## *What is the Pyramid Model?*

The **Pyramid Model** is a framework for supporting social competence and preventing challenging behavior in young children, particularly those with or at risk for delays or disabilities. The model emphasizes building positive relationships with children and families, creating supportive environments, intentionally teaching social skills and individualizing interventions when needed.

The goal of the Pyramid Model Partnership is to plan, implement and sustain a cross-sector professional development system in order to enhance the knowledge and skills of practitioners in meeting the social-emotional needs of young children in inclusive and natural environments. Data-driven decision making is used to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional approaches and implementation of the model to fidelity.

## *How can the Pyramid Model support the use of best practices in our program?*

As you think about your program's current areas of need, it may be helpful to know that the **Pyramid Model** is designed to address these areas of **DEC Recommended Practices**:

- **INSTRUCTION**
- **INTERACTION**
- **FAMILY**
- **DATA**
- **ENVIRONMENT**

Additionally, it is designed to strengthen these **Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for Early Interventionists/Early Childhood Special Educators (EI/ECSE)**:

- Partnering with Families
- Collaboration and Teaming
- Application of Curriculum in the Planning and Facilitation of Managing Learning Experiences
- Using Responsive and Reciprocal Interactions, Interventions, and Instructions

## *How do we get started in our program?*

- Call your Regional Professional Development Facilitator (PDF)

- Leader walks through *Overview Module* alone or with PDF Support

- Leader views the *Exploration Materials* with PDF

- Team Meeting with your PDF to review all *Exploration Materials*, followed by a meeting to complete the *Hexagon Tool*

- Decide whether or not to move forward with an innovation *Application,* or determine next steps