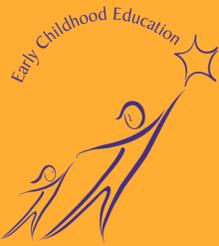


Early Childhood Education

ADE / ECE



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2014

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.

Hello Colleagues!

Welcome back to the new school year!

This has been a very busy summer for the Early Childhood Education staff at ADE as we strive to build strong early learning foundations for children from birth to grade 3.

In June the Early Childhood Unit in collaboration with K-12 Standards and the Office of English Language Acquisition Services hosted 32 LEA teams of preschool, kindergarten, and school administrators at the Linking the Learning Summit. The ECE Team also supported the Career and Technical Education conference, Leading Change for school administrators and leadership, the state Child Abuse Prevention Conference, and completed a series of eight ECE Boot Camp events to bring the "Approaches to Learning" professional development to the rural communities.

In order to strengthen the foundation for young learners in K-3 the Early Childhood Unit, in partnership with K-12 Standards and the Assessment Office, is moving forward with the development of a Kindergarten Assessment. This work is critical to determining where a student is in their development and learning upon school entry

in order to ensure that the adults in the child's life are intervening right away. Assessment data is a critical piece of a larger system of support for Arizona's children.

This summer, a comprehensive ADE team had the opportunity to meet with Margaret Heritage. Her ideas about assessment, lesson planning, and instructional supports will be weaving their way into the work of the ECE Unit and our ADE colleagues moving forward.

This year, I challenge all of us to focus on improving our own professional skills with what Margaret Heritage calls Deliberate Acts of Teaching.

*Modeling
Prompting
Questioning
Giving Feedback*

*Telling
Explaining
Directing*

I look forward to working with you all this year!

Amy

Two Upcoming Trainings! Special educators please share with your school leaders.

Administrators Academy: A Brick-by-Brick Approach to Building Knowledgeable, Empowered Leaders in Special Education

Administrators Academy is a four-part, interactive coaching series designed to teach participants how to practically and effectively apply the legal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This academy is geared toward school leaders, such as principals and assistant principals, who want to better understand their role in the special education process; special education directors looking for a more comprehensive understanding of the intricate legalities involved in special education; and special education practitioners who are interested in the legal foundations and purposes of their jobs.

This intimate workshop experience will

feature an in-depth analysis of obligations under the IDEA. Presenters will build participants' knowledge and confidence brick-by-brick by explaining responsibilities as school and special education leaders through deconstructing and reorganizing the IDEA into coherent pieces, while allowing interactions with the information to improve comfort and familiarity with the material. The instruction received through this academy will provide the necessary foundation to be thoughtful and skilled decision makers and practitioners in special education.

Institute presenters will be Kacey Gregson, attorney and Director of Dispute Resolution for the Arizona Department of Education, and Shannon Chavez, special education teacher and Arizona Department of Education Corrective Action Compliance Monitor.

For more information and Registration

Link: <http://www.ade.az.gov/online/registration/EventLocationSelection.asp?>

Arizona's School Readiness Framework

In support and preparation of the **Kindergarten Entry Assessment**, the Arizona Department of Education, along with First Things First, Head Start, West ED, and various school district personnel have comprised a cohort to create a state definition of school (kindergarten) readiness. The definition, now titled **Arizona's School Readiness Framework**, is not a list of indicators or objectives that a child should know before entering kindergarten, but rather will serve as a document that describes what the adults in a child's life (parent, caregiver, teacher, home visitor, etc.) are providing as supports for the child to prepare him/her for the next step. Through the last year, multiple statewide vettings have been conducted, asking participants (early childhood educators, kindergarten teachers, administrators, directors, parents, librarians, etc.) to review, edit, and provide feedback to Arizona's School Readiness Framework.

At this point, the final draft has been assembled, in which we are inviting you to review one final time in preparation for its completion.

To view the final draft of *Arizona's School Readiness Framework*, copy and paste the following link into a new web browser:

<http://www10.ade.az.gov/SelectSurveyNET/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=72LK6592>

Thank you for your time and commitment to this project.

A Resource



Grow It, Try It, Like It! is now available in print!

<http://tn.ntis.gov/>

Grow It, Try It, Like It! Nutrition Education Kit Featuring MyPlate is a garden-themed nutrition education kit for child care center staff that introduces children to fruits and vegetables. The kit includes seven booklets featuring fruits and vegetables with fun activities through the imaginary garden at Tasty Acres Farm! It also has a CD-ROM with Supplemental Information and a DVD with Cool Puppy Pup's Picnic and Lunch Parties. Each set of lessons contains: hands-on activities, planting activities, recipes, and nutrition education activities that introduce MyPlate. Use the kit to promote learning at home with fun parent/child activities and family-sized recipes that give tips for cooking with children.

