

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

REACH

A newsletter for early childhood education professionals

Dear early childhood professionals,

Welcome to the October edition of REACH, your trusted resource for Delaware's early childhood community. As we transition into a new season, our focus remains strong on supporting and elevating you in your role.

We certainly have a lot to share this month. You'll find upcoming professional development opportunities, and we highlight an online toolkit from the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals that supports early childhood programs with using salary scales. We're excited to announce that DIEEC's podcast season 2, episode 1 features Dr. Whitney Williams from Stubbs Early Learning Center in Wilmington and is available now for you to tune in.

We also have a few opportunities you won't want to miss. Sign up to enter our raffle to refresh your library of children's books, and make sure to register to participate with us for Children's Book Week in November. Finally, family child care educators, make sure to take a look at the opportunity to partner in a research study!

With warm regards,

Kristy Sheffler

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QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QIS) UPDATE

Quality Improvement Plans & Awards

Delaware's revised QIS is well underway. DIEEC quality improvement specialists have been very busy partnering with programs to develop quality improvement plans. These plans are required to apply for the quality improvement awards designed to support programs in working toward improvements in 5 key practice areas. Please see the [QIS revision webpage](#) for more details.

For state-funded ECE programs and programs that were rated at star levels 3-5 in the historical Stars system, your programs are now eligible to apply for quality improvement awards. Many programs have already begun working with their quality improvement specialists. If you do not yet have a visit scheduled and would like to get started building a quality improvement plan, please reach out to your TA or request support through [the Delaware ECE portal](#) – directions to access the portal were sent to historical Stars programs earlier today.

For all other licensed programs, your programs will be eligible to apply as of January 1, 2024. You're welcome to begin working on your quality improvement plans now though. If you'd like to get started with a quality improvement specialist, please reach out to your TA or request support through [this form](#).

A SALARY SCALE TOOLKIT

Early Childhood Education Resource Highlight

The North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals is working on a project to provide compensation information and resources for early childhood education center staff and family child care educators. They have developed an [online toolkit](#) and provide an [introduction](#) to ensure participants are familiar with how to access the toolkit, how to navigate the toolkit, provide a basic overview of the content of the toolkit, and give a short history of the model salary scale and toolkit development.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK 2023

Connecting Children with Nature

Last call for Children's Book Week 2023! Has your program signed up to have a guest reader visit during the week of November 6-10, to read to the children and donate the books to your program's library? If not, [sign up here](#) ([disponible en español](#)) by Thursday, October 12, 2023. Check out our [webpage](#) for more information on this initiative.

DIEEC PODCAST SEASON TWO

Lead with Your Heart

We're back for season two of the DIEEC podcast, "X, Why, Z: Reflections from Early Childhood Education Professionals." Join us as we meet with professionals across Delaware and the country to discuss topics impacting the early childhood community. Episodes will drop the last Wednesday of each month at noon and will be available on our [podcast webpage](#) and wherever you stream your podcasts. Season 2: Episode 1, "Lead with Your Heart," is available now. You won't want to miss this fantastic conversation with Dr. Whitney Williams, the principal of Stubbs Early Learning Center in Wilmington. In addition to sharing valuable tips relevant to everyone working with young children, Dr. Williams also shares what it means to thrive during the workforce crisis. The second half of this two-part episode will be released on October 25th at noon. Be sure to tune in!



Dr. Whitney Williams, principal of
Stubbs Early Learning Center

RAFFLE ALERT!



Refresh your Early Childhood Library

We're excited to share this fantastic opportunity to rejuvenate your children's library. Simply complete [this form](#) for your chance to win one of our fabulous book bundles. We will draw the winners on Friday, October 20th. Names will be posted on DIEEC social media, and each winner will receive a phone call.

OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE EDUCATORS

The Everyday Quality Study

Delaware family child care educators are invited to participate in a study to develop a practical and user-friendly measure of family child care quality that captures the strengths and unique features of family child care and can be used to support quality improvement. Details are available [here](#). Participation in the study will include one visit to your program, one follow-up Zoom interview, and a brief survey. Participants will receive up to \$150 in gift cards. If you would like to participate, email us at edq-dieec@udel.edu.

CANVAS PLATFORM

Are you ready for it?

The DIEEC self-paced professional learning experiences (PLEs) have transitioned to the Canvas platform. All self-paced experiences are now being offered through Canvas. If you haven't yet signed up for a Canvas account, [please enter your name and email address here](#) to get started - you'll receive an email to activate your account and you'll be ready to enroll in any self-paced course in the future. If you are registered for an October self-paced PLE, you should have already received an invitation to activate your account. Please follow the directions in that email to access the self-paced experience. Here is a [walkthrough video](#) of the process.

AGES & STAGES QUESTIONNAIRES (ASQ)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

As a reminder, effective July 1, 2023, all licensed early childhood education programs are required to participate in the Developmental Screening System through the Delaware Department of Education. The University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies is facilitating the orientation trainings required for programs to access the online Ages & Stages Questionnaires system - you can register through the [DIEEC training calendar](#). Upcoming opportunities are highlighted below:

Supporting Family-Led Developmental Monitoring, 1-hour introductory offering

- [Workshop offered on 10/11/2023](#)
- [Workshop offered on 10/26/2023](#)

Introduction to the Ages & Stages Questionnaires - Developmental Screening Tools (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2), 3-hour introductory offering

- [Workshop offered on 10/5/2023](#)
- [Workshop offered on 10/18/2023](#)
- [Workshop offered on 11/1/2023](#)
- [Workshop offered on 11/7/2023](#)

DIEEC PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (PLES)

Preview of Upcoming Opportunities

As an early childhood professional, you can find a variety of professional learning experiences (PLEs) on the [DIEEC training calendar](#). This month, we're highlighting opportunities that focus on supporting you in your role.

Focus on Center Administrators

- [A Conversation with Leadership: Program Positivity PLUS](#), 9-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/7/2023
- [The Leader's Role in Giving Care to the Caregiver PLUS](#), 8-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/14/2023

Focus on Family Child Care Professionals

- [Strengthening Business Practices: Fiscal Management Part 1: Budgets, Projections, and Planning for Family Child Care Providers](#), 5-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/1/2023

Focus on Early Childhood Educators

- [Programming for Infant Toddler Care: Primary Caregiving and Continuity of Care PLUS](#), 5-hour intermediate offering beginning 10/17/2023
- [Understanding Children's Behavior as Communication](#), 5-hour introductory offering beginning 11/7/2023
- [Authentic Community Engagement PLUS](#), 4-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/07/2023