Field Experiences in Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE): Preparing Teachers for Success in Diverse Early Education Settings

AUTHORS

Ragan H. McLeod
Zhen Chai
Debra Berry Malmberg
Ya-Chih Chang
Nancy Hunt
Courtney O'Grady
Kimberly Tomeny
Jisun R. Oh
Ankita Bhattashali

ABSTRACT

Field experiences provide opportunities for early childhood and early childhood special education (EC/ECSE) educators to implement effective practices in learning settings, and are, therefore, a vital part of EC/ECSE teacher preparation. In this article, we describe field placement models from four universities in the United States: The Bridge Project, Getting Started Early, Peer Coaching to Increase Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions, and University Supervisors Coaching Teacher Candidates: Supporting Young Bi/Multilingual Children with Disabilities. Although there is variety in the settings and effective practices supported through these field placements, performance feedback and collaboration are clear themes across models.

KEYWORDS
Early childhood, field experiences, special education, teacher preparation

Early childhood and early childhood special education (EC/ECSE) teacher candidates need ongoing, in-context support in field experiences to implement interventions effectively with children (Grossman et al., 2009; Joyce & Showers, 2002). Course materials and discussions can support knowledge of evidence-based practices, but didactic instruction and decontextualized practice do not translate into the use of evidence-based practices in the classroom (Joyce & Showers, 2002). Field experiences provide opportunities for EC/ECSE teacher candidates (TCs) to apply knowledge to real-world contexts, problem-solve through implementing practices with children and families, and develop self-efficacy (Maheady et al., 2014; Peebles & Mendaglio, 2014). Without field experiences that include opportunities to practice with children and families, TCs have difficulty connecting theory with effective practices (Leko et al., 2012). However, field experiences in EC/ECSE are variably defined and implemented (Maheady et al., 2014; Nagro & Bettencourt, 2017; O'Brien et al., 2023). In this article, authors from four teacher preparation programs in the United States provide an overview of how field placements in their programs have been structured to support TCs' use of effective practices.

Given the research support for field placements and the variability in delivery, there is a need for guidance for specific field experience activities for EC/ECSE practitioners (O'Brien et al., 2023). EC/ECSE educators are unique in education for the variety of roles they can serve (e.g., early interventionist, classroom teacher, itinerant/consulting teacher, co-teacher) and the populations with which they are certified to work (e.g., families, children considered at risk, children with a variety of identified disabilities). It is important that EC/ECSE TCs have opportunities with diverse children in the many settings that they will serve and that they have opportunities for working with a variety of other education personnel (e.g., general education teachers, related services personnel, and paraprofessionals). More information is needed on how to identify effective and high-quality field placements to ensure diverse experiences and how to evaluate TCs' learning during fieldwork (Bruder, 2016; Maheady et al., 2014).

In the following accounts, four field placement models across the United States are described. The models' activities and goals for field placements vary, mirroring the current literature. Our purpose is to provide different examples of how field placements can be structured for successful TC application of evidence-based practices, rather than to compare different field placement delivery methods. We begin with *The Bridge Project*, a model of interdisciplinary field experiences enhancing the skills of both ABA therapists and ECSE teachers. Next, the *Getting Started Early* model provides an example of supporting preservice teachers to implement effective practices in inclusive environments. In *Peer Coaching to Increase Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention (NDBI) Practices*, we describe a field experience for preservice teachers support NDBI in inclusive classrooms. The final model, *University Supervisors Coaching Teacher Candidates: Supporting Young Bi/Multilingual Children with Disabilities*, describes a field experience focused on using Practice-Based Coaching to support bi/multilingual children in EC/ECSE. Despite the variety of field experiences across the models, there is a focus on targeted, specific feedback to support effective practice use by TCs and an emphasis on collaborating in diverse EC/ECSE placements.

The Bridge Project: Preparing Interdisciplinary Professionals through Supervised Joint Fieldwork Experiences

The Bridge Project is a partnership between California State University, Northridge (CSUN)'s Master of Arts in ECSE and the Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) programs. The primary objective of the project is to enhance student understanding of the roles and practices within each discipline while developing competencies in both fields. The main components of the Bridge Project include shared coursework and jointly supervised practicum experiences, both taught and supervised by interdisciplinary faculty (i.e., an ECSE faculty member and a Psychology faculty member who is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst; BCBA©). The program incorporates case-based instruction to promote team-based problem-solving skills, supervised joint fieldwork experiences focusing on addressing the educational and behavioral needs of young children with disabilities, and interdisciplinary seminars and trainings that include professionals representing a variety of disciplines. This section presents a practicum model designed to structure and enhance these collaborative training experiences for ECSE teachers and behavior analysts (BCBAs©).

