)
- **MATo50-70**: 15 students enrolled, 13 students completed the course with a final grade of A, B or C, 1 student received a final grade of W, 1 student received a final grade of F (87% pass rate)
- **MATo60-70**: 9 students enrolled, 8 students received a final grade of A, B or C, 1 student received a final grade of D (89% pass rate)

One peer tutor (for Math) was hired to assist students on Saturdays.

Challenges, Changes for 2008-2009

- Identifying appropriate course developers/instructors
 - Experienced course developers
 - Knowledge of early childhood
 - Caring
- Identification of best time for classes
 - Evenings and weekends
 - Funds for substitute teachers no longer provided
- Nature of grant coordinator position
 - Part-time coordinator needed
 - Emphasis on recruitment
 - 560 hours at \$23.07/hour



Challenges, Changes for 2008-2009

- Recruitment of eligible students
 - Students do not have A55220 program code
 - Placement test scores unavailable
 - Difficult to reach eligible students
- Registration
 - Grant coordinator serves as secondary “instructor” to facilitate registration



The Partnership

- What is Smart Start of Mecklenburg County?
<http://www.smartstartofmeck.org>
- CPCC - Smart Start Partnerships
- The Budget
- Program Evaluation



ENGo8o and ENGogo

- Course Descriptions
- Examples of contextualized content
- Successes
- Challenges



MATo50, MATo60, MATo70

- Course Descriptions
- Examples of contextualized content
- Successes
- Challenges



Web Links

- EC Developmental Coursework Presentation
<http://www.cpcc.edu/ec/presentation>
- EC Developmental Coursework Grant 2007-2008
http://www1.cpcc.edu/ec/presentation/EC_DevelopmentalCourseworkGranto7-08.pdf
- EC Developmental Coursework Grant 2008-2009
http://www1.cpcc.edu/ec/presentation/EC_DevelopmentalCourseworkGranto8-09.pdf
- EC Developmental Coursework Grant Materials and Supplies
<http://www1.cpcc.edu/ec/presentation/MaterialsSuppliesOrdered.pdf>
- EC Developmental Coursework Grant Eligibility Checklist
<http://www1.cpcc.edu/ec/presentation/DevCourseworkGrantEligibilityChecklist.pdf>



Question?
Comments?