Roundtable Proposal

Action Research to Design Professional Development in Technology for Early Childhood Teachers

Objectives:
1. The participant will identify methods of using action research in training.
2. The participant will explore research on the needs of early childhood educators for technology training.
3. The participant will gain an outline for conducting action research for early childhood educators as a prelude to training.

The roundtable will provide a model for inservice training for early childhood educators including public school and in child care. An overview of training needs in technology for early childhood educators from existing research will be presented. Participants will explore a model of training that involves: observation and survey of needs of participants in regards to technology in the classroom, design and delivery of training based on this research, and follow-up and assessment to determine the effectiveness of the training and future needs. An outline for development of the training including survey and assessment models will be provided. The workshop will examine training conducted by the presenter using the model and implications for teacher training in early childhood.

Early Childhood Educators need training in the use of technology in the classroom, particularly to improve their own curricular development and classroom management. An Action Research approach to developing training allows the presenter to determine specific needs of the audience and to design training that is targeted to meet the most critical of those needs. Such training is more likely to be useful and effective as it meets not only the needs identified by participants but also those observed by the trainer.

The roundtable will briefly examine current research in this area and will provide a format for trainers to follow in conducting research and developing training. A model developed by the roundtable presenter will be examined including a presentation that was developed from the model and assessments by those attending. Roundtable participants will also receive information on subsequent training and assessment developed from this model.