

## Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

## REACH

A newsletter for early childhood education  
professionals

Dear early childhood professionals,

Welcome to summer! June is here, and we have some fun things to share with you this month.

As we hope you've heard, we recently announced Kirsten Swift and Lindsey Mulvena as the 2023 DIEEC Early Childhood Educators of the Year. In June's Voices from the Field, we're happy to have Kirsten and Lindsey share a bit about themselves and how they view their roles as educators.

Responding to feedback from program leaders and classroom educators, DIEEC has developed a brand new "Microlearning" series designed specifically to support new early childhood educators in Delaware, and it starts this month! Make sure to check out the information below and sign up to have the series delivered directly to your inbox.

We're also excited to be highlighting the importance of executive functioning in June. Executive function skills are critical for learning and development, and they develop rapidly during the early childhood years. We encourage you to take a look at the resources below and keep an eye on our social media for some ideas early childhood educators can use to promote children's development in this area.

Kristy Sheffler  
DIEEC Deputy Director



## VOICES FROM THE FIELD



### DIEEC Early Childhood Educators of the Year

May was an exciting month of celebrations, including Provider Appreciation festivities and DIEEC's Early Childhood Educator of the Year.

We thought it was only fitting to focus this latest installment of Voices from the Field on 2023's winners: Kirsten Swift (home-based setting winner) and Lindsey Mulvena (center-based setting winner - St. David's Episcopal Day School).

Read the full interview here: [bit.ly/3MRd8oA](https://bit.ly/3MRd8oA)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



### National Early Care and Education Workforce Center

The BUILD Initiative, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at UC Berkeley, Child Trends, Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood at the University of Delaware, Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation at UMass Boston, ZERO TO THREE, and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) are hosting two webinars to introduce the National Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Center.

Session One: Tuesday, May 23 from 12-1 p.m. E.T. – [slides available here](#)

If you missed the session on May 23, a second session will be held on Tuesday, July 25:

Session Two: Tuesday, July 25 from 12-1 p.m. E.T.

Please plan to join them to learn from ACF representatives and National ECE Workforce Center leadership about this new effort's guiding principles, research and technical assistance activities, and its unique focus on research-to-practice connections.

# EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

## Resources for You

This month, we're focusing on the importance of executive functioning. Executive functioning skills include working memory, self-control, and mental flexibility. These skills develop rapidly during the early childhood years, and they provide the foundation that enables us to focus our attention, control our impulses, plan ahead, and work toward meeting goals (among other abilities!). We've compiled a handy collection of resources for you to reference at your convenience, and we'll be continuing to post resources and suggestions on the DIEEC social media accounts throughout June.

## Resources on executive function:

Center on the Developing Child (Harvard University):

- [Executive Function & Self-Regulation \(basic concept overview & informational video\)](#)
- [What Is Executive Function? And How Does It Relate to Child Development? \(infographic\)](#)
- [InBrief: Executive Function: Skills for Life and Learning \(overview in a brief-style document\)](#)
- [How Early Experiences Shape the Development of Executive Function \(case study\)](#)
- [Enhancing and Practicing Executive Function Skills with Children from Infancy to Adolescence \(resource and activity suggestion packet broken down by age group\)](#)
  - activity ideas and guide for children ages 6-to-18 months included on pages two and three
  - activity ideas and guide for children ages 18-to-36 months included on pages four and five
  - activity ideas and guide for children ages 3-to-5 years included on pages six and seven

Administration for Children and Families - Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE):

- [Supporting the Development of Self-Regulation in Young Children \(tip sheet\)](#)

Zero to Three:

- [How Babies Begin to Develop Self-Control in the First 3 Years \(podcast\)](#)

Community Playthings:

- [Crisscross-Applesauce: It's Time to Move on From This Tradition](#)

National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI):

- [A Practice Guide for Teaching Executive Skills to Preschoolers through the Pyramid Model](#)

## INTRODUCING: MICROLEARNING



### Debuting Summer 2023

To help new educators as they learn all it takes to keep an early childhood education classroom running smoothly, we've developed a brand new resource. Microlearning is digestible, actionable content delivered in 5-10 minutes and designed specifically for new educators in Delaware.

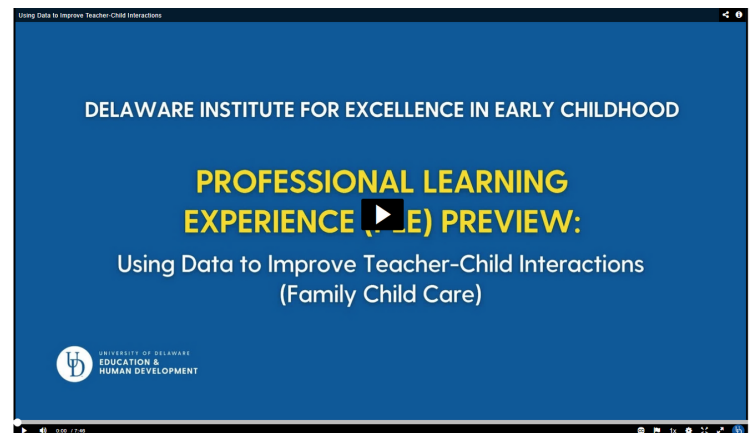
Click here to learn more and to sign up:  
[bit.ly/43o35hH](https://bit.ly/43o35hH)

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE (PLE) TESTIMONIAL

### Using Data to Improve Teacher-Child Interactions (Family Child Care)

Come join us for an opportunity to measure your interaction skills with the children in your program. Through coaching and observations, create a goal based on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool to further build positive interactions with your children. Upcoming offering start date options: July 13th and August 24th.

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



*Tap the image to watch the testimonial video.*