Ordering Information: Schools, child care centers, and summer meal sites that participate in the USDA Child Nutrition programs (e.g., National School Lunch Program, School Food Service Program, etc.) may request free copies of this kit.

Resources and Reminders

Great Resources

First One

Az Early Learning Standards: <http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/files/2011/11/arizona-early-learning-standards-3rd-edition.pdf>

Second One

ECQUIP Manual: <http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/files/2011/11/ecquip-binder-revision-03.06.14fi.pdf>

Third One

HELP Manual: <http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/2011/11/03/resources-and-publications/>

Reminders

Next GOLD Checkpoint
October 26, 2014

ECQUIP Enhancement Plan Uploaded to ALEAT
September 30, 2014

*“Fairness
is not
everyone
getting the
same
thing.
Fairness is
when
every child
gets what
they
need.”*



*Kindness is
the language
which the deaf
can hear and
the blind can
see*

~Mark Twain

Kindergarten Transition

The Early Childhood Unit will be undergoing a significant review of research regarding quality kindergarten transition for all children entering our schools. A statewide survey is currently being collected so please share this information with your administrators and kindergarten teachers. Please complete the survey by September 19, 2015.

<http://www10.ade.az.gov/SelectSurveyNET/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=I2L33o2K>

There will also be regional opportunities for focus group feedback. Please watch for emails and notes on the website. Updated guidance will be issued in the spring of 2015 for Kindergarten Transition Planning.

ECQUIP

*Local programs should be working on building stronger early learning teams through the **ECQUIP process**. This may be a good time to review membership on that committee and be sure to include kindergarten, and 1-3 grades. Also, make sure to be reviewing your Local Literacy Plan. Your individual ECQUIP goals are uploaded to the ALEAT system. For more information:*

<http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/ecquip/>

*ECQUIP Goals or your Enhancement Plans are due to ALEAT by **September 30, 2014**.*

Public School Leadership Alliance for Young Children

PLAY GROUP, in this meeting you have the opportunity to hear directly from the ADE Early Childhood Staff about updates and opportunities. Examples of this are the latest about the Early Childhood Assessment System and the procurement process for the next tool. Also, updates about opportunities for the Pre-school Development Grant.

<http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/2012/03/30/az-early-childhood-consortium-meeting/>

Ask Amy

What will the role of the ECE program specialist look like in 2015?

In the past few years there has been an evolution of the role of the *Early Childhood Program Specialists* at ADE. Early Childhood Specialists are responsible for supporting local education agencies in their quest for high quality implementation of early childhood programs and services. ADE/ECE is also responsible for compliance of Federal and State laws as it pertains to early childhood programs.

Some activities that you may find the Early Childhood Program Specialists participating in:

- assist parties in meeting the high levels of collaboration to ensure quality kindergarten transition for ALL children
- provide technical support in the form of phone calls, site visits, and collaborative meetings
- to provide resources and targeted support around elements of the Quality Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education: Birth through Kindergarten
- provide professional development trainings on ongoing progress monitoring, the AZ Early Learning Standards and their individual modules, developmentally appropriate practices, and classroom and outdoor environments
- support local efforts to align and link birth to five programs with K-3
- support local literacy plans and Read on AZ community goals
- collaborate with Quality First coaches, and all other service providers provided through First Things First
- conduct ECQUIP monitoring
- review Grant and ALEAT submissions

Amy Corriveau

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Early Childhood Education
Head Start State Collaboration Director
High Academic Standards
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602-364-1530

H.E.L.P. Day

During this one-day event, participants will receive information on ensuring compliance with federal and state laws for providing special education services to children with disabilities. This session will also focus on how to best utilize the Help for Early Learning Professionals Resource Manual in the work of providing high-quality, meaningful learning experiences. It also includes a Q&A session to answer questions from participants.

Oct 23, 2014

Arizona Dept. of Education

1535 W. Jefferson St

Room 311

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Please park on the roof of ADE Parking Garage

Event Times: 8:00:00 AM - 4:00:00 PM

Register at: [http://www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/SelectEvent.asp?viewall="yes"&GroupID=31](http://www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/SelectEvent.asp?viewall=)

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Pima County(West – Ajo)
Yuma County

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Yavapai County

