



Continuous Quality Improvement in PA

Building Cultural Competence, Welcoming all Families and Supporting Diversity (K3)

The purpose of this form is to provide information about initiatives that could support programs in addressing CQI after needs are identified through examination of relevant sources of evidence.

Title of activity/initiative:	SpecialQuest Birth -Five
Purpose, goal and expected outcomes of the initiative. How is this activity important to program quality?	The SpecialQuest Birth-Five Approach and Multimedia Training Library supports quality inclusive practices and opportunities for children and families in early childhood and community settings.
Description of initiative and any component parts (Technical assistance available, professional development, program assessment inventories, etc.)	<p>The SpecialQuest approach to professional development focuses on inclusion for young children with disabilities and their families. The approach has two components: values and design. Each component is important to successful professional development using the SpecialQuest approach.</p> <p>The SpecialQuest Multimedia Training contains information on the SpecialQuest approach and the contents of the SpecialQuest curriculum and is available in electronic format at no cost from www.specialquest.org</p> <p>The easy-to follow training materials and videos (in English, Spanish and open-captioned) focus on the areas of: Including Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers with Disabilities, Building Relationships with Families, Collaboration and Teaming. The strategies outlined in these materials are the core of the SpecialQuest approach to effective professional development. The web-based library has additional information about the SpecialQuest approach, as well as resources for trainers and faculty at colleges and universities who desire to incorporate the SQ approach in their work.</p>
Program eligibility criteria or recommended programs for initiative	<p>Age Group Serving: X Infant/Toddler X Pre-K <input type="checkbox"/> SACC <input type="checkbox"/> All</p> <p>Program Type: X All <input type="checkbox"/> Head Start <input type="checkbox"/> Early Head Start <input type="checkbox"/> PA Pre-K Counts <input type="checkbox"/> Early Intervention Providers <input type="checkbox"/> School District <input type="checkbox"/> PCHP <input type="checkbox"/> NFP <input type="checkbox"/> Keystone Babies</p> <p>Child Care: X All <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 1 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 2 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 3 <input type="checkbox"/> STAR 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Center <input type="checkbox"/> Group <input type="checkbox"/> Family</p>
Website(s) for initiative	www.specialquest.org http://training.eita-pa.org (create log-in and then PA.SQ/NPDCI)
Identify focus areas the initiative addresses	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Competencies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Best Practice in Teaching and Learning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Competence and Supporting Diversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaging Families <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Children/Families/Practitioners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Emotional Competence and Challenging Behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list): _____

Other initiatives, resources, organizations or professional development that support or enhance the initiative	<p>The Pyramid Model ECE Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Cara’s Kit Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) Mind in the Making Strengthening Families</p>
Audiences for direct participation in the initiative, list all that apply	<p>x Directors x Management/Leadership Teams x Teachers x Assistant Teachers x All Staff x Parents x Board Members x Community Stakeholders <input type="checkbox"/> Children</p> <p>Is a component of the initiative that information be brought back to the program and intentionally shared with other s? x Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not necessarily</p> <p>Notes: Community partners (libraries, faith based organizations, parents, families, college and university students</p>
Research or national context to support the initiative	<p>Ten years of research supports SpecialQuest Birth-Five as an evidence based process that is referenced in a growing number of best practice and regulatory documents as an essential component of effective instruction and care.</p>
Keystone STARS or Program Standards addressed and CBK Topic Codes (if applicable)	<p>Aligned with CBK Topic Codes</p>
Other clarification or information about the activity	<p>Pennsylvania is one of ten SpecialQuest Birth to Five states receiving a grant in 2008. A cross-systems state leadership team supports embedding the approach throughout PA. In 2009, three regional PDII’s were held with over 85 participants. Access to a list of these trainers and contact information can be accessed on the http://training.eita-pa.org website. Many of the trainers are PQAS certified.</p>
Contact person for questions about this Initiative	<p>Beth Fairchild: bfairchild@pattan.net Michele Walsh: micwal@berksiu.org</p>