

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

REACH

A newsletter for early childhood education professionals

Dear early childhood professionals,

August is a month of transition for many of us, as we prepare to move children into new classrooms, send our own children back to school, or think ahead to the coming school year and all that we want to accomplish. At DIEEC, we're excited about the possibilities and opportunities ahead. This month, we preview two of our key fall initiatives: Children's Book Week and the 1st State Family Child Care Conference. Mark your calendars now! Take a few minutes to read this month's Coach's Corner about circle time- we have tips to help you ensure it's appropriate and effective, and the new school year is a great time to try a new approach.

Family child care professionals, be sure to read about how our FCC network is now statewide, with meetings and activities open to ALL licensed Delaware FCC programs.

Check out our Pyramid Model and Zero to Three: Critical Competencies initiatives- is one of our upcoming cohorts right for your program? And finally, remember that DIEEC's quality improvement specialists are here to support your program's continuous quality improvement journey- reach out when you're ready to get started!

With warm regards,

Kristy Sheffler
DIEEC Deputy Director

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood



501 South College Avenue, Newark, DE 19716
ecinstitute@udel.edu

DIEEC Action Items

Save the Date: Children's Book Week

November 4-10, 2024

A national celebration of Children's Book Week will take place from November 4-10. Read about how DIEEC celebrated last year on our webpage, and stay tuned for information about how your program can celebrate by hosting a guest reader and receiving free books, courtesy of DIEEC!

Visit our page to stay informed at www.dieec.udel.edu/childrens-book-week.



Save the Date: 1st State Family Child Care Conference

Saturday, November 16, 2024

The third annual 1st State Family Child Care Conference will take place on Saturday, November 16 at the Cheer Center in Georgetown. This year's theme is "Your Best Self, for Their Best Future," and we can't wait to connect and share with Delaware's family child care community!

We are now accepting applications for presenters, sponsors, and vendors. Find all of this information and more on our conference webpage. Check it frequently for the most current information!

Registration for attendees opens September 1.

Check out the official page for details at www.dieec.udel.edu/whats-new/1st-state-fcc-conference.



DIEEC News

Family Child Care Network Update

Supports are available to ALL family child care educators

DIEEC Network Coordinators support family child care programs through various universal supports, including monthly community meetings, self-care, and resource sharing. Join us for one of our four monthly in-person meetings (held in each county and the city of Wilmington) or hop onto our Zoom option. Check out the meeting schedule and learn about other upcoming events on our Family Child Care Network webpage.

Visit the Family Child Care Network page at www.dieec.udel.edu/family-child-care/family-child-care-network.

DIEEC Public Calendar

Did you know that DIEEC's website includes a calendar? It's a great way to keep up with what's happening, and get more involved with the early childhood community. Upcoming events are listed on the bottom left side of our homepage, and you can also click through to the full calendar. Click on an event name to get all the details: who, what, when, where and how to join in!

Check it out: www.dieec.udel.edu/dieec-calendar.



Cuatro Nuevos Microaprendizajes en Español Están Disponibles Ahora!

El microaprendizaje es una excelente manera de adquirir nuevas habilidades e información en porciones pequeñas y fáciles de asimilar. Es contenido accionable que se entrega en 5-10 minutos y está diseñado específicamente para los nuevos educadores de la primera infancia en Delaware. Los nuevos microaprendizajes son:

- Seguridad en el patio de recreo
- Cómo leer un libro a niños pequeños
- Cambiar pañales en centros de cuidado y educación temprana en Delaware
- Transiciones

Puedes encontrarlos todos en nuestra página web de Microlearning: www.dieec.udel.edu/microlearning

Coach's Four New Spanish Language Microlearnings are Now Available!

Microlearning is an excellent way to acquire new skills and information in small, easy-to-digest portions. It's actionable content delivered in 5-10 minutes and designed specifically for new early childhood educators in Delaware. The new microlearning modules available in Spanish are:

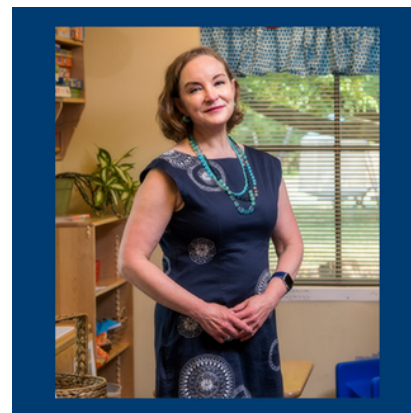
- Playground Safety
- How to Read a Book to Young Children
- Diapering in Delaware Early Care and Education Centers
- Transitions

You can find them all on our Microlearning page: www.dieec.udel.edu/microlearning.

