



Arizona Department of Education

Early Childhood Education

ADE / ECE



NEWSLETTER

NOV - DEC 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

Colleagues!

This is an exciting time of the year! Some of you may be thinking I'm referring to the holidays, but we are on pins and needles here in the Early Childhood Education Unit awaiting the announcements of two important opportunities for our state: the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grant and the Preschool Development Grant. The award announcement is expected on December 10th.

Also, it is the time of year where New Year's Resolutions are being made and the Early Childhood Education staff is gearing up for the spring semester. Our New Year's goals include:

1. Increasing our scores on the External Customer Satisfaction Survey. This is important feedback you provide in February through the short on-line survey!
2. Increasing the number of new Early Childhood Education programs participating in the Language and Literacy series of professional development opportunities.
3. Developing several on-line professional development opportunities to increase the quality of kindergarten within the Arizona Department of Education's new technological system coming in the spring!

As you make your own resolutions, I hope you consider helping us achieve our goals. We are committed to working with you, our partners, to improve the educational outcomes for Arizona's children. You can find opportunities by watching both our website <http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/> and the on-line calendar of professional development [http://www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/SelectEvent.asp?viewall="yes"&GroupID=31](http://www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/SelectEvent.asp?viewall=).

Please pose any questions or ideas for newsletter topics at: ECEInBox@azed.gov

Happy Holidays!

~ Amy

27 Districts

*Have attended the
STAR Autism
Professional
Development since
2013!*

*Professional
Development is
provided by STAR
Autism Support and
Arizona Department
of Education*

*" I did what I
knew. And when I
knew better...I did
better "*

- Maya Angelou



2015 Infant Toddler Summit February 10th & 11th, 2015

In February 2015, Arizona Department of Education will host a two-day summit focusing on the Infant Toddler Development Guide, effective instructional strategies for working with infants & toddlers, including those with special needs, and the importance of building strong foundations that lead to school-readiness.

Topics include: Infant Mental Health, Early Literacy Supports, Social Emotional Development, Approaches to Learning, and Assessment.

Great for: Local Education Agencies, Home Visitors, Early Head Start and Head Start programs, First Things First/Quality First participants, Coaches

Summit Details

Cost: \$75, includes meals

Time: 8:30am-4:30pm

Location: Desert Willow Conference Center
4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd. Phoenix, AZ 85040

*Registration will close on 1/30/15. On-site registration begins at 7:30am on the day of the conference. To register, click [here](#)

Reminders

By Juliana Panqueva

- Allocations for the 2015 IDEA preschool Grant can be found [HERE](#)
- Navajo Child Count is due December 12th. Please complete and return via email to ECEInbox@azed.gov or by fax to Juliana Panqueva at (602) 542-2730
- Completion Reports are due 90 days after the project end date. Please submit Completion Reports at your earliest convenience.

Arizona Early Childhood PLAY Group Meeting

Public school Leadership Alliance for Young children

The PLAY Group is an active group of Arizona Early Childhood Educators representing preschool programs in public school settings. This group meets once a month from September through May to discuss issues related to topics that support quality Early Childhood Education. **This meeting affords participants the opportunity to network with other local education agencies, get questions answered from ADE staff as well as provide guidance to systems building in Arizona.**

Participants in this group include those working in early childhood special education, school based community preschool programs, Head Start, Title I preschool programs and other pre-school programs located on public school campuses. This is your opportunity to network and problem solve with others in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting, dynamic and active group please

Contact:

Kim Freehan - Mesa Public Schools - kafreeha@mpsaz.org

Jenny Stahl - jstahl@ccusd93.org

Save the Date

PLAY Group Meeting

February 5th, 2015

9:30am-11:30am

*“Education is not
the filling of a
pail, but the
lighting of a fire.”*

Resources and Reminders

Resources

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

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

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

<http://pipertrust.org/publications/early-literacy-guide-for-families/>

Reminders

**Next GOLD Checkpoint
February 6, 2015**





*“Education is
the most
powerful
weapon which
you can use to
change the
world.”*

*~Nelson
Mandela*

2015 Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

April 22 - 23, 2015

Desert Willow Conference Center
4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd. Phoenix, AZ 85040

The Arizona Coalition for military families will be hosting their 6th annual symposium April 22-23, 2015. For the first time the symposium will have a track dedicated solely to Early Childhood. The Early Childhood track is a collaborative effort between Arizona Department of Education, First Things First, Southwest Human Development, and several other Early Childhood and child care organizations. The early childhood track will feature break out sessions on infant/toddler mental health, trauma/loss, resiliency and many more.

