

**JULY 2022**



Dear Early Childhood Educator:

Summer is quickly passing by, and we hope you get some well-deserved time to relax and refuel.

Things continue to be busy at DIEEC. Our website now includes all our offerings with content focused on you - the early childhood educator. We will continue to hone the site with your feedback to ensure it serves your needs.

We are excited to share a new professional learning experience for family child care educators in this issue. Be sure to check out "Using Data to Improve Teacher-Child Interactions" in a fun video highlighting what you'll learn.

Additionally, there's still time for family child care educators to sign up for the "PreK in Family Child Care Project (PKFCC) Kickoff" webinar on Thursday, July 14, from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. I will join other researchers, including DIEEC research director Jason Hustedt, to introduce this project and discuss the inclusion of family child care programs in PreK initiatives.

Finally, Lil' Red Hen is featured in July's Voices from the Field series. This program is the heart of the Delmar community serving generations of families.

Rena Hallam  
DIEEC Director

## Voices from the Field

### Lil' Red Hen Nursery and Pre-School

#### Lifelong Learning Begins Here

Lil' Red Hen Nursery and Pre-School in Delmar, Del., has the special distinction of serving both Maryland and Delaware. Located on the border of these states, this center has created one big community through its work in providing quality care to generations of these neighboring areas.

This community is what motivates Anne Atkinson, owner/administrator, to continue to pursue quality improvements for the more than 125 young children - infants to school age - in her program.

"We have parents who came to Lil' Red Hen as children," said Anne. "Now their kids are here because of the quality education. They keep coming back, and they give back."

"The Delmar community helped support us during COVID. Families provided lunches and dinners and looked for every opportunity to accommodate our staff."

And in return, Anne and her staff are steadfast in delivering an educational experience rooted in a philosophy that focuses on creating learners versus performers.

[READ MORE](#) or see the article at the end of this publication.

## What's New in Family Child Care

**PreK in Family Child Care Project (PKFCC) Kickoff Webinar -Sign Up Today**

In many states, family child care educators deliver public pre-kindergarten in their homes, but we know little about implementing these initiatives here in Delaware.

Join the Erikson Institute's "PreK in Family Child Care Project (PKFCC) Kickoff" webinar on Thursday, July 14 from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. EST. DIEEC's Rena Hallam and Jason Hustedt will join other researchers to introduce the project. Additionally, they will share a conceptual framework for the equitable inclusion of FCC in PreK initiatives and gather feedback from the field about the most pressing questions for us to answer in the coming months.

For more information and to register click [here](#).

### **Professional Learning Experiences - New for You**

Check out this new professional learning experience, "Using Data to Improve Teacher-Child Interactions," created just for family child care. Learn more by watching the video below:



And for information on upcoming professional learning experiences for the FCC community, click [here](#). This article is also at the end of this publication.

## DIEEC Digital Download

Like your quality improvement efforts, we are constantly working to improve what we do to better serve you, the early childhood professional.

We're excited to share that we've integrated many of our digital platforms to make it easier for you to find and follow us. First, our [DIEEC website](https://www.dieec.udel.edu/), <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/> is expanded to include all of our offerings, including helpful resources to support your work.

Additionally, be sure to like our [DIEEC Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/UD.DIEEC/), <https://www.facebook.com/UD.DIEEC/> which includes all the great content from the Delaware Stars and Professional Development pages. And while you're at it, head over to our [DIEEC Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/accounts/login/?next=/ud_dieec/), [https://www.instagram.com/accounts/login/?next=/ud\\_dieec/](https://www.instagram.com/accounts/login/?next=/ud_dieec/) and [DIEEC Twitter](https://twitter.com/DIEEC_UD), [https://twitter.com/DIEEC\\_UD](https://twitter.com/DIEEC_UD) pages and follow us.

