



# Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Education



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

*Please share this publication with all of your preschool and related services staff (speech pathologists, occupational therapists, etc.) and other interested parties. [Past publications](#) are online.*

The end of another calendar year presents an opportunity for us to reflect on all that has happened in the last twelve months and to gear up for the work that is to come in 2016.

Some highlights for ADE's ECE Unit in 2015:

- 268 professional development sessions were offered, and 7,403 ECE educators participated in at least one session. New and newly revised professional development sessions will be offered in 2016, and ADE's ECE unit will fully participate in Arizona's Early Childhood Workforce Registry, a component of Arizona's Early Childhood Career and Professional Development Network. For more information, go to [www.azregistry.org](http://www.azregistry.org).
- With the receipt of year one funds of the Preschool Development Grant, participating high needs communities were able to begin the work of implementing practices and procedures that meet the high-quality indicators of the grant. A statewide community of practice was established, and local ECQUIP teams have grown into individual communities of practice.
- Of the 15 staff positions in the ECE Unit, 12 staff members remained with ADE; one program specialist retired; one program specialist re-located; and the former Deputy Associate Superintendent continues to work in the Early Childhood community, supporting Head Start programs. This continuity in staffing is an indication of our shared commitment to working on behalf of Arizona's youngest learners and their families, while supporting the teachers and administrators providing direct services. I am ever grateful to work with such a great group of people.

In 2016, the ECE Program Specialists will continue to provide technical assistance in their regions and we are excited to be offering an increased number of summits and conferences to provide more opportunities for statewide networking, sharing of best practices, and collaboration. Additionally, we will continue to work with our partners on joint meetings for information-sharing, planning, and shared ways of supporting the ECE community. Personally, I am looking forward to continuing my in-person meetings with ECE leadership in their local communities, offering support to help meet the demands of the hard work that is being done.

May you all enjoy this season of light and good tidings and, as we say in Hawaiian, hau'oli makahiki hou!

~ Nicol



⇒ Next Teaching Strategies GOLD Checkpoints are:

-February 5, 2016, May 27, 2016, July 31, 2016

⇒ The next PLAY Group meeting is February 25, 2016. Click [here](#) for time and location



Second Annual

Kindergarten Transition for ALL Children Summit

February 17, 2016

Glendale Civic Center

5750 West Glenn Drive Glendale, Arizona 85301



Recommended ECQUIP

Team Members:

- => Head Start
=> Community Childcare
=> Families
=> Business Partner
=> First Things First Staff
=> Title I Preschool
=> Kindergarten through 3rd Grade Teachers
=> Local Childcare Partners

Next Step to Transition

- ◆ For NEW Early Childhood Quality Improvement Practices (ECQUIP) teams, this will be an opportunity to learn the current research on kindergarten transition; hear successes and challenges from teams already implementing; work on a written kindergarten transition plan for their communities.
◆ For RETURNING teams that attended the first annual summit, this will be an opportunity to re-connect, reflect on and evaluate their progress since the first summit, and receive information on the next phase of implementation.
◆ For ALL this will be an opportunity to network, share information, and collaborate with fellow preschool and kindergarten teachers and administrators.

To learn more and to register, click https://ems.azed.gov/Home/Calendar?sd=804



Resources

- Arizona Early Learning Standards
ECQUIP Manual
HELP Manual
Early Literacy Guide for Families
Read On Arizona
Arizona School Readiness Framework

Save the Date

Early Childhood Special Education Conference

April 5-6, 2016

Location TBD

Save the Date

Early Childhood Education Summer Summit

June 8-10, 2016

Prescott Resort and Conference Center

Prescott, Arizona



Always on the go? Wondering if your child is ready for school?



As a parent or guardian, you are your child's first teacher and advocate. ReadyRosie is an online resource that gives parents, teachers, and caregivers the opportunity and resources to become actively engaged in their child's education. Daily activities for adults to do with their children ages three to five are sent by text or email to subscribers. Activities are simple and easy to do and each is modeled with a two minute video. ReadyRosie is a great tool to engage preschoolers in daily learning in the home, car, public transportation, restaurants, grocery store, or wherever real life happens.

