

## Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

## REACH (&amp; Professional Pursuits)

A newsletter for early childhood education professionals

Dear early childhood professionals,

Welcome to November - we have a packed issue for you this month!

In this edition of REACH, we have a number of announcements and updates to share, including a recap of the First State Family Child Care Conference, announcing the application period for the DIEEC Early Childhood Educator Leadership Board, and an outline of supports from the Early Childhood Innovation Center (ECIC), to name just a few.

We highlight several upcoming professional learning opportunities as well. The fall round of microlearnings is premiering now - make sure to take a look at the available topics and sign up to have them delivered directly to your inbox as they debut. We're excited to share more about the opportunity for educators to receive on-site observations and participate with follow-up coaching - you can read more about the available observation tools and follow-up options, submit a request, and talk with our team to discuss what will work best for your program. We also encourage you to read through our latest Coach's Corner, which focuses on the value of building community and the benefits of collaborating with peers.

With warm regards,

Kristy Sheffler  
DIEEC Deputy Director

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood



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## DIEEC NAMED DELAWARE HEALTH HERO

### *Winner of Lt. Governor's Challenge*

In recognition of our commitment to the well-being of the Delaware early childhood community, the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) was designated as a Delaware Health Hero through the 2023 Lt. Governor's Challenge! With a mission to improve the quality of life of all Delawareans, the Lt. Governor's Challenge honors the individuals, organizations, and institutions that inspire others by making healthy choices the easiest choices for their communities. DIEEC was awarded as a result of the Shining the Light on You initiative, a health and wellness program tailored specifically for family child care educators.

**Continue reading this article at:**

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/2023/10/16/the-delaware-institute-for-excellence-in-early-childhood-is-a-delaware-health-hero/>



Image: (left to right)

Dr. Laura Lessard, Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long,  
DIEEC Home-based quality improvement specialists  
Kim Cruz and Erika Vidal

Learn more about the Lt. Governor's Challenge at:  
<https://ltgovernorchallenge.org/>

## FIRST STATE FAMILY CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

### *Educate, Elevate, Empower*

The First State Family Child Care Conference, held on October 14th, 2023 at the Chase Center on the Riverfront, was a successful gathering of over 170 family child care educators. The event featured professional learning sessions on a variety of topics supporting business operations, classroom practices, and personal wellness, including a track delivered in Spanish. Educators engaged with colleagues and exhibitors and heard from keynote speakers emphasizing the importance of family child care and unity among educators in shaping the future of childcare.

**Check out the full highlights of this year's 1st State Family Child Care Conference at:**

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/2023/11/01/educating-elevating-and-empowering-family-child-care-educators/>



Image: DIEEC staff members pose for a photo with keynote speaker, Jerletha McDonald (center)

## NOVEMBER IS CHILD ASSESSMENT TIME

### *Exploring the “Learning From Assessment” Toolkit*

It's the time of year when many early learning programs are wrapping up their initial assessment of the year, combining the observations that have been gathered on all children into a comprehensive fall checkpoint rating. The **Learning from Assessment Toolkit**, available through the Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center, is a valuable resource to enhance the quality of your assessment process. This is not an assessment tool, but a collection of presentations, handouts, guided practice exercises, and descriptions of additional resources to support program staff through the assessment process with whichever assessment tools your program has selected. Interested in learning more on this topic? **Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice PLUS** begins 11/29/2023 and supports center and family child care educators with understanding and implementing the assessment cycle.

#### **Learning Assessment Toolkit:**

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/child-screening-assessment/learning-assessment-lfa-toolkit/learning-assessment-lfa-toolkit>

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

<https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar/training/7728>

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## DSU'S EARLY CHILDHOOD INNOVATION CENTER

### *Delaware ECE Partner Highlight*

Delaware State University's Early Childhood Innovation Center (ECIC) is dedicated to providing comprehensive educational support for Delaware's early childhood professionals. The ECIC offers direct support by providing technology, coaching, financial support, and access to flexible educational courses. Individuals can access a range of programs to enhance their education. ECIC offers three models to support educators in obtaining their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, as well as supports for those working towards an associate or bachelor's degree. Unsure where to start? Reach out for Career Advisement! For further details on ECIC's services, check out the ECIC website or contact them directly.



#### **Visit the Early Childhood Innovation Center (ECIC) at:**

<https://ecic.desu.edu/>

#### **Contact ECIC at:**

<https://ecic.desu.edu/contact/>

## **DIEEC PRESENT AT 2023 DOE EQUITY SUMMIT**

### ***A Child's View of Diversity***

DIEEC staff, Joy Rowe and Alyssa Whaley, presented "Curious Me: A Child's View of Diversity" to over 1,030 participants at the Delaware Department of Education's 2023 Equity Summit! The session celebrated children's curiosity and children as researchers as a way to approach diversity, equity, and inclusion. Interested in diving into similar topics? Program leaders can register for Book Study: Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs starting 1/10/24. Educators can register for Anti-Bias Education: Diversity starting 2/8/24.

#### **Book Study: Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs**

<https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar/training/7779>

#### **Anti-Bias Education Diversity**

<https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar/training/7791>

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## **EARLY CHILDHOOD LIBRARY REFRESH UPDATE**

### ***Raffle Winners***

Last month we announced a raffle opportunity for Delaware early childhood programs, a chance to win one of three fabulous book bundles.

