

R E A C H

a monthly e-newsletter for Delaware's early childhood and school age programs



August 2020



You're here for Delaware's children and families.
We're here for YOU!



Helpful COVID-19 Websites

[Delaware's Child Care and COVID -19 Site](#)

[DIEEC COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

[Blueprint for Reopening Child Care Safely Page](#)



Delaware State University Early Childhood Laboratory School Family Engagement: Creating a Village Through Outreach Opportunities

Like other early childhood education programs, the Delaware State University (DSU) Early Childhood Lab School, was closed during the initial period of the state quarantine. Dannaé Sewell, Lab School director, and her team responded with an alternative learning experience that included a full slate of engagement opportunities. "Creating this experience for our students and families has truly taken a team effort," said Sewell. "We could not be prouder of our DSU Laboratory educators."

Their outreach involved many options even including technology, such as daily Zoom calls for circle time, singing, dancing, yoga, cooking, and virtual field trips.

Families were involved in a variety of ways. They were sent weekly lesson plans, resources to explore developmentally appropriate activities, highlights from the week, and a preview of the following week's plan.

"It was especially important that we stay connected as a village, the same as when we were attending our center daily. " said Sewell. "However, we wanted to equally balance the American Academy of Pediatrics health and safety tips regarding screen time with our new normal. The reality is the children and families are often just happy to see their teachers' faces while in the safety of their homes."

To this end, the Lab School team didn't hesitate to get out from behind their screens and visit their students in several appropriate, socially distant ways.

The entire team drove to every graduating pre-kindergartener's home. Wishing them congratulations while delivering boxes of sunshine and yard signs. These children and their families, who would have otherwise experienced a preschool gradation, were so elated. The staff even made special barbeque kits including hand mittens, BBQ sauce and brush along with a craft and apron donated by Home Depot for Father's Day and dropped it off in mailboxes. To honor Mom's, they held a virtual tea with prizes as well.

One of the center's most significant accomplishments during quarantine was conducting their science fair virtually. This event was the center's first annual science fair, and everyone was excited to participate. Instead of rescheduling, the staff went ahead with it by engaging families. The Lab School asked families to prepare three to five-minute presentations.

"Our educators also created videos demonstrating just how much science rocks! All in all, our Science week, ending in our Science fair, was a total blast!" said Sewell. The videos included fun and engaging topics like "Magic Milk," "Air Pressure, Anyone?" and "How to Make Jell-O Glow in the Dark?" "Our educators created interactive experiences to ensure

that parents know we are there to support them and their child fully," said Sewell." Again, we are a village.



We Hear You and We are Here to Help!

**By: Betty Gail Timm, Director
Office of Child Care Licensing
Department of Education**

Delaware early childhood professionals have been accomplishing amazing things. Every day, you serve our youngest and most vulnerable citizens while working to protect their health and safety and the health and safety of those supporting them. Properly wearing a cloth face covering is not easy, but this requirement is in place to protect you and the children you serve. The Office of Child Care Licensing (OCL) cannot



New Financial Relief Options for Early Childhood Education Programs

**By Anthony George, Financial Advisor
Small Business Development Center**

During the last couple of months, there have been many beneficial changes to assist small businesses, like early childhood education programs, looking for disaster assistance.

In the middle of June, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act (PPPFA) became law. The PPPFA improved flexibility when using the

commend you too highly; you are amazing! In this article, we thought we would highlight some of the questions that we hear repeatedly regarding what is permitted during these unprecedented times.

Q: May I use sprinklers and water slides for the children?

A: Yes, if there is no water pooling at the end of the slide and social distancing is maintained as much as possible. Water slides that use fresh, running water are the best option. Slip-and-slides may be used as long as proper sanitizing and cleaning of surfaces is practiced after each use along with physical distancing and there is no communal pooling of water, often found at the end of the slide.

Q: May I conduct tours?

A: Yes, after hours. Your program must be thoroughly cleaned before children return.

Q: We move children to a new age group at the end of the summer. How can this be done?

A: Under present guidance, class groups should remain as stable as possible, so gradual transitions are not permitted. Unless guidance changes before your moving-up date, children need to move all at once. Zoom meetings with the new teacher and other creative contacts can help ease the transition.

Q: Can a face-covering be worn under my nose?

A: No, it must cover both mouth and nose at all times. However, guidance from public health stated that relief from the face-covering could occur during nap time and when they are on the playground as long as the professional is socially distant from the children and others. The face-covering should be put back on when interacting with staff and children again.

A complete list of updated questions and answers is on the [Blueprint for Reopening landing page](#) here. It includes answers to your most recent concerns related to health issues about COVID-19. Please note we receive most of our guidance regarding Delaware's Division of Public Health (DPH) issues from public health. They are the real experts in determining how to combat this health crisis. OCCL appreciates the partnership we have with DPH! Be sure to reach out to your licensing specialist with additional questions. If we don't know the answer, we always elevate to the right resource.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding and simplicity when applying for loan forgiveness. The covered period is extended to 24 weeks (or up to December 31, 2020). Additionally, up to 40 percent of loan proceeds can now be spent on non-payroll expenses, such as rent. For loans issued after June 5th, the payment term for the remaining balance was extended to five years.

The PPPFA also introduced new provisions that prevented a reduction in loan forgiveness for borrowers unable to re-hire furloughed individuals and were unable to return to the same level of business activity because of compliance with public health guidelines. In response to the PPPFA, the US Treasury released the Loan Forgiveness Application Form EZ and corresponding instructions. Please note that you have ten months after the end of the covered period to apply for forgiveness.

Also, in the middle of June, the Small Business Association (SBA) re-opened the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program to new applications (sba.gov/disaster). This program provides low-interest, long-term loans intended to support working capital. In comparison to the first application round, loan proceeds from this program are capped up to \$150,000, there is no longer a grant component, and the turnaround time for loan decisions is much faster.

Delaware Stars Technical Assistants have supported early childhood professionals in applying for and receiving funds through EIDL. For further information, check out this blog from Tom Copeland that addresses this option for early childhood education.

In early July, the deadline for the PPP was extended to August 8, 2020. However, some financial institutions have not re-opened applications. As a result, it is recommended to apply through alternatives such as Kabbage and Cross River Bank.

We understand that this is a lot of information to digest, and it can be overwhelming. There are resources to help. For additional disaster assistance support, please visit www.delawaresbdc.org.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

New Live Training on Children's Love Languages **Register for Training at <https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar>**

We have all been through a great deal these past four months, and the children we serve are no exception. Now is the time to continue to ensure they feel safe, supported, and also loved.

Knowing a child's love language can foster a relationship with a child that helps them know they are loved. If you do not understand how a child best gives and receives love, you may leave a child wondering if they are truly loved. Children learn better if they feel loved by their teacher.

To this end, the Lab School team didn't hesitate to get out from behind their screens and visit their students in several appropriate, socially distant ways. The entire team drove to every graduating pre-kindergartener's home. Wishing them congratulations while delivering boxes of sunshine and yard signs. These children and their families, who would have otherwise experienced a preschool graduation, were so elated. The staff even made special barbecue kits including hand mittens, BBQ sauce and brush along with a craft and apron donated by Home Depot for Father's Day and dropped it off in mailboxes. To honor Mom's, they held a virtual tea with prizes as well. One of the center's most significant accomplishments during quarantine was conducting their science fair virtually. This event was the center's first annual science fair, and everyone was excited to participate. Instead of rescheduling, the staff went ahead with it by engaging families. The Lab School asked families to prepare three to five-minute presentations.

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Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

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