## DIEEC Delivers

### Partners with State to Provide COVID Tests



DIEEC partnered with the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) and the Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) to distribute more than 3,500 free COVID-19 test kits to licensed



early childhood education programs throughout the state. During June, Alvita Kelly, verification and assessment program manager, led the effort to get the kits in the hands of early childhood professionals.

The kits list an expiration date of June 30. **However, the FDA granted a "shelf-life extension," stating the revised expiration date for these kits is now September 30, 2022.** If you would like additional test kits, please contact us. [ecinstitute@udel.edu](mailto:ecinstitute@udel.edu)



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JULY 2022

# VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Lil' Red Hen



## Lifelong Learning Begins Here



DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR  
Excellence in  
Early Childhood

*Interview by Lin Nordmeyer*

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**“We have parents who came to Lil’ Red Hen as children, now their kids are here because of the quality education. They keep coming back, and they give back.”**

*Anne Atkinson, Lil’ Red Hen, owner/administrator*

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Lil’ Red Hen Nursery and Pre-School in Delmar, Del., has the special distinction of serving both Maryland and Delaware. Located on the border of these states, this center has created one big community through its work in providing quality care to generations of these neighboring areas.

This community is what motivates Anne Atkinson, owner/administrator, to continue to pursue quality improvements for the more than 125 young children - infants to school age - in her program.



87 year-old early child care educator veteran Dorothy Ann Wainwright represents the generations that give back to Lil' Red Hen. Before her retirement on July 1st, "Mom-Mom Ann" as she's fondly called, served 29 years with the program. She is pictured on the right receiving a proclamation of service from Rep. Tim Dukes.

Lil' Red Hen utilized funding from the DIEEC "Let's Go Outside" outdoor learning initiative to build an outdoor classroom. Additionally, Anne is a "Let's Go Outside" ambassador and is excited to spread the word to other early childhood education programs about the benefits of outdoor learning.

"We have parents who came to Lil' Red Hen as children," said Anne. "Now their kids are here because of the quality education. They keep coming back, and they give back."

"The Delmar community helped support us during COVID. Families provided lunches and dinners and looked for every opportunity to accommodate our staff."

And in return, Anne and her staff are steadfast in delivering an educational experience rooted in a philosophy that focuses on creating learners versus performers.

"Our educational philosophy is for our children to be excited about the world and willing to try new things - a learner," Anne explains. "Versus a performer who is afraid to fail."

To help cultivate this philosophy, Lil' Red Hen utilized funding from the DIEEC "Let's Go Outside" outdoor learning initiative to build an outdoor classroom. Additionally, Anne is a "Let's Go Outside" ambassador and is excited to spread the word to other early childhood education programs about the benefits of outdoor learning.



Anne's involvement with DIEEC doesn't end there. She participates in Communities of Practice (CoPs). CoPs are regularly scheduled meetings facilitated by a DIEEC technical assistant (TA) where early childhood professionals can support and share ideas with others in the field.

"Our CoP most definitely helps support me," said Anne. "It has been a sounding board where directors can share their successes and failures and give advice."

Support has also come from Anne's relationship with her DIEEC TA, Holly Griest. According to Anne, Holly "really understands" their goals and provides timely support with emails and counsel to help them make quality improvements.

"Our role has been to be a source of support and resources as the program makes efforts in improving their quality of care," said Holly.

"They expanded their learning with additional support and coaching."



"They have developed a relationship and continue to consistently collaborate with me in working with the QRIS/CQI protocol to keep their momentum of wanting to do more and do better, constantly moving forward."

"Finally, they are a staple in the Delmar community, and they take pride in that! Their efforts to provide the best care in the area are endless, and they are always striving to do better."

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS: JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2022

## REGISTER TODAY!

<https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar>

(302) 831-3239



Not sure which of these is for you?  
Let your DIEEC FCC Technical Assistant  
help you.

We're here to support you every step of  
the way.