Registration will open in January at: www.ArizonaCoalition.org/symposium

Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities will be available.

Questions? Contact us: **602-753-8802 / events@arizonacoalition.org**



In November 2014, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted a new statewide achievement test, AzMERIT, for Arizona students. To help communicate the purpose of the new test and to detail the upcoming implementation process, ADE has made available several helpful resources at <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit/>

Please take a minute to reflect on this information and share with families and colleagues.

November is

Family Engagement Month

Research that shows a variety of family involvement actions and family, school, and community partnerships influence positive student outcomes. November was first proclaimed as Family Engagement Month last year to highlight the importance of a welcoming and safe school environment; ongoing communication between home and school; support for at-home learning; families and school staff working together to establish goals for students' education; and, community collaboration to strengthen student learning and well-being. On November 18-20, the Arizona Department of Education delivered high quality professional development sessions around family engagement to Arizona's Title I schools.

To learn more about ADE's Family Engagement Initiative, please visit:

<http://www.azed.gov/parents/familyengagement/>.

Kindergarten Transition for All Children

Summit

January 21, 2015



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

Road to Transition

This summit will provide opportunity for Early Childhood Quality Improvement Practices (ECQUIP) Teams to:

- Learn the current research regarding kindergarten transition.
- Hear from a local community that has been successful with implementing kindergarten transition.
- Design effective strategies and implementation plan with your ECQUIP team.

Location

Desert Willow Conference Center

4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd. Phoenix, AZ 85040

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

GOLD PD

In this 2-day session, participants will be introduced to the concepts and strategies of using an observation-based assessment system with young children. Participants will also learn the components and structure of Teaching Strategies GOLD. Through video clips and large group discussions, participants will explore the progressions of development and learning for children birth through kindergarten.

Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to explore and practice using the technology side of Teaching Strategies GOLD. By the end of this session, participants will have an understanding of how to implement the online version of Teaching Strategies GOLD.

This training will provide the SAME CONTENT as delivered in all previous training sessions on GOLD hosted through ADE.

A registration fee of \$198 is charged for all registrants, including those who do NOT SHOW and have not canceled in writing 10 days prior to event start date.

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

Jan 10, 2015 - Jan 11, 2015

Arizona Dept. of Education

3300 N Central Ave

16th Floor Room 101

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Please park in the 3300 Parking Garage

Please bring a laptop, computers will not be provided

Event Times: 9:30:00 AM - 4:30:00 PM



Early Childhood Contact Information

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Director
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Coconino County (West of 64)
Mohave County

**Ariana Lopez, ECSE Program Specialist
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La Paz County

Maricopa County(South West)

Arlington, Avondale, Balz, Buckeye, Fowler, Gila Bend, Laveen, Liberty, Littleton, Mobile, Murphy, Palo Verde, Paloma, Phoenix, Riverside, Union, Roosevelt, Saddle Mountain, Sentinel, Tolleson, Wilson

Pima County(West – Ajo)

Yuma County

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

602-364-1948

Elizabeth.Hamilton@azed.gov

Apache County (South of I-40)
Navajo County (South of I-40)

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Apache County (North of I-40)
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Navajo County (North of I-40)

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Pima County (East)
Santa Cruz County

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

**Willette Watts, Program Specialist
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Maricopa County (North)
Aguila , Alhambra, Cartwright, Cave Creek, Deer Valley, Dysart, Glendale, Isaac, Litchfield, Madison, Morristown, Nadaburg, Osborn, Pendergast, Peoria, Washington, Wickenburg
Yavapai County