

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

REACH

A newsletter for early childhood education professionals

Dear early childhood professionals,

As we slide into the chilly months ahead, I'd like to extend a warm welcome through this December edition of REACH.

In this issue, we dive into the different types of supports that are available to ALL licensed programs in Delaware. I encourage you to take a look and reach out (ecinstitute@udel.edu) with any questions.

As always, we include a number of free professional development opportunities offered through DIEEC. These offerings are tailored to your needs, to support your growth and success.

Understanding the call for accessible virtual professional development, our 'early childhood education resource highlight' calls your attention to the Individualized Professional Development (iPD) Portfolio, a platform where early childhood educators can complete online courses that can be used for annual training hours.

In our ongoing commitment to collaboration, we proudly highlight the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (deaeyc) as a valued partner in advancing early childhood education across the state.

With warm regards,

Kristy Sheffler
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Navigating Supports Available through Delaware's Quality Improvement System

Universal Supports are Available to ALL Licensed Programs

Delaware Stars, the state's quality improvement system, has undergone a revision over the past several years. A system that was once known for star-level ratings has been replaced with a system that offers a variety of supports and resources for ALL licensed early childhood education programs to encourage their continuous quality improvement. Depending on the desired level of participation, programs can engage with universal supports and targeted supports through DIEEC.

Read more about universal and targeted supports here.

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/2023/12/01/navigating-supports-available-through-delawares-quality-improvement-system/>

Online, Individualized Professional Development (iPD) Portfolio ***Early Childhood Education Resource Highlight***

The Office of Head Start has created a system to support professional development for staff in early childhood education settings. The Individualized Professional Development (iPD) Portfolio has free, online courses on child development and practical teaching strategies for infant/toddler educators and preschool educators. Educators are able to print certificates to document completed courses that can be used towards your annual training hours for licensing in Delaware!

Check out the available courses and learn how to get started with the iPD Portfolio here:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/professional-development/individualized-professional-development-ipd-portfolio/individualized-professional-development-ipd-portfolio>

Note: While Delaware is not currently listed on the website as a state partner, Delaware DOES accept the courses for annual training hours.

Quality Improvement Award Eligibility

New Timeframe for Implementing Formative Assessment Tools; Teaching Strategies GOLD available to all licensed programs.

The Office of Early Learning has updated the eligibility requirements to apply for a Quality Improvement Award. Licensed early care and education programs may now use Fiscal Year 24 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) as a timeframe to establish and fine-tune the processes required to fully implement a formative assessment tool to fidelity. In addition, the Office of Early Learning is offering the Teaching Strategies GOLD formative assessment tool to all licensed programs, at no cost to the program. Further details and next steps for interested programs are available in OEL's email from Friday, November 3.

You can read that communication here: <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/2023/11/15/doe-offers-free-tsa-gold-to-all-delaware-licensed-programs/>

Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

Delaware ECE Partner Highlight

The Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (deaeyc, pronounced “day-see”) is an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Deaeyc advocates for the needs, rights, and well-being of Delaware’s young children from birth to age eight in Delaware. Deaeyc also offers professional development training for early educators, administrators, and directors. Topics are developed in response to current needs in the field, and include anti-bias training, children’s language development, the importance of routines, and many more that support high quality learning experiences for children. Did you know that NAEYC membership includes membership to deaeyc? Benefits at all membership levels include training hours plus early access to, and discounts on, deaeyc events. In addition, deaeyc offers family memberships for households with children under 8 years of age. Family memberships provide access to parent-centered training as well as CPR/First Aid training.



Want to learn more? Check out the deaeyc website:

<https://www.deaeyc.org/> or contact them at lmiller@deaeyc.org.

REACH out to a friend in the ECE community!

Help your colleagues and program staff stay connected to the field and ensure easy access to all of the resources available to support them in their roles. With our new Forward to a Friend feature, you can quickly and easily share REACH. Just click this link at the bottom of this email.



Please note: This option is for those who are subscribed to receive REACH by email.

They can also sign up to receive REACH in their own inbox by going here:

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/whats-new/reach-newsletter/>

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. Help us spread the word by sharing REACH!

New episode of X, Why, Z: Reflections from Early Childhood Education Professionals

Season 2, Episode 3: Protecting Early Childhood

The latest episode of DIEEC's podcast is now available! Join hosts Irene Ashe and Meghan Pallante in a conversation with Alison Keough, DIEEC Quality Improvement Specialist. They discuss the current workforce crisis and its impact on the early childhood education community. This is an episode you won't want to miss!

You can listen here:

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/whats-new/x-why-z-podcast>



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Our November issue was packed with great information and resources. Here are two highlights we want to ensure you didn't miss:

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 on our **observation and coaching webpage** here: <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/observation-and-coaching/>

Microlearnings Available On Demand!

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. Our fall series is available on the website, and we're hard at work on the next series, coming your way in spring of 2024.

Check out all of our topics and sign up here: <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/microlearning> to get the next set of Microlearnings delivered directly to your inbox.

DIEEC PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES (PLES)

Upcoming Free Opportunities

As a reminder, DIEEC's professional learning experiences (PLES) are available 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:

- Crisis to Calm - Using Communication and Curriculum, 3-hour introductory offering virtual live beginning 12/5/2023 or in-person live beginning 1/8/2024
- 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
- Child Assessment for Administrators: Polishing the Lens PLUS, 8-hour intermediate offering beginning 1/9/2024
- Bridging the Connection Gap: Individualizing Relationships, 3-hour introductory offering beginning 1/9/2024
- Book Study: Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs, 8-hour intermediate offering beginning 1/10/2024

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You can also find a number of upcoming self-paced options:

- Assessment 101: Assessment for Positive Effect, 2-hour introductory self-paced offering available 12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023
- Recordkeeping in Family Child Care, 2-hour introductory self-paced offering available 12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023
- Stress and Resilience: Building Core Capabilities Community of Practice, 3-hour introductory self-paced offering available 12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023
- Risk Management in the Early Care Setting, 2-hour introductory self-paced offering available 1/1/2024 - 1/31/2024
- Leadership: Promoting Safety, Trust, and Cooperation, 3-hour introductory self-paced offering available 1/1/2024 - 1/31/2024
- Self-Regulation and Play, 2-hour intermediate self-paced offering available 1/1/2024 - 1/31/2024



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