#### **Congratulations to our three winners:**

Tressa Clemow from Love Bug Lane Learning Academy

Lyndsie Williams from Bethesda Child Development Center

Jennifer Cubizza from Precious Moments Education & Community Center

**Thank you to everyone who participated!**

## **DIEEC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS LEADERSHIP BOARD**

### ***Applications Open Now***

The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) is bringing together a diverse group of early childhood educators dedicated to strengthening the support provided for Delaware's early childhood community. The DIEEC Early Childhood Educator Leadership Board serves as a sounding board that integrates educator voice, providing invaluable insights that will strengthen the reach and impact of DIEEC. Leverage your on-the-ground experience to offer insights into the needs of Delaware's early childhood community and provide recommendations on DIEEC's programs and initiatives.

**Check out our webpage for further details and to apply today!**

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/2023/11/01/dieec-early-childhood-educator-leadership-board/>

## SPREAD THE WORD!

### *Help Expand our REACH*

The DIEEC monthly REACH newsletter is a comprehensive resource for Delaware early childhood educators, including updates from DIEEC and the state's early childhood support system, professional development opportunities, trusted early childhood resources, and highlights from Delaware early childhood partners. We encourage you to share with your colleagues and program staff. Help them stay connected to the field and ensure easy access to resources available to support them in their roles!

**Sign up for DIEEC's monthly newsletter directly from our page:**  
<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/whats-new/reach-newsletter/>



You can also scan the QR code with your smartphone to access the page.

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## DIEEC TEXT ALERTS

### *Sign-up now*

DIEEC is now using One Call Now to deliver text reminders for upcoming professional learning experiences that you are registered to attend. Sign up to ensure that you don't miss out on these important reminders! Be sure to select the 'receive text messages' box.

**Here is the link to receive texts alerts:**  
<https://secure.onecallnow.com/Access/FamilyProfile/FamilyProfile.aspx?G=BK2aov5HCQengnbw5l89zQ%253d%253d>

## THINKING ABOUT TECE 1 & 2

### *Take this Survey!*

All early childhood education teachers and family child care educators interested in taking Delaware's Training in Early Care & Education courses (TECE 1 and/or 2) to complete their 120 pre-service training hours are encouraged to respond to this survey. DIEEC is revising and updating the TECE coursework, with the plan to roll out the updated version in January 2024. Our goal is to ensure that educators are learning the most up-to-date content based on research and effective practices, and to make sure that educators are able to participate in the coursework along with peers and an instructor, in a format that works best for them. The purpose of this survey is to gauge interest, availability, expectations, and needs for virtual or hybrid courses. It will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

**Start the survey here:**

[https://delaware.ca.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2OulG9EVn4y9KJw](https://delaware.ca.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2OulG9EVn4y9KJw)

## COACH'S CORNER

### *Community in Early Childhood Education*

Coach's Corner is a DIEEC blog dedicated to providing fresh ideas for your practice. This month, featured blogger Meghan Pallante writes about the value of collaboration and engagement with peers in the ECE field, and provides tips for building a community of learning and support.

**Read this month's blog post on the topic of  
Community in Early Childhood Education here:**

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/whats-new/coachs-corner/>

We also encourage you to check out past Coach's Corner topics.



Image: DIEEC quality improvement specialist and ECE blogger, Meghan Pallante

## ON-SITE OBSERVATION AND COACHING

### *Direct Supports for Educators*

We are excited to offer classroom observations for your center-based or family child care program! A classroom observation is an opportunity to select an observation tool related to your goals and receive feedback on the practices you want to work on, including areas such as teacher-child interactions, peer-to-peer interactions, the physical program environment (indoors and outdoors), and more. Observations can help educators move through their continuous quality journey using a reflective and intentional approach.

**Learn more about the observation tools and request an observation here:**

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/observation-and-coaching/>

## NEW MICROLEARNINGS OUT NOW!

### *Bite-sized Supports for New Educators*

Designed specifically to support new early childhood classroom educators in Delaware, these bite-sized offerings cover foundational topics to help build confidence and add tools to your teacher toolbox. Four topics will premiere this fall, including Building Relationships with Families, Stress Management, and more.

**Check out our available topics and sign up to get new Microlearnings delivered directly to your inbox here:**

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/microlearning/>

# DIEEC PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (PLES)

## Free Upcoming Opportunities

In case you missed it, all of DIEEC's professional learning experiences (PLEs) include both workshops and follow-up and are provided at no cost to you. As an early childhood professional, you can find and **register for a variety of PLEs on the DIEEC training calendar here:** <https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar>

Check out these upcoming offerings:

- **Helping School Age Children Reboot Their Brain PLUS**, 3-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/13/2023
- **Building Future Success in School Age Children**, 5-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/14/2023
- **The Leader's Role in Giving Care to the Caregiver PLUS**, 8-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/14/2023
- **Mindfulness Intermediate**, 5-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/27/2023
- **Strengthening Business Practices: Fiscal Management Part 1 - Budgets, Projections, and Planning for Center-Based Leaders**, 7-hour intermediate offering beginning 11/28/2023
- **Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice PLUS**, 10-hour introductory offering beginning 11/29/2023
- **Crisis to Calm - Using Communication and Curriculum**, 3-hour introductory offering beginning 12/5/2023
- **Caring for the Caregiver: Walking the Talk PLUS**, 5-hour intermediate offering beginning 12/5/2023
- **Using Responsive Care Techniques to Foster Social-Emotional Development**, 5-hour intermediate offering beginning 12/5/2023
- **5 Strategies for a Happy and Healthy Classroom**, 3-hour introductory offering beginning 12/6/2023
- **The Business of Early Childhood: Your Purpose, Passion, and Position as a Leader PLUS**, 8-hour intermediate offering beginning 12/11/2023



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