

Moving an Early Education Program into an MTSS Framework

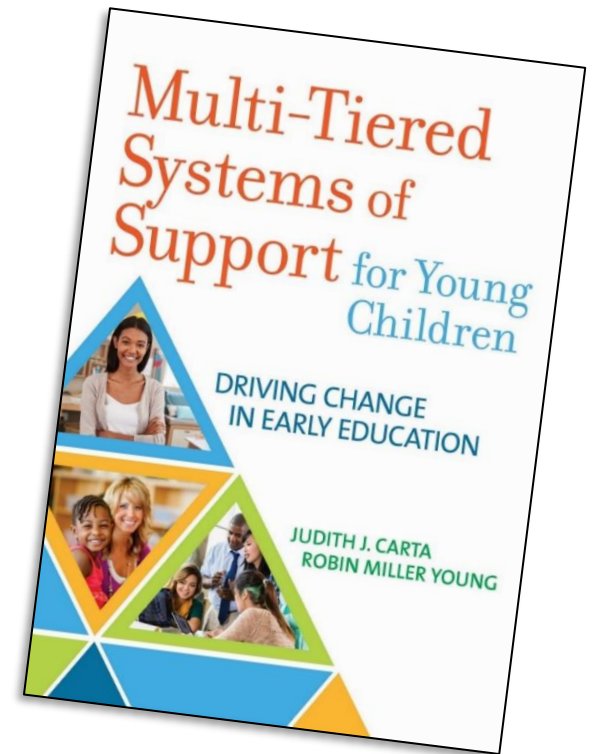
Part 1: Introducing MTSS in Early Childhood

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What is your current role?

- Early childhood teacher
- ECSE/EI teacher
- K-12 teacher
- Principal
- School psych
- Speech pathologist
- Administrator
- Other



Where are you in implementing tiered models like MTSS?

- How many of you have been implementing MTSS models for many years but not in early childhood?
- How many of you have been implementing MTSS models in early childhood settings?
- How many of you are currently using the Pyramid Model in your EC programs?
- How many have not been implementing in MTSS in EC but have that as a goal?

Participant Objectives :



Articulate one rationale for moving an early learning program into an MTSS framework.



Name one benefit of using site-based Instructional Leadership Teams (ILTs) to guide the shift into an MTSS framework.



State one method for evaluating current Tier 1 practices and identifying areas for improvement.



Describe an application of the strengths-based problem-solving process.

What is MTSS?



- Goal: to **identify** children who may be struggling to learn and **intervene early** so they can catch up to their peers.
- It can be designed to identify children who are struggling in **academic or behavioral** areas.

MTSS is not...

- The responsibility of just a few specialists—general educators are key!
- An excuse for delaying a special education

How is MTSS different from typical practice in early education?

In typical practice in early education...

- We don't usually systematically address the range of individual differences that exist across children.
- We **often wait** for significant delays before we provide additional support (and then it is a referral to special education).

How is MTSS different from typical practice in early education?

- MTSS identifies who needs the additional support and provides a **continuum of evidence-based practices** within the general education settings.
- The focus of MTSS is **prevention**—providing additional support as soon as it's needed for success.
- The aim of MTSS is to use **proven** instructional strategies.

Some challenges to moving into MTSS in Early Education

1. Difficulty of finding highly effective developmentally appropriate **Tier 1 curriculum** and instruction that can improve outcomes across domains
2. Lack of methods for doing **universal screening** across domains
3. **Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions** for providing additional instructional support are scarce.
4. Developing the **instructional leadership teams** to coordinate MTSS
5. Others?

What Strengths Do You Have to Build Upon?

For example, you may have:

- A strong Tier 1 to address children's social-emotional competence
- An ongoing system of professional development and coaching
- What are some of your program's strengths that you can use in building a MTSS framework?