

*Topics in Early Childhood Special Education* (TECSE) offers information about *early intervention* (EI), which is defined broadly and includes services provided to (a) infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are at risk for or display developmental delays and disabilities and (b) their families. TECSE includes articles on personnel preparation, policy issues, and operation of intervention programs. The aim is to publish information that will improve the lives of young children and their families. Manuscripts from (a) diverse theoretical perspectives, (b) all disciplines related to EI, and (c) all authors with information of value to the field are welcome. Published quarterly.

## Types of Manuscripts

Per volume year, TECSE publishes 2 nontopical issues and 2 topical issues that address an identified problem, trend, or subject of concern and importance to EI. Upcoming topics are listed in each issue; authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts of various types (see below) related to the identified topics. The nontopical issue “Research and Practice in Early Intervention” offers manuscripts that deal with any issue related to EI. The intent is to provide a forum for manuscripts that (a) do not match the content of upcoming topical issues, (b) describe an innovation or development, (c) maintain a dialogue on important issues, and (d) present new conceptualizations or research findings on previously addressed topics. **Maximum number of pages: 35, which must include abstract, references, tables, and figures; each table should start on a new page.**

- **Reports of original research:** descriptions of investigations related to any aspect of EI. Diverse methodologies, including experimental studies using group or single-subject designs, descriptive studies using observational or survey methodologies, case studies, and qualitative investigations, are welcome. **Primary criteria:** high technical quality in design, implementation, and description, as well as importance to the field. Discuss findings thoroughly yet conservatively from two perspectives: issues for theory or future research and implications for practice or policy.
- **Literature reviews:** summaries of the existing literature that have relevance for EI. Reports synthesizing literature that is generally available to TECSE readers, as well as reviews focusing on less accessible but relevant literature, are welcome. Describe the procedure used to select the reviewed literature, address the methodological adequacy of the literature, discuss the major findings, and present implications for research/theory and for practice or policy. **Primary criteria:** review comprehensiveness, adequacy of methodology, quality and clarity of writing, and value to the field.
- **Conceptual statements:** presentations of particular issues, topics, or practices in EI. These fall into one of three types: (1) clearly articulate particular problems in the field; (2) present new conceptual foundations for approaching, analyzing, and potentially solving defined problems; or (3) describe innovations for practice. **Primary criteria:** concise presentation of the conceptualization or innovation, sufficient operational definition of relevant variables so that the issue can be studied further or have an effect on practice, documentation adequacy, and presentation clarity.
- **Position papers:** descriptions of selected issues for which the existing literature is insufficient to make definitive conclusions. Manuscripts that identify developing issues, compare and contrast different models or approaches, or describe a definable position are welcome. **Primary Criteria:** attention to the existing literature, presentation of a logical case related to the adopted position, and description of the position’s limitations and implications. The editor desires to publish contrasting positions on issues that deserve open, constructive dialogue but is not interested in papers that are subjective or illogically attack a given program/practice.
- **Program descriptions:** discussions of specific, well-developed programs of service or training. Descriptions of programs that are innovative, involve a unique arrangement of existing resources to provide early intervention services or training in early intervention, or solve particularly recalcitrant problems are welcome. **Primary criteria:** clear presentation of the program’s theoretical/philosophic basis, description of its components in replicable terms, and discussion of effects. Descriptions

of the problems encountered and attempted solutions are desired. Authors must present clear evidence that the program was implemented as described, produced defined outcomes, and can be replicated.

## Manuscript Preparation

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed., 2020).

**Format.** 8½ × 11 in. Word document; 1-in. margins. **Text:** double-spacing, left alignment, Times New Roman 12-pt. typeface. First page consists of title and abstract. **Tables:** Word document, use Word’s table functions rather than space bar or tabs. No PDFs for text or tables. **Figures:** Figures should be separate files, with each figure on a new page or file. Figures must be **black and white only** and production-ready. Because most art will be reduced to fit, use bold type that is large enough to be reduced and still be readable, and make sure rules/tick marks are at least 1 pt. Acceptable electronic formats for art: TIFF, EPS, Word, or Excel. For scans/photos, download the **SAGE Image Resolution Guidelines** from the Instructions & Forms link at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tecse>.

**Authors for Whom English is a Second Language.** Have a colleague or copyeditor who is fluent in English review the manuscript before submission.

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**LLMs and AI Tools.** Use of large language models and generative AI tools in data collection/analysis, manuscript writing, or production of images or graphical elements must be disclosed in the Method (or similar) section of the paper, detailing which AI tool was used and how it was used. Review SAGE’s guidance on requirements for authors: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/chatgpt-and-generative-ai-0>

**Supplemental Material.** Decisions regarding inclusion of supplemental material will be made by the editor as part of the article acceptance process. With the exception of videos and podcasts, supplemental files will be deposited to **Figshare** and assigned a DOI. Authors are responsible for the scientific accuracy and file functionality of all supplemental files; materials will not be copyedited, typeset, or proof-read. Additional information and guidelines are available for download from the Instructions and Forms link (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tecse>).

## Manuscript Submission

Submit electronically: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tecse>

Log in, or click the “Create an Account” option if you are a first-time user. Once logged in, click on “Author.” Click the “Start New Submission” link in the left-hand box and follow the submission steps. A guide can be accessed on the main page via the Help section, *User Tutorials* link.

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