The Interdisciplinary Bridge Project Practicum Model

The rationale for the Bridge Project stemmed from the recognition that while professionals in ABA and ECSE often work with the same child, teaching similar skills – such as communication and social skills — there are distinct differences in their training and professional practices. Notably, the two professions adhere to distinct standards of training. To meet professional standards and competencies, ABA programs typically prioritize producing versatile practitioners capable of practicing across diverse settings (e.g., homes, community settings, large organizations) and various populations, spanning across individuals and/or groups and different age ranges. Due to standards requirements for behavior analysts, there is limited space within the curriculum for specific coursework pertaining to young children with special needs and their families, including developmental milestones (Campbell et al., 2009; Kelly & Tincani, 2013). At the same time, ECSE teacher preparation programs often have difficulty embedding opportunities to address topics related to social-emotional development and challenging behaviors into their curriculum and field placements, leading to reports from teachers that they do not feel equipped to manage problem behavior (Garrity et. al., 2019). Differences between disciplines extend into professional practice, as the teaching procedures, structure, data collection, and formality or specificity of interventions differ, all of which can impact collaboration (Lane & Brown, 2023). Professionals from each discipline may perceive the needs of young children through different perspectives and may lack understanding of each other's roles, which is only compounded by limited systemic support and time for interdisciplinary collaboration in the workplace. Given these challenges, it is important to foster increased understanding and collaboration among ECSE professionals and behavior analysts to facilitate successful service coordination and collaboration.

Every year, five students each from the ECSE master's program and the ABA master's program begin the Bridge Project. Students engage in three semesters of joint practicum under the regular supervision and mentorship of Bridge faculty alongside their master's program coursework and practicum experiences. The development of Bridge practicum activities adheres to the DEC Recommended Practices (DEC, 2014) in Teaming and Collaboration, with particular emphasis on TC2 and TC3.

Students participating in the Bridge Project begin their joint practicum in the second semester of their respective master's programs, following completion of their foundational coursework. At this stage, ECSE students hold their preliminary teaching credentials and are employed as lead teachers in local preschools. Each ABA student is partnered

TABLE 1: Bridge Scholars Model

Evidence-Based Practices	Activity	Deliverables
Semester 1: Scholars collaborate in pairs to: 1. operationally define one target behavior for 5 students, 2. develop data collection procedures, collect and graph data, 3. develop a simple intervention plan, and 4. coach each other on implementing the intervention.	• Target behavior operational definitions • Data sheets • Graphed data	• Student summary • Intervention plan
Semester 2: Scholars collaborate in pairs to conduct a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) for one student.	• Indirect assessment data (e.g., interview, survey) • Descriptive assessment data (e.g., observations) • Functional analysis data	• FBA report
Semester 3: Scholars collaboratively develop and implement a Function-Based Intervention Plan based on the results of the FBA from the previous semester.	• Baseline data • Plan for implementing MTSS • Performance monitoring plan	• Intervention Plan • Presentation: FBA and intervention outcomes

with an ECSE student and joins their classroom one day per week. Together, they engage in collaborative activities aimed at deepening their understanding of each other's expertise, honing collaboration skills, and practicing competencies relevant to each other's fields. Under the supervision of Bridge faculty mentors, ABA students guide ECSE peers on implementing behavioral assessment and intervention techniques while ECSE students guide ABA peers on developing and carrying out developmentally appropriate teaching activities suitable for a classroom setting.

During the first semester of practicum, the pair of students collaborate to identify a target problem behavior of a young child with disabilities in the ECSE classroom (see Table 1). They collect data, then develop and implement a simple behavior strategy. As part of this collaborative activity, the assignment provides opportunities for coaching and providing feedback to each other. For instance, ECSE students provide feedback on the feasibility of the data collection procedures the ABA student designed, and the ABA student provides feedback on the ECSE students' data collection while coaching them on reliability measures. These coaching and feedback opportuni-

ties are embedded into each semester of practicum.

During the second semester of the practicum, as students further develop their competencies in ECSE/ABA in the Bridge Project as well as their core curriculum, each pair collaboratively conducts a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA). Together, they identify precursor or maladaptive behaviors for functional assessment, collect FBA data, and write an FBA report under the supervision of Bridge faculty.

In the third and final semester, students engage in a collaborative capstone project that showcases the synthesis and application of key competencies learned throughout the Bridge Project. Working in pairs, students design function-based interventions based on the functional assessment data obtained in the previous semester. The project includes a literature review, baseline data, an implementation plan for multi-tiered system of support (MTSS), program evaluation, and a training and performance monitoring plan. Students present this culmination project at the conclusion of their final semester.