ReadyRosie delivers emails and texts Monday through Friday to subscribers and content is delivered in English and Spanish. Following each activity is an expert clip where a professional explains the importance of the activity. To learn more about ReadyRosie, click [here](#). To see ReadyBaby activities for children 0-8 months, click [here](#).

Download the ReadyRosie Mobile App, available for both Android and iOS devices, by clicking on the icons to the right.



*"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."*

*~Benjamin Franklin*

### ADE's ECE Unit Welcomes Early Childhood Special Education Program Specialist, Erika Argueta



Erika A Argueta has been in the field of ECE for over twenty years, having worked in migrant preschool, private child care, migrant Head Start, and LEA's. She is bilingual in Spanish and English and has taught Special Education in a cross categorical preschool classroom with certification in Early Childhood Special Education, as well as working in a general education setting. Before ADE, Erika worked at WACOG Head Start as the Disabilities and Mental Health Services Specialist serving over 1,040 children in Early Head Start and Head Start as well as the Early Head Start Child Care Program across Yuma, La Paz and Mohave Counties.

Erika is an independent contractor for Child Care Resource and Referral providing training in both Spanish and English to and has taught at NAU as an adjunct professor.

Erika has a Masters of Education in Special Education, Severe/Profound, and a Certification in Positive Behavior Support from Northern Arizona University. She received her dual major Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Special Education from Northern Arizona University. She received her A.A.S. in Early Childhood Education from Arizona Western College.

Erika currently serves Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave counties.

For More Information visit & to register for sessions visit:  
[www.thekindergartenexperience.com](http://www.thekindergartenexperience.com)



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The Kindergarten  
Project-Arizona



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The Kindergarten Project

## THE KINDERGARTEN EXPERIENCE

A Professional Development Series Focusing on Evidence-based Practices in Kindergarten  
for Kindergarten Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Instructional Coaches, Administrators

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### OPEN HOUSE: KINDERGARTEN MODEL CLASSROOM

Visit our model kindergarten classroom to see the types of learning opportunities that help support the development of foundational knowledge and experiences needed for academic success

November 21, 2015 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Brooks Community School, Phoenix

#### SESSIONS AT ALESI GROUP OFFICE @ BROOKS COMMUNITY SCHOOL, PHOENIX

**Informational Sessions for Administrators**  
December 7, 2015 1:00-2:00 PM

#### Social & Emotional Development in Kindergarten

February 1, 2016 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

#### Organization of Space & Time in Kindergarten

February 17, 2016 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

#### STATEWIDE CONFERENCES @ Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix

##### REGISTER TODAY!

#### English Language Arts in Kindergarten

February 26 & 27, 2016  
8:00 AM-4:00 PM

#### Bringing Math to Life in Kindergarten

April 22 & 23, 2016  
8:00 AM- 4:00 PM

#### REGIONAL SESSIONS

Regional and Site-based sessions are being scheduled daily!  
Please check our website to see if one is scheduled near you!

[www.thekindergartenexperience.com](http://www.thekindergartenexperience.com)  
[thekindergartenexperience@gmail.com](mailto:thekindergartenexperience@gmail.com)



### About This Project

In 2013, the Arizona Department of Education joined a multi-state consortium led by North Carolina to develop and implement a Kindergarten Developmental Inventory (KDI) that will be rolled out in Arizona for kindergarten classrooms in the 2017-18 school year.

The Kindergarten Developmental Inventory (KDI) is an assessment that kindergarten teachers will use to obtain an in-depth understanding of the developmental strengths and needs of every child. It is intended to be used as a formative assessment—as a tool used throughout the entire school year to help teachers identify the depths of each child's knowledge and abilities in all areas of development: (1) Social and Emotional, (2) Language and Communication, (3) Approaches to Learning, (4) Cognitive, and (5) Physical.

