



Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Education



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 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.

Colleagues and Fellow Educators,

Recently, in a group of cross sector collaborators, I was challenged to write down the person who I deemed my educational champion. As we debriefed together, in almost every case a parent or family member was identified. The impact of teachers and coaches was recognized shortly after. This made me wonder if families really understand the important influence they hold.



Arizona recently joined the American Graduate Project led by Eight-Arizona PBS. American Graduate is a national initiative supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). It was created to help boost America's current graduation rate of 80%, to 90%, by the year 2020. Its purpose is to combat the dropout crisis by getting the message out to the public. Using public media stations as its trusted providers, American Graduate addresses the issues facing high school students and acknowledges the significance of adults in their success. As an Early Childhood Educator you know that this work cannot be accomplished without a strong foundation in the early years. Currently, there are more than 80 public radio and television stations dedicated to supporting over 1,000 partners and at-risk schools across 30 states.

A student's high school completion not only means equal career opportunities in a demanding workforce or preparation to compete in post-secondary education, but better local communities. America's graduation rate increase does not solely rely on its students; complete success depends on the continuous and consistent support of adults and other community leaders. And of course, it all begins with a strong foundation.

How you can help:

- ⇒ Vow to tell someone you know how important they are to their child's education. Encourage education among families
- ⇒ Mention this initiative at family meetings or at site based leadership opportunities
- ⇒ Submit your logo to show your support for the project!
- ⇒ Learn more about the American Graduate Program [here](#)

~ Amy



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- ⇒ The next PLAY Group meeting is April 2nd in Maricopa
 - ⇒ Revisions for IDEA are due May 1, 2015
 - ⇒ Next Gold Checkpoint is May 29, 2015
 - ⇒ Save the Date for the School Readiness Summit, June 11-13 at the Sheraton Mesa, more details to follow
 - ⇒ 2015 Leading Change Conference for school administrators is June 23-25, register [here](#)

100+

*Have attended the
Community Meetings
for the Preschool
Development Grant!*

*To learn more about
the Preschool
Development Grant
recently awarded to
Arizona, click [here!](#)*

*“Every child is an
artist. The problem
is how to remain an
artist once we grow
up”*

- Pablo Picasso

The Kindergarten Experience

April 24th & 25th, 2015



Beginning in April 2015 and continuing throughout 2016, the Arizona Department of Education, in collaboration with Alesi Group and supported by Virginia G. Piper Charitable Foundation, will host a series of professional development sessions focusing on evidence-based practices in Kindergarten. The first session of this series, “The Significance of Supporting Social and Emotional Development in Kindergarten” will be held April 24th and 25th, 2015 and is great for Kindergarten Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Instructional Coaches, and Administrators. Those who do not attend the first session in the series are still encouraged to attend the latter sessions.

Session Details

Cost: \$65, includes meals

Time: 8:00am-4:00pm

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

*Registration is limited. On-site registration begins at 8:00am on the day of the conference. **To register, click [here](#)**

Get Outdoors!

In the years since Richard Louv wrote [Last Child in the Woods](#), research findings have supported his theory that there is a positive link between natural experiences and children’s health and well-being. Be Outdoors Arizona has adopted this mission statement: “To encourage continuous, nature-centered, outdoor experiences that enrich the lives of children.”



Their website www.beoutdoorsarizona.org is a collaborative tool which links outdoor programs in Arizona with its citizens. Family outdoor activities are promoted to create a heritage of personal connections to nature. You will find a calendar of events for a variety of ages and interests sponsored by many nature-content organizations. There is also a list of general topics which are linked to related outdoor opportunities. All the Arizona Early Learning Standards are supported through experience in nature.

Resources

[Az Early Learning Standards: http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/files/2011/11/arizona-early-learning-standards-3rd-edition.pdf](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](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://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/2011/11/03/resources-and-publications/)

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

Arizona Science Center

Technology in Early Childhood Series

“The 2015 Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Technology with Children ages 3 to 8 Conference”

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (2012) suggests, “Technology and interactive media are tools that can promote effective learning and development when...used intentionally by early childhood educators within the framework of developmentally appropriate practice” (p.5). But how does that apply to real-world experiences? Explore the fundamental concepts of how children play, learn, and grow; connect these principles with developmentally appropriate technology use; learn how to integrate technology without computers or tablets; and take back activities and strategies to engage children ages 3-8 with technologies in the world around them.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, June 13th, 2015

Time: 9am-3:30pm

Location: Arizona Department of Education
16th Floor, 3300 N. Central Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85012

Registration: Early Bird Special: \$200 (includes light breakfast and lunch) until May 1, 2015

Register at <https://tickets.azscience.org/auxiliary/Reserve.aspx?p=34834>



“The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil.”

- Ralph Waldo

Emerson

Bureau of Child Care Licensure

The results of a federal monitoring conducted on licensed child care centers and homes were recently broadcast on the local Arizona news. Federal monitors found significant issues surrounding basic health and safety.