Focus Practices

Researchers have identified several essential elements for interdisciplinary training (Association of University Centers on Disabilities, 2001; Roncaglia, 2016): a) understanding the common and unique skill set and knowledge across different disciplines and involving families, b) valuing the importance of collaboration, c) emphasizing shared decision-making, d) ensuring frequent and sustained communication among all team members, and e) establishing co-created goals. Importantly, it is recommended that interdisciplinary training start early in training, including both shared coursework and clinical practica (Barrington et al., 1998; Wahlstrom et al., 1997). Furthermore, students

require ongoing mentoring and support throughout their program to effectively apply knowledge gained in university coursework into real-world classroom settings (Leko et al., 2012; Noel & Nelson, 2010; Zeichner, 2012). The Bridge Project has incorporated these strategies into its training model, offering a structured, collaborative practicum model with regular supervision and mentorship from ECSE and BCBA© Bridge faculty mentors.

Getting Started Early: An Alternative Practicum Model Towards Inclusionary Practices

Pre-service candidates come into the teacher preparation programs with various levels of experience. Some have worked in early childcare centers, while others have been teaching assistants in self-contained early childhood special education classrooms for many years. Very few have had experience working in inclusive early childhood programs serving children with a wide range of abilities. This section presents an early fieldwork practicum model in a teacher education program at California State University, Los Angeles that provides pre-service candidates the opportunity to work in an inclusive early childhood classroom setting and provides examples of how they learn to use inclusionary practices.

Early Fieldwork Practicum Model

The early fieldwork practicum model provides pre-service candidates the opportunity to learn and teach in an inclusive early childhood community setting with culturally and linguistically diverse learners with varying levels of abilities. For example, some children may not have language yet, while others may be fluent and speak in complex sentences. Additionally, future teachers must be prepared to support the learning and development of monolingual learners (e.g.,

Spanish-speaking only) and dual-language learners in their classrooms.

The early practicum is a critical aspect of the supportive, inclusive learning environment that is provided to the candidates. Prior to the start of the semester, information regarding each candidate's background and teaching experiences is collected. Based on the information, pre-service candidates are assigned co-teaching teams for the semester. The teams are designed so that the candidates can learn and support each other. For example, team members may include candidates with different teaching experiences (e.g., no classroom teaching experience, many years as a teaching assistant, experience in general education, experience in self-contained classrooms) and different linguistic and cultural backgrounds (e.g., bi/multilingual). The mixed teams are designed to promote diversity and inclusion (Drescher & Chang, 2022).

Each team works together weekly to develop and implement meaningful, developmentally appropriate classroom activities. The candidates are expected to identify and recognize the individual differences in their students and then make the necessary accommodations and modifications for the different activities throughout the day.

For the evidence-based strategies described below, assignments are created so that pre-service candidates have the opportunity to reflect, discuss, and practice the implementation of strategies with on-site coaching. They receive feedback, reassess, and practice the implementation of strategies again. Additionally, on-site coaching is individualized to the needs of the individual pre-service candidate, from self-reflection to direct modeling (e.g., Shire & Chang, 2022). Examples of the assignments and practices for candidates to implement the two evidence-based practices, visual supports and behavior-specific

praise, are provided in Table 2.

Focus on Practices

Establishing a routine in the classroom is one of the most important responsibilities in getting the program started. Most of the pre-service candidates have worked in classrooms, but they have not been the teachers of record for setting up and establishing the classroom schedule and routines from the start of the school year. Having clear expectations and routines will support the pre-service candidates in creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all the students in their classrooms, for both children with and without disabilities (Hancock & Carter, 2016).

Pre-service candidates understand that they should have clear rules, expectations, and routines set up for their classrooms. However, the common pitfall is the implementation of these strategies (e.g., Boyd et al., 2023). The early fieldwork practicum provides the pre-service candidates the experience to implement evidence-based strategies to set up their classrooms in a scaffolded and supportive environment. Preparation starts with short readings, assignments, and reflections about setting up the classroom (e.g., IRIS modules) and proceeds to hands-on experiences with active coaching and modeling with university supervisors in the classroom during the implementation phase (Shire & Chang, 2022; Snyder et al., 2015).