In an effort to prepare teachers and administrators for the implementation of the KDI, the Arizona Department of Education contracted with Alesi Group, to provide a series of dynamic professional development trainings, workshops and opportunities that offer a comprehensive lens for evidence-based practices that support the whole child in kindergarten. These identified practices are the foundation for the effective and successful implementation of the Kindergarten Developmental Inventory as they support the whole child and increase the likelihood of academic and lifelong success.

Alesi Group is charged with the goal of providing professional development to the 3600 Kindergarten Teachers in Arizona and those who provide support to them.

Please contact us to schedule a training at your school and/or district. On-site district/school sessions are free of charge.



## THE KINDERGARTEN EXPERIENCE

### A Professional Development Series Focusing on Evidence-based Practices in Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Experience is a series of professional development sessions targeting best practices in Kindergarten  
for Kindergarten Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Instructional Coaches, Administrators

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Trainings Available NOW:

##### The Significance of Social & Emotional Development

Kindergartners who get along well with teachers and peers, listen and follow directions, and can stay on task have basic skills essential for academic achievement. Children learn and refine many of the social and emotional skills they need through interactions with both adults and peers throughout the school day. Children who struggle with relationships or rules benefit from teacher support in learning skills they need to be successful, such as problem solving or working through frustration. Teachers can support children's social and emotional development by creating an inclusive classroom community, promoting children's relationships with teachers and peers, and providing daily opportunities and support for children to engage in small group learning activities. Kindergartners thrive when they see themselves as a valued member of the classroom community and when they are confident that they are genuinely valued and loved by their teachers.

##### The Organization of Space & Time

Kindergarten is a critical year in a child's educational career and the experiences offered during this instrumental year can significantly impact the much needed foundation for both academic and lifelong success. The organization of space and time in a kindergarten classroom creates the stage for optimizing the opportunities for supporting the *whole child* in all areas of development—social and emotional, language and communication, approaches to learning, cognitive, and physical development. Join us as we explore the significance of the ORGANIZATION OF SPACE—the intentional design of the kindergarten classroom environment and the ORGANIZATION OF TIME—scheduling the day to optimize opportunities for discovery, critical thinking and meaningful problem-solving.

##### English Language Arts

Launching February 26 & 27, 2016

##### Bringing Math To Life

Launching April 22 & 23, 2016



Stay Connected: Join us on Facebook The Kindergarten Project-Arizona  
Email: [thekindergartenexperience@gmail.com](mailto:thekindergartenexperience@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.thekindergartenexperience.com](http://www.thekindergartenexperience.com)



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## Sesame Street and Autism see amazing in all children

“In the United States, 1 in 68 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).” (autism.sesamestreet.org) Although the number of children diagnosed with Autism has continued to increase noticeably over the years, public understanding of autism has not. Children with autism and their families too often experience seclusion and uneasiness due to this lack of understanding.

In an effort to combat the stigma surrounding autism, Sesame Street has designed a new program called, “See Amazing in All Children.” Building upon Sesame Street’s work around diversity, acceptance, and kindness, “See Amazing in All Children” reflects their longstanding message of “We are all different, but the same.” All children share unique characteristics and abilities that make the world a more valuable place.

“See Amazing in All Children” is geared towards communities with children ages 2 to 5 and will assist viewers in seeing the commonalities that children with Autism share with all children. Resources are available “for families of children with Autism to help them reduce the stress of everyday routines, such as brushing teeth, getting dressed, trying a new food, or playing with other children.” (autism.sesamestreet.org)

By following the link below viewers can utilize online videos, daily routine cards, interactive storybooks, and an array of helpful resources. Click on the link to the right to download the Mobile App.

