

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 (2009, 6th Edition). 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 to editor@southernearlychildhood.org. Manuscripts are reviewed and processed electronically. Manuscripts that are submitted in hard copy will not be reviewed.

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.

Dimensions in a Nutshell

Authors are asked to produce this feature upon acceptance of their manuscript for publication. This material will appear in *Dimensions Extra*, a supplemental publication that provides additional resources and information related to the journal article to promote a more in-depth examination of the article topic. Content must be aimed at entry-level practitioners. *Dimensions Extra* is available on-line only and the *Dimensions in a Nutshell* pages are designed to be copied and utilized with staff/parent education.

You will be asked to submit this information.

1. Synopsis of main points—List a few key bullet points that translate research and principles covered in the article into daily classroom action. This component of the information should relate only the major points of the article and the page should provide a small amount of copy with graphics/photos.

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.

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 (2009, 6th Ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author

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NOTE: *Dimensions of Early Childhood* and *Dimensions Extra* are available to SECA members by going to http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/members_only.php.

If you are not a SECA member and would like a copy of an article that has been published in *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, contact the editor at editor@southernearlychildhood.org. We will be happy to provide you with an example of the type of article and resource materials that have been published.