National Center and State Collaborative

Tips for Using the NCSC Wiki to Support Your Child's Education: Content Modules

The NCSC curriculum and instructional resources are publicly available for free on the NCSC wiki at https://wiki.ncscpartners.org. They were designed to be used together to help educators teach grade-level aligned mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) content to students with significant cognitive disabilities. The resources are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). However, they can also be used in states that are not using the CCSS. Much of the content that is covered on the wiki will also appear in other mathematics and ELA state standards. If you need help navigating the NCSC wiki, you can access a one page navigation tool and a more detailed navigation guide, designed for parents, from the main page of the wiki.

This document is about the NCSC Content Modules and how they can be used by parents to support your child's education. It is part of a series of documents based on seven of the NCSC curriculum and instructional resources. Using the NCSC curriculum and instructional resources at home and talking about the wiki with your child's teacher(s) are great starting points for increased parent-teacher collaboration.

Content Modules provide explanations and examples of the concepts that may be difficult to teach or may be unfamiliar to special education teachers who don't have as much background in the content as general educators. The Content Modules also include some strategies for teaching students with significant cognitive disabilities that parents may find helpful at home. Each Content Module covers a different mathematics or ELA topic (e.g., Fractions and Decimals is one of the mathematics Content Modules). The headings for the sections within each Content Module are based on an analogy to taking a hot air balloon ride. The examples provided under each section heading in the following pages come from the Fractions and Decimals Content Module, unless otherwise stated.

Time for Take Off
In this section of each Content Module, there are vocabulary words, definitions, and ideas to support vocabulary learning for the topic being covered. The information in this section of the Content Modules will help parents identify key vocabulary words and

support their children as they learn what the concepts mean. An example of an idea to support fractions vocabulary learning is below:

- Place fractions on a number line to demonstrate which fractions are larger than others
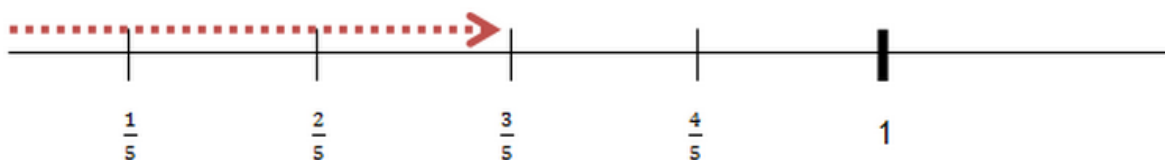
Floating on Air

Parents can more easily support their child's education if they know which skills and concepts are focused on in particular grades. For example, most of the skills or tools mentioned in the Fractions and Decimals Content Module are not introduced until 3rd grade. To see a list of some of the skills that should be covered at each grade level, look in the "Floating on Air" section within each Content Module. The following list shows some of the skills mentioned in the Fractions and Decimals Content Module. The entire list in this Content Module spans grades 3-8. The first number of the code in front of each skill refers to the grade level.

In elementary school skills include:

- 3.SE.1g1 Use =, <, > to compare 2 fractions with the same numerator or denominator
- 3.NO.1I1 Identify the number of highlighted parts (numerator) of a given representation (rectangles and circles)
- 3.NO.1I2 Identify the total number of parts (denominator) of a given representation (rectangles and circles)
- 3.NO.1I3 Identify the fraction that matches the representation (rectangles and circles; halves, fourths, thirds, and eighths)
- 3.NO.1I4 Identify that a part of a rectangle can be represented as a fraction that has a value between 0 and 1
- 3.NO.1I5 Locate given common unit fractions (i.e., ½, ¼, 1/8) on a number line or ruler
- 4.SE.1g2 Use =, <, > to compare 2 fractions (fractions with a denominator of 10 or less)
- 4.SE.1g3 Use =, <, > to compare 2 decimals (decimals in multiples of .10)
- 4.SE.1h1 Express whole numbers as fractions

Sharing the Sky

You will find a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) table that provides possible adaptations and modifications to address a variety of student needs in the "Sharing the Sky" section of each of the Content Modules. The UDL tables have sections for the three UDL principles, which refer to multiple ways of presenting information ("Representation"), multiple ways for your child to gain and demonstrate knowledge ("Expression"), and multiple ways to get your child engaged and motivated to learn ("Engagement"). For more information on UDL see www.udlcenter.org.

In addition to looking at the UDL table in each Content Module, it is important to look at the UDL table in each mathematics and ELA Curriculum Resource Guide (discussed in another paper in this series). Except for three topics that overlap, the topics covered by

the Curriculum Resource Guides and the Content Modules are different. Because we use the Representation section of the UDL table for Fractions and Decimals as an example in the Curriculum Resource Guide paper, we use an example from the Representation section of the UDL table in the Informational Writing Content Module in this paper.

	Visual Impairment or Deaf/Blind	Physical Impairment: Little/ No Hand Use	Lacks Basic Concepts	Motivational/ Attention Issues
Representation	Engage in oral rehearsal of expository writing; use a talking device such as an avatar; use large font to type; use online tools to create graphic organizers (i.e., Readwritethink.org); use picture cards and graphic organizers to organize expository piece; digital writing modes (MovieMaker, iMovie).	Student scans an array of possible options and uses a switch to select topic, main idea, details, etc.; use computer representation that can be manipulated with switch; place key aspects on a slant board or eye gaze board; create an exercise in the classroom that the student can walk or ride in wheelchair to organize content for expository writing.	Offer scaffolding to assist students with writing. Use graphic organizers and sentence starters. Offer images and illustrations as springboards for ideas. Read text with basic structure to show examples to students. After reading, encourage students to complete a backwards plan to organize expository writing.	Use motivating objects to research and write about (i.e., puppets or student's favorite character, object, etc.). Incorporate technology including computer representations, videos, animations, and talking avatar. Allow students to self-select writing paper, tools, and topics for writing.

Preparing for Landing

In this section of each Content Module, you will find ideas for linking the academic activities for the topic to real-world uses. In addition, you will find examples of how skills taught within each Content Module also promote college and career readiness. Students are more engaged in the academic content when they see how it relates to their lives and goals.

Most of the college and career ready skills needed by any student are related to college, career, and community readiness for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The key skills that NCSC focuses on are: communicative competence; fluency in reading, writing, and mathematics (fluency refers to the ability to do the tasks accurately and at an appropriate speed); age-appropriate social skills; independent work behaviors; and skills for getting help when it is needed.

After the discussion on promoting college and career readiness, there are lists of additional resources relevant to each Content Module, such as links, articles, assessments for teachers, and sample general education lesson plans (including one which models how to incorporate UDL considerations).