

## Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

## REACH

A newsletter for early childhood education professionals

Dear early childhood professionals,

Greetings! As we welcome June and the start of summer, we're excited to share some news and upcoming opportunities with you in this issue of REACH.

Applications are now open to join cohorts focused on the Pyramid Model and cohorts focused on the Zero to Three Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators. Both of these new in-depth series include workshops, classroom observations, and coaching. Cohorts are being launched across the year – make sure to read more below!

Responding to feedback about the need for more self-paced offerings, we're launching a new self-paced PLE, "Introduction to Delaware's Early Learning Foundations". We also include additional organizations that provide online courses to support early childhood educators in completing their annual licensing training requirements.

We'd also like to spotlight the final episode from season 2 of X, Why, Z: Reflections for Early Childhood Education Professionals, "It Starts with You". Make sure to listen from wherever you stream your podcasts to hear from Dr. Nefertiti Poyner about resilience and self-care.

With warm regards,

Kristy Sheffler  
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# DIEEC Action Items

## Applications for Zero to Three and Pyramid Model Now Open

### *Interested in an in-depth professional learning experience?*

DIEEC is rolling out some exciting new initiatives this year, starting in July. We'll be offering **6 cohorts of our new Pyramid Model series**, which focuses on supporting preschool educators to promote young children's healthy social and emotional development, leading to better social skills and fewer problem behaviors.

We'll also be offering **6 cohorts for our new Zero to Three Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators series**, which focuses on supporting infant and toddler educators to promote social-emotional, cognitive, and language and literacy development.

Both initiatives include workshop sessions, classroom observations, and follow-up coaching. **You can find more details and an application link** on our website at: [www.dieec.udel.edu/professional-learning-experiences](http://www.dieec.udel.edu/professional-learning-experiences)

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## NEW Self-Paced Professional Learning Experience: Introduction to Delaware's Early Learning Foundations

DIEEC is offering a new self-paced course to support classroom educators in using the Early Learning Foundations as a resource for curriculum development. **The course is open from June 17 through June 28. Enroll now**, as this first round will have **limited availability**. [Click here to access the PD calendar and enroll in the course.](#)

# DIEEC News

## Summer Hours at DIEEC

From May 28 through August 30, DIEEC will be on summer hours. Our main phone line, 302-831-3239, will be staffed Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. You may also email us at your convenience at [ecinstitute@udel.edu](mailto:ecinstitute@udel.edu) and you will receive a reply during business hours. You can visit our website anytime at [www.dieec.udel.edu](http://www.dieec.udel.edu).



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## Kickstart your Quality Improvement Planning

### ***Connect with your Quality Improvement Specialist Now***

All licensed early care and education programs have access to DIEEC quality improvement specialists to guide their quality improvement efforts. Now is the perfect time to review your plan from last year or start a new plan, considering the steps that would make your program even better! Schedule now to have fresh support strategies in place in time for the 2024-2025 school year.

DIEEC is committed to supporting each of our programs in achieving excellence through our quality improvement services. As part of this effort, our quality improvement specialists are available to support your program with its quality improvement planning needs.

Please be aware that due to capacity, some programs may experience a wait time before being able to schedule a visit with their quality improvement specialist. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we strive to provide the highest level of support to all programs. DIEEC does have several universal supports that are available to all programs at any time. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your commitment to continuous improvement!

## DIEEC Early Childhood Educator of the Year Recognition

The winners and runners-up for DIEEC's Early Childhood Educator of the Year awards were celebrated at Early Childhood Advocacy Day on May 16 in Dover, with First Spouse Tracy Quillen Carney making the presentation. DIEEC thanks deaeyc and Rodell for inviting these outstanding educators to be honored at the Advocacy Day event. [Watch the presentation here!](#)

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### X, Why Z: Reflections from Early Childhood Education Professionals Season 2, Episode 7: "It Starts with You"

Our final episode of season two dropped last week and you don't want to miss it! Hosts Irene and Meghan chatted with Dr. Nefertiti Poyner, an early childhood specialist and lead trainer with the Devereux Center for Resilient Children (DCRC). [Check out the episode "It Starts with You"](#) and gain insight, helpful tips, and suggestions around resilience and self-care.



### New Microlearnings Available!

Designed specifically to support new early childhood classroom educators in Delaware, these bite-sized offerings cover foundational topics to help build confidence and add tools to your teacher toolbox. We have four NEW microlearnings for you!

Three of the new microlearnings are available on DIEEC's website now, and one more will be released on Monday, June 10. **Topics include transitions, diapering, how to read a book with young children, and playground safety.** [Check out all of our topics and sign up](#) to get the next set of microlearnings delivered directly to your inbox.

¿Prefieres ver este contenido en español? [Haga click aqui!](#)

## Key Practice Highlight

As part of Delaware's revised [Quality Improvement System](#) for early care and education programs in Delaware, the **Office of Early Learning (OEL)** has prioritized **five key practices for fiscal year 2024**. We are highlighting one key practice each month, sharing examples of how Delaware programs are choosing to work towards higher levels of quality in the highlighted practice.

