



**Study VII
 Competence and
 Confidence of
 Practitioners Working
 with Children with
 Disabilities**

This study assessed the level of competence and confidence of personnel who provide services under Part C under IDEA of 2004. Part C providers from 45 states and territories completed an online survey created for this study. The survey focused on the following eight domains of competence and confidence: Family-Centered Practice; Assessment and Evaluation; IFSP Practices; Instructional Practices; Natural Learning Environment; Collaboration and Teaming; and Early Literacy Learning. Information from the interview was used to identify strengths and weaknesses in the selected domains.

Participant Characteristics

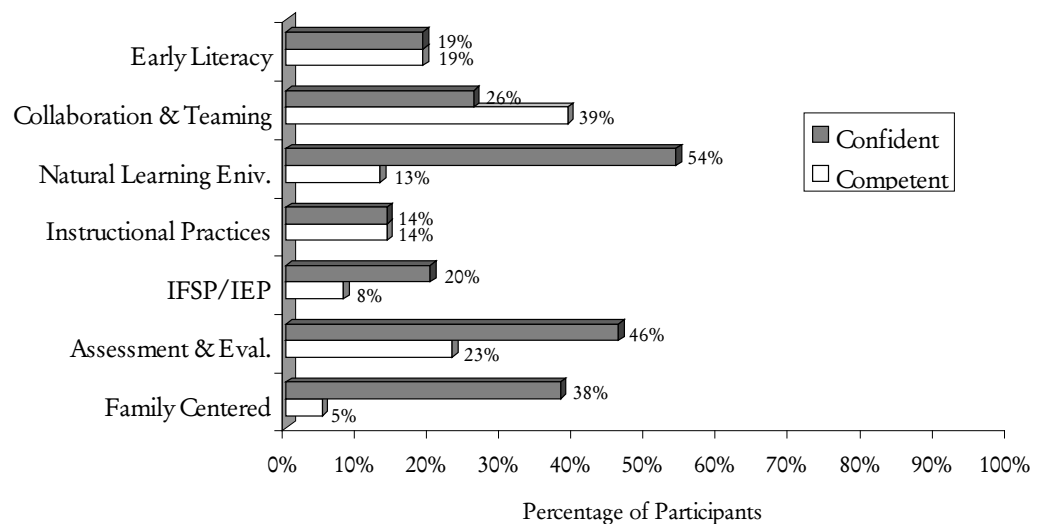
1,084 local providers from 45 states and territories completed the survey. The majority who responded were white (93%) and female (98%), and they were divided into the age groups of less than 40 (37%), 41 to 50 (30%), and older than 51 (31%). The majority held a master's degree (63%) and one-third held a bachelor's degree. The majority of respondents were certified as educators (53%), and 40% were certified as therapists (i.e., OT, OTR/L, PT, and SLP).

Competence and Confidence Domains

The survey contained a total of 47 items of which 19 elicited background information. The remaining questions were made up of two questions that pertained to competence and two questions that pertained to confidence for each of seven early childhood domains listed on the following chart.

Overview of Findings

As displayed below, findings suggest that practitioners reported being “always” or “almost always” more confident than competent in most of the practice areas.





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At a Glance...

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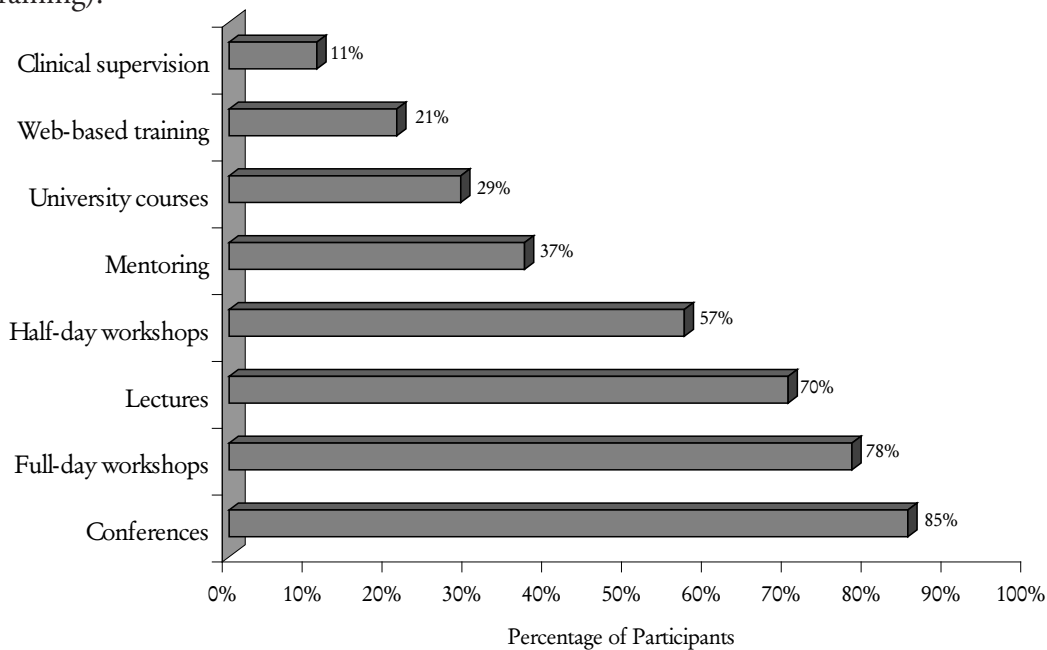
Competence Areas by Profession

Below are data from participants in the study who rated themselves as “always” or “almost always” competent in the following domains.

Types of Practice	SE/ECSE (n= 384)	SLP (n=234)	EC (n=193)	OT (n=106)	PT (n=89)
Family-Centered Practice	16%	5%	5%	5%	2%
Assessment Practices	35%	31%	26%	26%	26%
Achieving IFSP/ IEP Outcomes	6%	8%	6%	11%	12%
Instructional Practices	13%	12%	18%	7%	18%
Natural Environments/ LRE	11%	13%	18%	20%	55%
Collaboration/ Teaming	42%	43%	36%	25%	24%
Early Literacy	21%	20%	25%	12%	11%

Types of Trainings

Additionally, participants were asked to identify the types of training they received (participants were allowed to list more than one training).



For a copy of the full report go to: www.uconnuccdd.org

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