Visual Supports. Two evidence-based strategies are emphasized in the first weeks of the semester to prepare the candidates to set up their classrooms to include all students, both children with and without disabilities. The use of visual supports is an evidence-based practice recognized by the National Professional Development Center (NPDC) to support children's learning (Odom et al., 2010). Visual supports can have different forms and functions (e.g., pictures, icons,

TABLE 2: Getting Started Early Model

Activities	EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES	
	Visual Supports	**Behavior-Specific Praise**
Reflective readings and assignments	**Reading/ Activities:** IRIS Module Early Childhood Behavior Management http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/ecbm/#content **Reflective discussion and activities:** Based on the module, discuss how classroom rules, expectations, and transitions will be prepared, including the types of visual supports that will be necessary for the first day of class.	**Reading/ Activities:** IRIS Behavior Specific Praise https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/wp-content/uploads/misc_media/fss/pdfs/2018/fss_behaviro_specific_praise.pdf Collins, L. W., Cook, S. C., Sweigart, C. A., & Evanovich, L. (2018). Using performance feedback to increase special education teachers' use of effective practices. *TEACHING Exceptional Children, 51(2), 125–133.* https://doi.org/10.1177/0040059918802774 **Reflective discussions and activities:** Based on the readings, how and what will they praise their students for?
Practice with on-site coaching	Create visual supports and implement their use with students.	Use behavior specific praise throughout the day with students.
Individual feedback	Discussion of how the visual supports were used and whether changes are needed. Did all the students respond to the strategy used, or are there individual students who may need more support? If so, what type of individualized visual supports are needed?	Discussion of how and when behavior-specific praise was used and whether changes are needed. Who were you praising and for what types of behaviors? Are there things that you would have done differently to ensure that all students are included?
Re-assess and practice	If modifications were made based on the individual feedback, practice strategies again with the modifications.	If modifications were made based on the individual feedback, practice strategies again with the modifications.

words, organization) to increase prosocial behaviors, decrease challenging behaviors, and support language development. Visual supports are typically used for whole-class instruction in setting up rules and routines. Individual visual supports are provided as necessary.

Behavior Specific Praise. The second evidence-based practice that we emphasize at the beginning of the semester is behavior-specific praise. This strategy is an effective tool used for positive behavior support to increase prosocial and academic behaviors in children (Menzies et al., 2023). Behavior-specific praise should be used throughout the semester, but it is essential when establishing rules and routines. By providing positive feedback on specific behaviors, children

are able to learn the classroom rules and expectations.

These strategies are aligned with DEC Recommended Practices (DEC, 2014) and the Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education Standards (DEC, 2020), particularly Standard 5: Application of Curriculum Frameworks in the Planning of Meaningful Learning Experience and Standard 6: Using Responsive and Reciprocal Interactions, Interventions, and Instruction (DEC, 2020). Both strategies used in setting up the classroom routines ensure that all students, including children with and without disabilities, are able to access and participate in meaningful, developmentally appropriate activities.

Peer Coaching to Increase Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention Practices

Coaching has been identified through numerous studies as an effective professional development activity for increasing early childhood practitioners' use of teaching strategies with fidelity (Elek & Page, 2019). Although there is no agreed upon definition of coaching in education settings, characteristics of effective coaching have been identified across coaching models as planning, observation, reflection and feedback (Artman-Meeker, 2015). However, coaching with systematic focused feedback is not consistently provided to teacher candidates, because of the constraints of preservice teacher

TABLE 3: Peer Coaching Model

Evidence-Based NDBI Practices	Activity	Deliverables
Practices Set 1 • Face-to-face • On the child's level • Following the child's lead • Display positive affect • Display animation **Practices Set 2** • Language matches child level • Comments on child actions or interests • Expands child language by adding 1-2 words • Models appropriate vocabulary **Practices Set 3** • Provides wait time for the child to communicate • Verbally responds to child attempts to communicate • Response relates to the child's communication • Uses environmental arrangement (EA) strategies to promote communication • Waits for child to respond after EA strategy **Practices Set 4** • Provides relevant/ motivating teaching opportunities • Prompts child for target language • Provides increasing support as needed for the child to use target language/ communication (WAIT, ASK, SAY) • Provides natural and social reinforcement	**Didactic Training** • Operational definitions • Video examples • In-class practice **Observation** • Peer implementation of practices	**Peer Observation** • Examples of each strategy observed • Examples of missed opportunities **Self-Reflection** • Identification of strengths • Identification of goal for improvement **Reflection Paper** • Strengths • Areas for growth • Effects on child

field placements and lack of availability of university personnel to observe and provide feedback (Grossman, Hammerness, & McDonald, 2009). Reciprocal peer coaching, in which practitioners observe each other and provide feedback on the use of an identified set of practices, offers opportunities for TCs to receive feedback more often and more consistently than traditional field placement supervision and is effective in supporting teacher practice and child outcomes (Kohler et al., 2010). This section describes a field experience at the University of Alabama that supports the use of Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions (NDBI) through peer coaching.