The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) offers a range of professional learning experiences (PLEs). PLEs include two parts - a workshop session or series of workshop sessions AND a follow-up component to support implementation.

Follow-up activities may be a group or individual experience and are designed to support you in reflection and consideration of how you may want to move forward in your own program. The DIEEC home-based team is offering a selection of PLEs that have been designed just for you, the family child care professional.

### Self-Paced

#### Assessment 101

Module to be sent on Tuesday, July 5

**2 QA hours**

#### Creating a Positive Classroom Environment

Module to be sent on Tuesday, July 5

**2 QA hours**

#### Community Resources in Early Care

Module to be sent on Monday, August 1

**2 QA hours**

#### Self-Regulation and Play

Module to be sent on Monday, August 1

**2 QA hours**

#### The Role of Play in Any Setting

Module to be sent on Thursday, September 1

**2 QA hours**

#### Stress and Resilience: Building Core Capabilities

Module to be sent on Thursday, September 1

**2 QA hours**



### Hybrid (LIVE) in Dover

Residence Inn 600 Jefferic Blvd

#### Creating a Cost-Effective

#### Outdoor Learning Environment (for FCC)

Thursday July 14 6:30-8:30 pm

**PLUS 1 hour of QA GRE**

GRE date: Wednesday, July 20 1:30-2:30 pm via Zoom

**3 QA hours**

#### Using Data to Improve Teacher-Child Interactions

Tuesday, July 26 6:30-8:30 pm

**PLUS 1 hour class observation, 4 hrs. coaching**

**7 QA hours**

#### Multi-Age Nature-Based Learning (for FCC)

Thursday, July 28 6:30-8:30 pm

**PLUS 1 hour of QA GRE**

GRE date: Thursday, August 4 1:30 - 2:30 pm via Zoom

**3 QA hours**



### Hybrid (LIVE) in Newark

501 S. College Ave Newark

#### Creating a Cost-Effective

#### Outdoor Learning Environment (for FCC)

Tuesday July 12

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

**PLUS 1 hour of QA GRE**

GRE date: Tuesday, July 19 1:30-2:30 pm via Zoom

**3 QA hours**

#### Using Data to Improve Teacher-Child Interactions

Tuesday, July 19

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

**PLUS 1 hour class observation, 4 hrs. coaching**

**7 QA hours**

#### Multi-Age Nature-Based Learning (for FCC)

Tuesday, July 26 6:30-8:30 pm

**PLUS 1 hour of QA GRE**

GRE date: Tuesday, August 2 1:30 - 2:30 pm via Zoom

**3 QA hours**

#### Strengthening Business Practices:

#### Marketing (for FCC)

Tuesday August 23 & Thursday, August 25

Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

**PLUS 1 hour of QA GRE**

GRE date: Tuesday, August 31 1:30-2:30 pm via Zoom

**4 QA hours**

### Virtual (LIVE)

#### Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice

Tuesday, September 6 & Tuesday, September 13

Thursday, September 15 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom

**PLUS 1 hour of QA GRE**

GRE date: Tuesday, September 20 1:30- 2:30 pm

via Zoom

**7 QA hours**

### Professional Learning Experiences are offered in the following modes.



#### **PLUS: Practice Learning with US!**

Either group or individual sessions for  
coaching or to talk about  
implementation.



#### **IN-PERSON (LIVE)**

These PLEs are in person at specific  
locations, dates and times.



#### **VIRTUAL (LIVE)**

These PLEs are held on Zoom on  
specific dates and times.



#### **BLENDED (LIVE)**

These PLEs offer you a choice, you can  
attend virtually on Zoom or in-person,  
on specific dates and times.



#### **SELF-PACED**

These PLEs are completed on your  
schedule and instructors give you  
written feedback.



#### **HYBRID**

This experience is delivered in a  
combination of two or more formats.  
(in-person, virtual or self-paced)

*Please note, these professional learning  
experiences are not mandatory  
and are subject to change.*