ECE professionals typically work in programs that are licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services. If you completed a traditional pathway to obtain your ECE/ECSE Certificate then it is unlikely that you had any specific instruction on child care licensure. Child Care licensure rules and regulations are established through an open, informed process that establishes a minimum guideline for keeping preschool children safe and healthy. Review the rules and regulations [here](#).

As Arizona’s ECE/ECSE field moves towards implementing effective practices focusing on school readiness, Child Care Licensure remains a constant non-negotiable. As evidenced by the breadth of the Rules and Regulations, keeping children safe and healthy is no easy task. This is a good time to review the regulations and take time to reflect on your practice. Don’t wait for violations to be identified. During monitoring conducted by ADE, a teacher was seen preparing snack on a surface that was not washed or sterilized which puts everyone at risk. If you have questions there is always a licenser of the day at DHS Child Care Licensing. You can also pose questions to the ECEinbox@azed.gov.

The Arizona Bureau of Child Care Licensure website is: <http://www.azdhs.gov/als/childcare/index.htm>.





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: **602-753-8802 / events@arizonacoalition.org**

*“Tell me and I
forget. Teach me
and I remember.
Involve me and I
learn.”*

*~Benjamin
Franklin*

Happy Birthday Head Start!

In his State of the Union speech in January 1964, President Lyndon B Johnson spoke about his growing concerns over poverty that was ravishing our nation. A few days later a panel of experts convened to develop a comprehensive childcare program designed to reach out to low-income families in need of quality childcare for their children. Since the summer of 1965, more than 31 million children have benefitted from Head Start’s comprehensive services across the United States.

Head Start has been at the forefront in educating children in a comprehensive manner including cognitive, social, and emotional development by promoting school readiness to the most disadvantaged children from birth to 5 years. Head Start believes in forming partnerships not only with the community, but the families of the children they serve. Head Start Programs are found locally in every part of Arizona. Early Head Starts serve infants and toddlers. Arizona is home to 13 Regional Head Starts and Migrant Head Start and Tribal Head Start.



To find a head start near you, click [here](#)
Arizona Head Start Association, click [here](#)



2015 Infant Toddler Summit

In collaboration with Early Head Start and other local and national partners, the Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Unit hosted an Infant/Toddler Summit.

The Infant/Toddler Summit held on February 10 & 11 launched a new series of professional development to support the Infant and Toddler Developmental Guidelines (ITDGs), ADE and its partners wish to intentionally support best practices that result in positive outcomes for infants, toddlers, and young children. The new professional development modules offered by ADE focus on establishing a strong foundation for school readiness. Specific topics include Social and Emotional Development in the Infant Toddler Years, Establishing Approaches to Learning, Language Development and Communication for Infants and Toddlers, and Cognitive Development in the Infant and Toddler Years. Each ITDG domain aligns with the Arizona Early Learning Standards (AZELS) and can be used to illustrate a strong continuum for school readiness. Specific presentations from the Infant and Toddler Summit can be found on the ADE website by clicking [here](#).



Early Childhood Education Program Specialist and Infant/Toddler Specialist, Rahimah Phillips, took an active role as lead representative for the summit as she partnered with Laura Landis (Early Childhood Education Specialist Center Manager) and the National Center for Quality Teaching and Learning (NCQTL). The summit opened with a discussion about the importance of Professional Readiness: The Real Beginning of School Readiness. Keynote speakers Dr. Jill Stamm, Ph.D. and Dr. Billie Enz, Ph.D. offered a follow-up session that focused on Understanding and Building Executive Functions. Approximately 400 participants, including child care teachers, home visitors, support specialists, coaches and other care givers attended the summit.

A special THANK YOU to the Arizona Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Center who was able to secure the support and expertise of the National Center for Quality Teaching and Learning (NCQTL). The NCQTL offered professional development sessions on topics such as Infant/Toddler Mental Health, Responsive Caregiving, Family Engagement, and Home Visiting Rating Scale (HOVRS). These sessions examined the importance of “intentionality” with regard to planning for learning and future success. Participants were encouraged to explore the use of relationship-based responsive caregiving strategies that promote thinking skills, extend children’s learning, and facilitate and encourage children’s language through daily routines and memorable play experiences. A major focus was to help build trusting relationships with families as they support the growth and development of young children in preparation for school readiness. In Arizona much of the support to families in the infant and toddler years is conducted by home visitors. Information regarding home visiting programs that help families raise healthy children ready to succeed in school and in life can be found at <http://strongfamiliesaz.com/>.

Please consider connecting with the home visiting programs in your community!!

Parent and Caregiver Early Childhood Workshop K'E: Growing Up Great

April 15th, 2015 • 8am - 4pm

Moenkopi Legacy Inn
Tuba City, Arizona

The intent of this one-day interactive workshop is to engage parents and caregivers in the importance of holistic development including social-emotional, physical, and cognitive for children birth through age five, while embracing Navajo and more contemporary philosophies for child care.

Due to limited capacity, pre-registration is encouraged

Register at: <https://www.pcaaz.org/event-management/?ee=100>

Priority Deadline: April 1, 2015. Child care will not be available

For more information regarding the workshop, please contact the First Things First Navajo Nation regional office at 928-810-4306



FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

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