Peer Coaching Model

To provide opportunities to practice and receive feedback on the use of NDBI practices, early childhood special education TCs enrolled in a semester-long course focused on early language and pre-literacy were assigned to a field placement, which they attended once per week for two hours. Each TC identified a child, conducted a language sample with the child, and analyzed the sample for areas of strength and areas for improvement. In each of the four class meetings, TCs were provided instruction on a set of NDBI practices, including operational definitions, examples and non-examples, and role-play. The TCs viewed a video and completed a form based on observation of the interventionist in the video.

After the class session, TCs used the same peer coaching documents to observe each other implementing the practices in the field placement and provide feedback on the peer's use of the NDBI practices. See Table 3 for information about specific practices, activities, and deliverables. Peer coaching forms were adapted from a previous study (Golden et al., 2021). After receiving feedback forms from their peer coach, the TCs identified an area of strength and a goal for improving practice based on the peer coach's observations. TCs completed this observation and feedback process approximately once every 2-3 weeks.

Focus on Practices

NDBI are evidence-based strategies that EC/ECSE educators can use to support a variety of child outcomes (Tiede & Walton, 2019; Schreibman et al., 2015). NDBI are based in both be-

havioral and developmental principles of teaching young children, combining developmentally appropriate practice with systematic instruction in natural contexts. Key components of NDBI are a) being face-to-face and on the child's level, b) engaging in child-led instruction, 3) using positive affect, 4) modeling appropriate language, 5) responding to communicative attempts by the child, 6) using communicative temptations, 7) providing frequent, high-quality direct teaching episodes (Frost et al., 2020). As Bruinsma and colleagues (2020) note, these practices are used across a variety of well-researched interventions including Incidental Teaching (IT; Hart & Risley, 1975; McGee et al., 1985), Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT; Koegel & Koegel, 2016), Enhanced Milieu Teaching (EMT; Kaiser & Hester, 1994), and the Early Start Denver Model (Dawson et al., 2010). Across these different intervention packages, NDBI has been used with children with disabilities, including autism, developmental delays, and speech-language delays.

Despite the evidence for the use of NDBI by educators, recent research indicates that NDBI is not consistently used by in-service teachers in early childhood settings (D'Agostino et al., 2023a). This may be due to a lack of knowledge of and training in NDBI. However, there is a growing body of literature demonstrating the successful training of early childhood educators to implement NDBI with children with disabilities (D'Agostino et al., 2020). Additionally, there is evidence that early childhood educators in both special and general education identify the practices as feasible (D'Agostino et al., 2023b). The use of NDBI aligns directly with DEC Recommended Practices (RPs) topic areas of Instruction and Interactions (DEC, 2014).

University Supervisors Coaching Teacher Candidates: Supporting Young Emergent Bilinguals with Disabilities/Developmental Delays

The EC/ECSE workforce has not been adequately prepared or equipped to address the diverse educational needs of young children from linguistically minoritized groups, such as young emergent bilinguals (EBs) with disabilities or developmental delays (DDs) (Birth-Age 8) (Kea & Trent, 2013; Martínez-Alvaréz, 2019). For instance, research indicates that EC/ECSE educators continue to predominantly teach in English only and provide families with recommendations that may be biased or discriminatory, like prioritizing the English language only and eliminating the use of the home language (del Hoyo Soriano et al., 2023). Very few EC/ECSE educators feel or are equipped to teach young EBs with disabilities or DDs (Wang & Woolf, 2015). The DEC (2014) encourages the need for comprehensive efforts to overcome barriers (e.g., instructional practices) and implicit biases (e.g., assumptions about a child and family's race, ethnicity, culture, language) to ensure inclusive, equitable support for young EBs with disabilities or DDs and their families (e.g., F8, INS11). Thus, TCs need ongoing, in-context support in field experiences from University Supervisors (USs) to consider and support the role of bilingualism in the development of young EBs with disabilities or DDs.

Practice-Based Coaching Model

USs implement Practice-Based Coaching (PBC) with a focus on translanguaging strategies (Beatty et al., 2021) for TCs to meet the diverse needs of linguistically minoritized groups during their field experience at a midwestern university. PBC is an evidence-based practice where TCs undergo rigorous coaching sessions from the US to implement quality teaching practices within the classroom context (Snyder et al., 2015). Before the TC practicum semester begins, information regarding each TC's background, teaching experience, and interests is collected. For example, TCs may request to be placed in a dual language program or a site with many EBs with disabilities or DDs (e.g., Early Head Start, Head Start Program), which may include a monolingual setting. Based on the information and interest form, TCs are assigned to a field placement with a specific focus on supporting young EBs with disabilities or DDs. Additionally, TCs are assigned to the US, who can coach them throughout the semester.

