

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

“Rooted in Excellence”



We are thrilled to share that planning is underway for the 5th Annual First State Family Child Care (FCC) Conference, scheduled for **Saturday, October 17, 2026**, at Clayton Hall on the University of Delaware’s campus in Newark.

This year’s theme is *“Rooted in Excellence.”* Rooted in Excellence represents the shared commitment of family child care providers to continuously strengthen their practice. Our educators attend the conference with intention: they are already rooted in excellence, and they join us to ensure their professional development never stops growing!

We invite YOU—dedicated family child care professionals, trainers, and leaders—to submit a proposal to share your ideas, strategies, or stories with your colleagues at the conference.

Proposal topics should align with this year’s theme of *“Rooted in Excellence.”* Sample topics could include, but are not limited to:

- Rooted in Relationships: Building secure attachments in mixed-age FCC settings
- The Business Roots of FCC: Contracts, policies, and setting boundaries with confidence
- Financial Excellence: Budgeting, tax essentials, and long-term financial stability
- Rooted in Trust: Building strong, respectful relationships with families
- Supporting Families Through Transitions: Enrollment, separation, behavior changes, and more
- Strength-Based Communication: Navigating tough conversations with empathy
- Designing Excellent Learning Spaces: Making the most of home-based environments
- Outdoor Excellence: Nature-based play in family child care
- Rooted in Safety: Health, safety, emergency preparedness, and safe sleep updates
- Rooted in Community: Building networks and peer-support groups
- Mentoring New Providers: Fostering excellence

We’re looking for sessions that are practical, engaging, and tailored to the unique experiences of family childcare providers. Whether you’re a seasoned expert, a new voice with fresh ideas, or someone who’s learned through real experience—**your voice matters.**

Proposals must be submitted via online application, available [DIEEC’s 1st State Family Child Care Conference web page](#). Submissions are due by **April 1, 2026**. Proposals will be reviewed, and presenters will be notified by April 30, 2026.

Questions? Please reach out to Kristy Smith (kcsmith@udel.edu)