

REACH

a monthly e-newsletter for Delaware's early childhood and school age programs



May 2018



You're here for Delaware's children and families.

We're here for YOU!



Coming to PD this Summer.....A whole new way of scheduling your training!

The summer of 2018 will be a game changer for your professional development. Stay tuned for details of new workshops and new scheduling opportunities. We're excited!

Provider Spotlight: One Step Ahead

Smart Investment Yields People Profits



According to Dawn Sheehan, owner of One Step Ahead, a child care center in Newark, keeping her staff motivated and happy is the bottom line for continuous quality improvement.



Administrator Workshops - The Focus is for You!

In the upcoming months, we are offering several professional development opportunities for administrators. They are:

"Child Assessment for Administrators: Polishing the Lens"

"Leadership"

"Play for Administrators"

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from your perspective.

Register at <https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar>



A Stars Level 4 program, Sheehan uses her center's tiered reimbursement to invest in her staff.

"My staff can earn monthly bonuses based on doing the basic job," says Sheehan. "This includes showing up to work on time, curriculum planning, and providing accurate paper work."

Additionally, every quarter, teachers provide her with a wish list of items that enhance learning. The lists always include books – so many books that the third floor is a library. Children can borrow books to take home to share with their families.

And there are more payoffs! The center has very low turnover with much of the staff having worked at One Step Ahead for at least two years.

With a consistent staff in place, the program is growing. The center is up to 80 children that fill eight classrooms, two of which are for the after-school program. With this growth, they have tripled the number of children they serve receiving Purchase of Care from 20 to 60 students, serving the community through providing high-quality child care for all children.



And if all this wasn't enough to make you smile, take a look at Mr. Jurmaine's face, a prekindergarten teacher at One Step Ahead. His smile says it all!

Upcoming Deadline for Capacity Grant

The next deadline for programs applying for the Capacity Grant through Children & Families First is noon on Friday, July 13, 2018.

The Capacity Grant provides resources to enhance the quality and expand the supply of early childhood education programming throughout Delaware. Award amounts range from \$2,000–\$6,000 based upon program type and enrollment.

Visit the Children & Families First website (<http://www.cffde.org/>) for FAQs with details about eligibility requirements and to apply. Contact Andrea Prettyman, the Capacity Grant Program Manager, or call 302–233–6475 with questions.

Parent Education

"Education Expo"

Please share with your families that the "4th Annual Education Expo, Empowered Parents = Ready Children" Conference will be held on May 19th at Stubbs Elementary School.

Child care will be provided so parents can participate in interactive workshops. Additionally, parents will have the opportunity to have their young children screened using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.

Details are available at the end of this publication.

Stars News



Announcing "Planning Meaningful Learning Experiences for School-Age Children in Family Child Care"

We know summer months can be overwhelming for family child care providers. It's challenging to provide activities for school-age children while meeting the needs of the younger ones.

To this end, our family child care TAs are planning a meeting to support interested family child care providers around how to use a project-based approach to create engaging activities for school-age children. The activities will keep students busy learning in a fun and authentic way. For those that participate in DE Stars, you will also learn about resources and strategies for meeting LC1 and LC3, or providing daily activities through a structured framework for school-aged children.

Mark your calendar for this half-a-day opportunity.

Saturday, June 2nd ~ 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Children's & Families First

91 Wolf Creek Blvd., Suite 1, Dover, Del.

June 2nd Sign Up at <https://conta.cc/2L3TSUc>. (Please note the session is limited to 30 seats)

Saturday, June 9th ~ 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Woodlawn Library

2020 W. 9th Street, Wilmington, Del.

June 9th Sign Up at <https://conta.cc/2IFuBRU>. (Please note the session is limited to 30 seats)

SAVE THE DATE

Inaugural daeeyc Aspire Conference

Mark your calendar for the first daeeyc Aspire Conference to be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at Middletown High School.

Details are at the end of this publication.

Keep up with our Quality Assured training sessions by following us on Facebook.



Follow DIEEC-PD
on facebook



Stars Alumna Receives Dissertation Award for Home-Based Childcare Research

Congratulations to Alison Hooper for receiving the 2018 Early Education and Child Development Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Educational Research Association (AERA).