This month, we are highlighting **CQ-KP7: Provides effective and meaningful supervision on teaching practices**.

- **Beginnings and Beyond III in Felton** focused on strengthening staff observations by first choosing an assessment tool and then establishing a system for using that tool. This system focuses on identifying and supporting any areas that need improvement, ensuring that staff receive the guidance necessary to grow in their roles.
- **Rise & Shine Learning Center, Frankford**, is using video to support its educator observation process. The video is an opportunity to observe skills, such as interactions, without interrupting classroom experiences, allowing for a better understanding of the needed classroom supports.

We'd love to hear how your program is working toward quality in the five key practice areas! Submit your ideas to [ecinstitute@udel.edu](mailto:ecinstitute@udel.edu) to be included in a future edition of REACH.

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## Partner Highlight: Delaware Museum of Nature & Science

[The Delaware Museum of Nature & Science offers quality-assured teacher professional development workshops](#) that help expand your science knowledge while providing opportunities to learn concepts, activities, and techniques for immediate classroom application. Many of their offerings are geared specifically toward PreK and K educators. This month, we are highlighting



## Resource Highlight: Devereux Center for Resilient Children

Resilience is the ability to recover and bounce back in the face of difficult or challenging circumstances. These can be one-time events such as the loss of a loved one, or ongoing stresses such as poverty or hunger. Resilience is associated with more positive outcomes in the face of these challenges. The Devereux Center for Resilient Children offers a [variety of resources](#) designed to promote resilience in young children, ages birth through five, as well as in the adults caring for them. These include free on-demand webinars, videos, activity printables, and more. You can also [sign up for email updates](#).

Psst- check out our most recent [podcast episode featuring Dr. Nefertiti Poyner](#) of the Devereux Center as she talks about the importance of resilience and self-care in adults.



## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Highlight: Considering Culture in the Classroom

There are many benefits for children and the classroom community when teachers consider culture in their planning and interactions. Incorporating culture enhances opportunities to help children make connections within the curriculum and with each other and allows for deeper, caring relationships with children and families. Read more in the article ["Valuing Diversity: Developing a Deeper Understanding of All Young Children's Behavior"](#) published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

## News and opportunities from our partners in the early childhood education community

### Whole Child Support: Nutrition

Summer can be a particularly challenging time for children and families experiencing food insecurity, as school breakfast and lunch programs are shuttered. The State of Delaware supports several federally-funded programs aimed at reducing hunger in vulnerable populations, including young children. Use the links below to learn more.

#### Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

<https://education.delaware.gov/educators/whole-child-support/nutrition/cacfp/>

#### Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

<https://education.delaware.gov/educators/whole-child-support/nutrition/sfsp/>

# In Case You Missed It

## Las microprendizajes en español estan disponibles en el sitio web de DIEEC!

¡El microaprendizaje es una excelente manera de aprender nuevas habilidades y obtener información en porciones pequeñas y digeribles! Es contenido práctico entregado en 5-10 minutos.

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/microlearning/>

## Week of the Young Child Resource Raffle Winner 🎉

Congratulations to Claudia F., who won a package of resources related to our Welcoming All Children panel discussion held during the Week of the Young Child in April. Everyone who attended the full panel discussion or viewed the recording later was eligible to win.

## Provider Appreciation Day Raffle Winners 🎉

**Congratulations to the 25 educators** who were randomly selected to receive a Wawa gift card as part of our Provider Appreciation Day celebration!



# DIEEC Professional Learning Experiences (PLEs)

## Upcoming Free Opportunities

DIEEC's professional learning experiences (PLEs) are available at no cost to you. **Check out these upcoming offerings:**

### Self-Paced Professional Learning Experiences

- [Introduction to Delaware's Early Learning Foundations](#), a 2-hour introductory experience **starting on June 17**.

### Virtual-Live Professional Learning Experiences

- [Helping School Age Children Reboot Their Brain](#), a 3-hour intermediate experience **starting on June 6**.
- [Developing Relationships, Developing Brains: Infants and Toddlers](#), a 5-hour intermediate experience **starting on June 11**.
- [The Business of Early Childhood: Your Purpose, Passion and Position as a Leader PLUS](#), an 8-hour intermediate experience **starting on June 18**.
- You can browse and register for a variety of PLEs on the [DIEEC professional learning experience calendar](#).

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## Additional Professional Development Options for Delaware Early Childhood Professionals

The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) has created a list of organizations that provide online training hours to meet the educational requirement for the CDA. The Office of Child Care Licensing will also accept training hours from these companies to meet annual licensing clock-hour requirements. This list can be found on their webpage: [Educator Requirements: Birth through Second Grade - Delaware Department of Education](#). Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page to view the list.

### FREE option

Listed on the DDOE site above as "Head Start ECLKC," the Office of Head Start's [Individualized Professional Development \(iPD\) Portfolio](#) offers **free online courses** on child development and practical teaching strategies for infant/toddler educators and preschool educators.



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