

Manuscript Guidelines for *Dimensions of Early Childhood*

Three times a year, the Southern Early Childhood Association publishes a refereed journal, *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, as well as a variety of books, pamphlets, and brochures. SECA publications support high-quality experiences for young children, their families, and educators by advancing the best practices in, and knowledge base of, early childhood education.

Readers include teachers of young children, family and group child care providers, administrators, teacher educators, researchers and people in allied professions such as social workers and education policy makers.

Topics

Manuscripts published by SECA address both the continuing interests of early childhood professionals and emerging ideas and issues in the field. Among topics considered are emergent curriculum for children from birth through age 8, adult education strategies, effective classroom practices that reflect sound theory and research, program administration, relationships with families, resource and referral systems, and public policy. Current research and theory must be cited as a basis for making recommendations for practice.

Occasional theme issues address timely, critical topics. Calls for proposals for these issues are published in *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, and on the SECA website at www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org. Inquiries are always welcome.

SECA publications support constructivist approaches to child and adult learning, rather than offering prescriptive techniques. Collaborative efforts between academics and practitioners are encouraged. SECA suggests that authors review the Association's journal and books to become familiar with member interests, current offerings, and publications style before submitting manuscripts.

Manuscript Preparation

Authors are encouraged to submit readable, practical manuscripts that reflect and advance the knowledge base of the profession. Manuscripts should be prepared in current APA style (2001). This style includes: typed, double-spaced, wide margins, and cover page with a working title, authors' full names, degrees, affiliations, and mailing address (including e-mail address) for the lead author. The length of journal manuscripts ranges from 5 to 16 pages, including complete references. **Manuscripts should be submitted to only one publisher at a time.**

Sharp, high-resolution photographs and graphics (children’s art work, charts) to support the text may be submitted for publication consideration as well. A sample model release is included in SECA’s *Photo Guidelines*.

Please submit manuscripts as e-mail attachments to expedite the review process. Send e-mail correspondence and attachments to editor@southernearlychildhood.org. Manuscripts are reviewed and processed electronically.

Review Process

At least three reviewers and the Editor read submitted journal manuscripts that appear to meet SECA’s publication criteria to assure that the content is meritorious and reflects SECA positions. The review process is blind to assure fairness, and generally takes about 3 months to complete. Authors are notified of the status of their manuscript after a decision has been reached. Manuscripts may be rejected, revisions may be requested, or material may be accepted for editing and publication.

Upon acceptance of a manuscript for publication, the information contained in the box here will be requested. Please plan the manuscript development process accordingly.

***Dimensions* Articles Now Feature... “Put These Ideas Into Practice!”**

The purpose of this feature is to reach practitioners with ideas they can use immediately in classrooms with children. To accomplish this, two journal pages at the end of all pertinent refereed articles will highlight classroom practice. Content must be aimed at entry-level practitioners. The layout stands out from the rest of the journal, and is easy to copy for staff and students.

1. Synopsis of main points—List a few key bullet points that translate research and principles covered in the article into daily classroom action

2. Related enrichment experiences for children (as appropriate)—Suggest VERY practical, engaging, creative, unique, safe/healthy experiences that directly build on information in the article (such as snack ideas, art explorations, children’s books, science activities, parent involvement) for these age groups:

Infants

Toddlers

Preschool

Kindergarten through grade 3

3. Adult learning experiences that build on these ideas—Offer suggestions for sharing the article’s skills and content to enhance daily practice. .

Note: *Dimensions of Early Childhood* readers are encouraged to copy this material for early childhood students and teachers of young children to promote professional development

Editing and Production

Upon acceptance, authors may assign copyright for their material to SECA or retain it for themselves. SECA maintains the right to edit, design, illustrate, publish, and market each accepted manuscript. Manuscripts are edited to assure accuracy, readability, clarity, completeness, and consistency of text and references. The Editor may communicate with the lead author during this process. Lead authors are asked to approve the edited manuscript for accuracy before production begins.

After publication, authors receive two complimentary copies of the journal as an expression of thanks from SECA for their contribution to the profession.

Reference

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th Ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author

Send editorial correspondence to:

Southern Early Childhood Association
PO Box 55930
Little Rock, AR 72215-5930
editor@southernearlychildhood.org
1-800-305-7322