Translanguaging Professional Learning (PL). At the beginning of the semester, the USs collectively conduct one or multiple PL cycles, contingent on time allocated and resources, focused on translanguaging practices embedded within a course syllabus, Inclusive Strategies for Infants and Toddlers/Preschoolers, and for TCs to apply the knowledge they gained on translanguaging in EC/ECSE settings or programs. The sessions are presented using a format such as PowerPoint, Prezi, or Google Slides. The USs create the presentation, drawing from reputable sources like peer-reviewed articles (e.g., Souto-Manning et al., 2021) or books (e.g., Garrity et al., 2018) on translanguaging. The slides cover the definition of translanguaging, various translanguaging strategies (refer to Beatty et al., 2021), and the development of lesson plans that incorporate translanguaging, utilizing free and accessible resources available on the City University of New York-New York State Initiative on Emergent Bilinguals (CUNY-NYSEB) website. During the PL session, the USs incorporate effective adult learning strategies such as vignettes, discussions, and reflective questioning (e.g., How might translanguaging challenge or reshape

these perspectives?), multiple modes of learning (e.g., hands-on learning, videos, visuals), and practitioner-based articles (e.g., Beatty et al., 2021).

Establishing Collaborative Partnership and Building Rapport. Throughout the PBC process, the US and TC will build rapport by exchanging continuous information about their professional experiences and backgrounds, personal reflections on biases, assumptions, and practices, and information irrelevant to teaching (e.g., discussion about personal life), cultivating a relationship built on trust. In the initial meeting, after a TC is assigned to a specific US (e.g., four TCs assigned to one US), the US individually discusses with the TC their interests in teaching young EBs with disabilities or DDs and teaching philosophies (e.g., learning through play). Then, the US systematically describes the coaching process to the TC, outlining the cyclical nature of the PBC model.

Shared Goal and Action Planning. Next, the US invites the TC to choose a translanguaging strategy from Figure 3 (although not limited to Figure 3) they wish to focus on during coaching. TCs will then articulate their goal, (e.g., "My goal is to collaborate with families and learn common/words or phrases in their home language and embed it in my teaching during center time.") Ideally, the goal should align with a translanguaging strategy and be defined, measurable, and attainable within the time frame of their practicum. Thus, TCs will need some flexibility and time to get to know the children and their families before deciding on a goal. Once the TC has determined the goal, the US facilitates a discussion of the TC's concerns (e.g., time constraints) and needs (e.g., required resources) regarding the identified focus area for coaching and co-developing an action plan. For example, the TC may express their interest in creating opportunities for young EBs

with disabilities or DDs to use their full linguistic repertoire during circle time. Then, the US and TC co-develop an action plan to determine how the goal will be accomplished (e.g., First, TC will learn everyday words in the students' languages by listening to the students, writing the words down on a notepad, and if needed using a translator. Then, TC will fluidly use languages to speak with young EBs with disabilities or DDs during [targeted routine/context]). See Figure 3 for an example.

Focused Observations. Regular focused observations will be arranged based on the mutually agreed-upon schedule between the US and TC (e.g., once or twice biweekly). The TC provides the US with a lesson activity plan one week before the observation with translanguaging strategies guided by their action plan and associated goals. The observations occur at a time convenient for the TC, typically during a specific routine like snack time or literacy time after they consult with their Clinical Supervisor (CS) (i.e., homeroom teacher). The US checks in with the TC to determine a suitable area within the classroom for optimal vision of the TC's activities. The US observes the TC implementing translanguaging strategies. Observational notes are recorded using a notepad and pen or laptop. The US can also set up an electronic device (e.g., iPad) to record the TC implementing their selected goal for 15-20 minutes for reflection and feedback purposes.

Reflection and Feedback. Following each focused observation, the US will set time aside for the TC to watch their filmed observation and reflect on their teaching practices. The US ask squestions such as, "What went well? What would you have done differently? What specific positive outcomes or improvements did you observe in your students' language development and understanding?" Then, the US provides

performance feedback, which involves supportive (e.g., "You did a great job incorporating the child's home language into your whole-group lesson.") and constructive feedback (e.g., "I noticed that there were many missed opportunities for you to incorporate the child's home language during small-group time.") aligned with the action plans steps (Snyder et al., 2015). The US then provides targeted support and coaching to the TC by suggesting translanguaging strategies aligned with their identified goal (e.g., next steps). The crucial aspect is to foster discussion regarding the integration and promotion of the home language in instructional practices.