<http://autism.sesamestreet.org/>



### Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act Reauthorization Anniversary

One year ago today, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 was reauthorized and with it came widespread changes intended to improve the health, safety, and quality of child care and to provide more secure child care assistance to low-income families. Strong evidence supports that children’s early years are proven to be a crucial time to create strong learners. Many aspects of the reauthorization helped empower parents and enrich coordination between CCDBG and other federal early care programs, such as Head Start.

This law contains many sound measures for helping protect children in child care, such as :

1. Comprehensive background checks
2. Increased quality funds to states
3. Increased awareness for families
4. Inspect child care programs before licensing
5. Continuity of care

To learn more, visit:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ccdf-reauthorization>



## Early Childhood Contact Information

**Nicol Russell, Deputy Associate Superintendent &  
Head Start State Collaboration Director**  
602-364-1530

[Nicol.Russell@azed.gov](mailto:Nicol.Russell@azed.gov)

**TBD, Director**  
**Early Childhood Special Education/619**  
602-542-1113

**Terry Doolan, Director Early Childhood**  
602-542-1137

[Terry.Doolan@azed.gov](mailto:Terry.Doolan@azed.gov)

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**Evelyn Irvine, Administrative Assistant**  
602-364-1530

[Evelyn.Irvine@azed.gov](mailto:Evelyn.Irvine@azed.gov)

**Juliana Panqueva, ECE Financial Program  
Specialist**

602-542-8812

[Juliana.Panqueva@azed.gov](mailto:Juliana.Panqueva@azed.gov)

**Kristy Rosen, ECE Project Specialist**  
602-542-2790

[Kristy.Rosen@azed.gov](mailto:Kristy.Rosen@azed.gov)

**Lauren Zbyszinski, Professional  
Development Program Specialist**  
602-542-1102

[Lauren.Zbyszinski@azed.gov](mailto:Lauren.Zbyszinski@azed.gov)

Maricopa, Roosevelt, Dysart, Pinal-Akimel  
O'otham/Eloy

**Alma Quintana, Program Specialist**  
602-364-1910

[Alma.Quintana@azed.gov](mailto:Alma.Quintana@azed.gov)

Coconino County (West of 64)

Mohave County

**Ariana Lopez, ECSE Program Specialist**  
602-542-4615

[Ariana.Lopez@azed.gov](mailto:Ariana.Lopez@azed.gov)

Cochise, Santa Cruz, Graham,

For questions on assessment and  
Teaching Strategies GOLD, contact:  
**Elizabeth Hamilton, ECSE Program  
Specialist**

602-364-1948

[Elizabeth.Hamilton@azed.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Hamilton@azed.gov)

Greenlee County Navajo County  
(South of I-40)

**Lori Masseur, ECSE Program Specialist**  
602-542-3036

[Lori.Masseur@azed.gov](mailto:Lori.Masseur@azed.gov)

Apache County (North of I-40)  
Coconino County (East of 64)  
Navajo County (North of I-40)

**Millicent Archer, Program Specialist**  
602-364-1966

[Millicent.Archer@azed.gov](mailto:Millicent.Archer@azed.gov)

Pima County (East), Pinal County-  
Mammoth San Manuel, Picacho, Oracle,  
Ray, Red Rock, Superior, Toltec

**Erika Argueta, ECSE Program  
Specialist**

602-542-3160

Yuma County  
La Paz County  
Mohave County

**Tina Sykes, Program Specialist**  
602-542-3183

[Tina.Sykes@azed.gov](mailto:Tina.Sykes@azed.gov)

Gila County,  
Maricopa County (East)  
Chandler, Creighton, Fountain Hills,  
Gilbert, Higley, Kyrene, Mesa, Paradise  
Valley, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Tempe,  
Pinal County

**TBD, Program Specialist**  
602-542-3143

Maricopa County (South West), Arlington,  
Buckeye, Gila Bend, Laveen, Liberty, Mo-  
bile, Murphy, Palo Verde, Phoenix, River-  
side, Union, Saddle Mountain, Sentinel,  
Pima County (West-Ajo), Yuma County