

REACH

A newsletter for early childhood education professionals

Dear early childhood professionals,

Spring is here! The change of season is a good reminder for us to look at how we support our health, well-being, and growth. We hope that this spring provides you with a sense of rejuvenation.

It's also a time to celebrate and share the joy of childhood. We are excited to start the month of April by participating in the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)'s Week of the Young Child. As part of the festivities, DIEEC is hosting a panel discussion this Wednesday, April 5th. Please join us to hear from early childhood experts in Delaware about strategies for supporting children with challenging behaviors. We will also share resources and activity suggestions through our social media all week – check it out!

In this month's Voices from the Field, we hear from family child care professional Stacy Morgan about how she supports her children through her outdoor classroom. You'll also find information in this edition of REACH about a fantastic resource available for early childhood programs in Delaware – Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC). Finally, we share some upcoming events that we are excited about. Make sure to take a look at the Educator of the Year information – nominations open today!

Happy Spring!

Kristy Sheffler

DIEEC Deputy Director



WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Challenging Behaviors: Partnering for Positive Outcomes

It's still possible to join our "Challenging Behaviors: Partnering for Positive Outcomes" panel discussion as we celebrate NAEYC's dedicated week to celebrate early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

Join these early childhood education and behavioral experts as they discuss practical strategies for managing challenging behaviors and how to engage families and community resources to create lasting and meaningful change, benefiting the child, caregiver, early childhood educator, and community.

Panelists



Sarah Mallory, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, College of
Education & Human Development,
University of Delaware



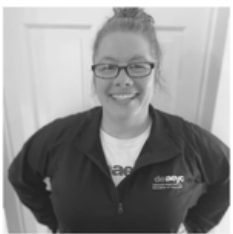
Julius Mullen, Ed.D., LPCMH (Dr. J)
Chief Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Officer, Children & Families First (CFF)



Stav Bennett, LPCMH
Early Childhood Mental Health
Consultant, Delaware Department of
Services for Children, Youth, & Their
Families (DSCYF), Division of Prevention
and Behavioral Health Services



Briana Haut, Psy.D.
Adjunct professor (College of Arts &
Sciences, Department of Psychological
& Brain Sciences) and researcher
(Attachment & Biobehavioral Catch-
up (ABC) Lab), University of Delaware



Moderated by:
Lisa Miller
Executive Director, Delaware
Association for the Education of Young
Children (deaeyc)

Stay connected, visit DIEEC's Week of The Young Child page here: bit.ly/3UbFfil

A “Little Bit of Sunshine Daycare & Preschool” Lighting Up Young Children’s Lives

In 1995, Stacy Morgan left her banking career to start her family child care program to spend more time with her one-year-old son. More than 25 years later, she’s helped launch generations of children in Townsend, Del., with her investment in creating an environment that facilitates learning and character development.

"At my program, Little Bit of Sunshine Daycare & Preschool, it is important for me to provide not only a safe environment but a loving, nurturing, and play-based/nature-based program," said Stacy. "A learning environment that is not just learning ABCs and the 123s, but is also teaching values such as honesty, courage, self-reliance, potential, self-discipline, and moderation."

To accomplish these goals, Stacy spends much of the day in the outdoor classroom, where activities are more child-led than teacher-led. Stacy has participated in DIEEC's "Let's Go Outside" initiative, developing her skills to facilitate outdoor learning. The nine children in her care, infants through school age, learn through play and weekly lessons from the "Mother Goose" curriculum, which Stacy uses as a guide to ensure she is touching on each developmental skill daily.

Continue reading here: bit.ly/4179UTv



Photos provided by Stacy Morgan

Contact Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Are you interested in enhancing classroom quality, improving child behaviors, and decreasing the likelihood of expulsion in early childhood classrooms? Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) can help.

ECMHC is a FREE service that successfully helps teachers more effectively work with young children with challenging behaviors and support their social and emotional development. Through onsite consultation in early care and education settings, consultants help early childhood education professionals learn skills necessary for classroom behavior management which can ultimately reduce incidents of disruptive behaviors and enhance social and emotional skills in children. Support is provided directly to classroom teachers and builds their capacity to support all children's social, emotional, and relational development more effectively.

Their brochure provides additional information. Requesting the service is straightforward - fill out the quick application in the brochure and send it to the email address included.

ECMHC's brochure link: bit.ly/3ZOKWqQ

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Moor at (302) 256-9308 or dscyf_ecmhs@delaware.gov.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Mark Your Calendar

We want to engage with you, and the next couple of months will provide many opportunities for connecting. Be sure to mark your calendar for the following events.

All Early Childhood Education Professionals:

Educator of the Year

Nominations open on Monday, April 3rd! As a part of our annual Provider Appreciation activities each May, we celebrate you with our "Early Childhood Educator of the Year" program. This event provides the early childhood education community with a way to recognize a family child care educator and a center-based educator to help create awareness for the profession. You can nominate yourself or a colleague beginning today. Nominees must work 30 hours a week and have been in the field for at least six months.

Visit the official DIEEC Early Childhood Educator of the Year page here for your nomination: bit.ly/41XzUlr

Learning Festival

Please join us on Saturday, May 6, for in-person professional learning experiences. This day-long event at Beach Babies in Lewes, Del., will allow you – classroom educators, FCC professionals, and program leaders – to learn and engage in various topics while connecting. Here is the link to register for the festival: bit.ly/40Y562U

Family Child Care (FCC) Professionals:

Make Time for Me

This is a designated time for family child care professionals to come together in person to focus on their wellness. Activities include exercise, meditation, and journaling. Please note the day has changed from Monday to Thursday. Check out the calendar of activities: bit.ly/3nUS08f and note RSVP is required: bit.ly/404ZLG9. Check out a recap video of the winter events for a sneak preview: bit.ly/3MmdxAT

Kent County FCC Info Sessions

DIEEC's home-based child care team is focusing on connecting with FCC professionals in Kent County over the next several months. Join us on Saturday, April 22, to learn more about what we can offer to support and collaborate with you. Flyer available here with more event details: bit.ly/3Ujfdgf

2023 First State Family Child Care Conference

The date and place are set for the second annual First State FCC Conference. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 14, and plan to gather with your colleagues at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, Del. Visit the official First State Family Child Care Conference here: bit.ly/3ZQXXQT