Focus on Practices

Translanguaging is a fluid bi/multilingual language approach that recognizes and leverages young EBs' abilities in learning and counters the traditional view that languages should be kept separate in the classroom (Beatty et al., 2021). A child's two or more languages are seen as one linguistic entity (Grosjean, 2021). Translanguaging encourages these children to flexibly draw on their full linguistic repertoire, utilizing all their languages, including their home language, within a specific social and cultural context (e.g., classroom) to enhance their understanding and learning. Additionally, translanguaging affirms these children's language, cultural identity, and cultural ways of thinking, speaking, and behaving. It is a form of social justice as it resists any linguistic discrimination. Thus, it is critical for all teachers (i.e., monolingual, bilingual teachers) in the field of EC/ECSE to employ creative strategies and instructional approaches that optimize the utilization of home language practices. To do so, TCs must position themselves as language learners and learn directly from the young EBs and their families (Beatty et al., 2021)

TABLE 3: Translanguaging Strategies Embedded in Practice-Based Coaching Model

Evidence-Based Practice	Sample TC Goals	Strategy Examples
Increase communicative potential of bi/multilingual children with disabilities by facilitating the use of their complete linguistic repertoire and range during specific routines/contexts.	Learn everyday words in the students' languages by listening to the students, writing the words down on a notepad, and using a translator. Fluidly use languages to speak with bi/multilingual children with disabilities during [targeted routine/context]. Document the number of instances where students seamlessly switch between languages during [targeted routine/context].	*Infant/Toddler Focused Practices* During snack time, TC can encourage child to use baby sign language as a communicative practice such as requesting for more sign while asking for wat er ("[more sign] *agua*."); translated: "[more sign] water.") *Preschool Focused Practices* During dismissal time, TC asks the child, "Where is your *mochila*?" (translated: "Where is your backpack?"). The student responds, "points to cubby (gesture) *aquí*."; translated: "points to cubby (gesture) here."
Expand the use of common words/phrases and vocabulary words of bi/multilingual children with disabilities, showcasing a richer and more diverse lexicon through translanguaging by incorporating common words/phrases and vocabulary words in multiple languages during specific routines/contexts	Ask families for common words/phrases used in the child's everyday lives and vocabulary words they would like their child to learn while in school so they can incorporate the words in the classroom. Engage in language mixing during [routine/context] by incorporating common words/phrases and vocabulary words in the students' languages and supporting children in making meaning using multiple languages. Assess and record the variety and depth of vocabulary students employ in different languages during specific routines/contexts.	*Infant/Toddler Focused Practices* The infant crawls and tries reaching for her bottle right after she is done playing. The TC asks, "Do you want *leche*?" (translated: "Do you want milk?")," a word the TC learned from the child's mother. *Preschool Focused Practices* During literacy time, the TC goes through a picture walk and says, "Lia sees pink *flores*!" Two students respond, "Pink flowers!" TC responds, "Yes, *flores* are flowers in Spanish! They mean the same thing!"
Encourage collaborative language use among peers fostering an environment where translanguaging promotes inclusive communication.	Give precedence to play by designing play experiences and incorporating culturally relevant props (e.g., puppets, multilingual characters, multilingual books) into play areas where children are encouraged to engage in translanguaging Monitor and document instances of students working or playing together, using multiple languages to support each other in group tasks, projects, pretend-play, and many more.	*Infant/Toddler Focused Practices* During playtime, a toddler plays with a red truck and calls it, "*Rojo.*" (translated: "Red."). Another toddler comes and says, "Firetruck!" The TC joins in the play and says, "The firetruck *es rojo*." (translated: "The firetruck is red!"). *Preschool Focused Practices* During literacy time, a group of children role play, "The Three Little Pigs." One child says, "*El es* [translated: he is] little pig and un wolf *malo* [translated: bad] says, "Little pig, little pig, let me in." Another child chimes in and says, "Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin!"

and establish a learning environment that embraces diversity. For example, TCs learn how to say common words or phrases from the child and family in Spanish and incorporate them into their daily teaching (e.g., "Do you want [more sign] *leche*?"; translated: "Do you want [more sign] milk?") (Garrity et al., 2015).