DIEEC Leaders Named to Key Roles at the University of Delaware



Rena A. Hallam, professor of human development and family sciences, will serve as interim dean of the University of Delaware's College of Education and Human Development, which houses DIEEC. Rena is DIEEC's current director. Read the UDaily article here: www.udel.edu/udaily/2024/july/rena-hallam-interim-dean-college-of-education-and-human-development



Martha Buell, chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, will serve as vice provost of faculty affairs. Martha is a former director of DIEEC. Read the UDaily article here: www.udel.edu/udaily/2024/july/new-appointments-provost-office-martha-buell-michael-chajes

Congratulations to both! We at DIEEC are thrilled and proud to see these strong advocates for the early childhood community taking on new leadership roles.

Key Practice Highlight - Quality Improvement System

Each month, DIEEC will share resources that Delaware programs can use as they work towards higher levels of quality in a specific key practice. The key practices support Quality Indicators in Delaware's revised Quality Improvement System.

This month's highlighted key practices support the Creating Conditions for Quality indicator.

- **CQ-KP4 (classroom-based programs):** Implements practices to recruit and retain high-quality educators, consultants, and contractors and
- **CQ-KP6 (FCC):** Implements practices to recruit, retain, and orient high-quality educators, consultants, and contractors (as needed).

Resources:

- Early Care and Education Workforce Salary Scale Playbook: Implementation Guide (classroom-based programs) <https://bit.ly/3YsJo93>
- How do I create a salary scale for myself? (FCC) <https://bit.ly/46QiOnL>
- A New Day for Health Care Options: Affordable Health Insurance for ECE <https://bit.ly/46xRU8M>

If you have a resource to share or something that you're doing in your program that we can highlight, we'd love to hear about it! Submit your ideas to ecinstitute@udel.edu to be included in a future edition of REACH.

Quality Improvement Planning

Connect with your Quality Improvement Specialist

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 and consider the steps that would make your program even better! Ready to start working on a new plan? Reach out to your quality improvement specialist about scheduling. Don't have a specialist yet? Request one here:

www.dieec.udel.edu/quality-improvement-support-request.

Coach's Corner: Circle Time

Circle time is a well-known concept in the early childhood education community. It is also the subject of many debates in our field. In this month's Coach's Corner, DIEEC quality improvement specialist Meghan Pallante explores ways to ensure that circle time is both appropriate and successful. You can read it here:

www.dieec.udel.edu/whats-new/coachs-corner.



Resource Highlight: My Child DE

My Child DE is a user-friendly website that brings together resources to help families, providers and other caretakers make informed choices for the children of Delaware. The "Provider" section of the My Child DE site has an extensive collection of information and resources for Delaware early childhood education programs. The Latest News feed will keep you up to date on information, deadlines and resources. Check out their page: www.mychildde.org/providers.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Highlight

In this short article from the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership, the authors highlight the role of self-awareness and other key strategies and resources for creating more inclusive early childhood education environments.

“Self-awareness is a critical part of working with young children because our biases influence how we care for children and how we lead program staff.” Read the article, “Are Cherry LifeSavers Really the Best? Pausing to Reflect on Biases.” <https://bit.ly/46yfZMu>.

Summer Hours at DIEEC through August 30

Monday–Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

- Our main phone line, 302-831-3239, will be staffed during these hours.
- You may also email us at your convenience at ecinstitute@udel.edu and you will receive a reply during business hours.
- You can visit our website anytime at www.dieec.udel.edu.

In Case You Missed It

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. www.dieecpd.org/registry/calendar

Virtual-Live and Hybrid Professional Learning Experiences

- **Full STEAM Ahead: Building Value and Boosting Confidence for Supporting Learning and Development in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math**, a 3-hour introductory experience starting on 8/8.
- **Supporting Sensory Learning: Infants, Toddlers, and Beyond**, a 4-hour introductory experience starting on 8/12.
- **The Parent Voice: Engaging Families**, a 5-hour intermediate experience starting on 8/15.
- **Understanding Children's Behavior as Communication for Family Child Care Professionals PLUS**, a 4-hour introductory experience starting on 8/19.
- **Understanding Children's Behavior as Communication**, a 4-hour introductory experience starting on 8/27.
- **Giving Care to the Caregiver for Family Child Care Professionals PLUS**, a 5-hour introductory experience starting on 8/27.

Self-Paced Professional Learning Experiences

We are pleased to announce seven self-paced PLEs that **will be starting on September 1st**.

- **Community Resources in Early Care**
- **Mindfulness: A Resilience Practice**
- **Building Future Success in School-Age Children**
- **Self-Regulation and Play**
- **Understanding Children's Behavior as Communication**
- **The Role of Play in Any Setting**
- **Risk Management in the Early Care Setting**

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: <https://bit.ly/3Yz8zaa>. 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. <https://bit.ly/3WxJ8TI>.



Subscribe to REACH by going to <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/whats-new/reach-newsletter/>



Scan & Subscribe

You can also subscribe by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.