CONCLUSION

Nagro and Bettencourt (2017) outlined five steps for creating effective field experiences and determining the effectiveness in supporting teacher candidates' practice: 1) identify the context of the field experience (e.g., number of hours, types of setting), 2) identify teacher candidate activities (e.g., planning, instruc-

tion, and/or assessment of children), 3) identify teacher candidate products (e.g., video of lesson implementation, portfolio of student work), 4) evaluate teacher candidates' practice, and 5) provide feedback. We have provided models which follow these five steps in various ways with the purpose of providing examples of different, effective field

placement implementation methods.

Across the four models of field placement experiences, there is a consistent focus on observation of and feedback on use of effective practices. This aligns with both the knowledge of supporting use of evidence-based practices (Joyce & Showers, 2002) and the literature on effectual teacher preparation (Maheady et al., 2014). Although the described models target TCs' development of different effective practices, there is consistency in structured, focused feedback on the identified effective practices. Feedback is most effective when it is targeted and focused on fidelity of implementation of effective practices (Cornelius & Nagro, 2014). As evidenced by the field experience models described in this article, there are a variety of ways that this targeted, specific feedback can be provided to EC/ECSE TCs.

The field experiences models described reiterate that collaboration is a key element of personnel preparation in EC/ECSE. EC/ECSE personnel work in collaboration with families, related service personnel, and other disciplines to support the development and learning of young children and their families (DEC, 2014). Across the models presented, collaboration occurred between personnel from differing disciplines, peers supporting effective practices, and supervisors providing feedback to TCs. Providing opportunities to collaborate and learn from a variety of personnel in field placements will better prepare EC/ECSE personnel for their careers.

More information sharing about how field placements are delivered and specific outcomes is necessary to move our preparation of EC/ECSE practitioners forward. In the current context of teacher and personnel shortages in education, EC/ECSE preparation programs need to collaborate and replicate field placement models to identify effective practices that lead to successful, confident EC/

ECSE personnel (Bruder, 2016). A compendium of examples, data collection and sharing of TCs' outcomes from field experiences, and communication across EC/ECSE preparation programs is necessary to build an effective network of personnel preparation institutions.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ragan McLeod, Ph.D.
Dr. Ragan McLeod is an associate professor of Early Childhood Special Education in the Department of Special Education at the University of Alabama. Her research interests are language and literacy interventions for young children with disabilities and professional development to support teacher implementation of evidence-based practices.

Zhen Chai, Ph.D.
Zhen Chai, Ph.D., is an associate professor of Early Childhood Special Education in the Department of Special Education at California State University, Northridge. Her research focuses on using evidence-based practices to promote learning and development of young children with disabilities, collaboration with families of young children with disabilities, and preparing high quality early childhood special educators.

Debra Berry Ph.D.
Dr. Debra Berry Malmberg is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at California State University, Northridge. Her research focuses on designing and evaluating behavioral interventions for children with autism and their families. Additional research interests are parent education, family stress related to autism, and theory of mind development.

Ya-Chih Chang Ph.D.
Dr. Ya-Chih Chang is a professor at California State University, Los Angeles. She has over 20 years of experience working with caregivers, early interventionists, and early childhood educators in supporting young children who are at risk or with disabilities using evidence-based practices. Her research focuses on the implementation of evidence-based interventions in under-resourced and under-served communities and teacher education.

Nancy Hunt Ph.D.
Dr. Nancy Hunt is a professor emerita at California State University, Los Angeles with over 40 years of experience as a teacher educator. She is currently Discipline Director in Special Education at CA-LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities), an interdisciplinary program for advanced professionals from 14 disciplines affiliated with Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the University of Southern California.

Courtney O'Grady, Ph.D.
Dr. Courtney O'Grady is an associate professor of Early Childhood Special Education at the University of Alabama. She has extensive inclusive preschool teaching experience as well as in the professional preparation of inclusive early childhood educators. This practical experience has informed her research, as she understands the needs and concerns of early educators and the gaps in available support.

Kimberly Tomeny, Ph.D.
Dr. Kimberly Tomeny is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Special Education at The University of Alabama. Her clinical and research interests focus on coaching early childhood professionals on implementation of best practices, application of telehealth in the Part C early intervention system and supports for caregivers of infants and toddlers with confirmed or suspected autism.

Jisun Oh
Jisun Oh is a doctoral student at the University of Kansas, Department of Special Education. Jisun's research focuses on bilingualism in early intervention, early childhood, and early childhood special education settings for young emergent bilinguals.

Ankita Bhattashali
Ankita Bhattashali a doctoral candidate at the University of Kansas, Department of Special Education. Ankita's research focuses on examining partnerships between educators and refugee families, aiming to ensure equitable access and support for children from a refugee background.

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