Alison received her master's degree in 2013 and doctorate in 2017 from the University of Delaware. While at UD, Alison served as a graduate research assistant for Stars.

Her dissertation, "Identifying and exploring profiles of home-based child care providers based on their beliefs and practices," underscores the need for family child care centers to have access to support and professional development that is relevant to them.

The full article announcing her award is at <http://bit.ly/2rIB5Ww>

Coach's Corner" - Literacy and Diversity



In the last issue of REACH, we announced Delaware Stars' blog – "Coach's Corner." Meghan Pallante, a Stars TA, has already provided two fresh perspectives on managing literacy and diversity in a program.

The blogs are available here.
Literacy in Early Child Care Education

Diversity in Early Child Care Education

Don't miss out on this growing community of child care professionals. Join this Facebook group by clicking <http://bit.ly/2jXl9vd>

MAD Conference - We Saw You!



Don't Forget to follow us on Social Media!



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Professional Development Department
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Diversity in Early Childhood Education

Diversity- Inclusive of all people's racial identity, ethnicity, family culture, gender, class, sexual orientation, and ability. Diversity exists in the differences among people and groups. It is not a term that refers to some people and not to others.

(Definition taken from Derman-Sparks, LeeKeenan, D., & Nimmo, J. (2015). Leading anti-bias early childhood programs: A guide for change. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.)



Most early childhood educators would agree that teaching diversity to young children is important. But how do we make sure our practice reflects that? It requires us to be intentional about our teachings and interactions with children.

The Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) books are a good place to start when thinking of adding some basic multi-cultural materials, activities, and display. Some examples of materials may include dolls of different races, multicultural dress up clothing, play food, menus, and utensils from different cultures, and music from different cultures. When considering books or displays, look for a variety of different races/cultures, ages, abilities, and gender in non-stereotyping roles.

When working to diversify your book corner, there are a few things to keep in mind.

1. Types of books- We want to expose children to a combination of fiction and factual books. Books about real people or events are factual, while fairy tale type stories are fictional. Both types are equally important.
2. Authors- Pay attention to the author of the books in your classroom. Ideally, we want to support authors and their lived experiences.
3. Representation- Think about the children in your program. It is important for them to see books and pictures about children with whom they can identify. We all want to feel seen and represented in our society; children want the same in their classrooms.
4. Avoiding stereotypes- Be mindful of stereotypes or prejudices, especially in fiction books. We want to be sure that we are providing children with accurate representation of all people. For example, "cowboys and Indians" portrays Native Americans in an unfavorable and inaccurate way. It is important for us, as educators, to be intentional in stopping the perpetuation of stereotypes and prejudice thinking.

The single, most important way to establish a positive climate surrounding diversity is simply TALKING to children.



The single, most important way to establish a positive climate surrounding diversity is simply TALKING to children. As educators, we must welcome their inherent curiosity about the people and the world around them. Many of us have lived in a society that promoted “color blindness” as the politically correct way to handle diversity. Concerning diversity, “color blindness” refers to people remarking that they do not “see” race, sexual orientation, gender, abilities, etc. This notion implies that we are all the same, which is problematic. On a large scale, we cannot work towards equity without recognizing the different circumstances that we all face. In the classroom, how can we encourage children to celebrate diversity if we pretend it does not exist? The best way to understand one another is to have meaningful, honest conversations.

Let’s start with our children!

Literacy in Early Childhood Education

Incorporating literacy into your day can seem daunting. The good news is that you do not need to have fancy materials to make it happen! Literacy can be taught using materials that are most likely already in your space.

If literacy practices are new to you as a provider or teacher, it may be a good idea to reflect on what you know about literacy in early childhood. It is also important to think about setting goals for your literacy activities and tailoring them to each individual child. Below are some examples of reflection questions.



Knowledge/Understanding	Practice	Planning
What do you know about importance of literacy in early childhood?	Have you incorporated literacy activities into your program? If so what types of activities?	What are your current literacy goals for your program? Individual children?
How did you come to form these opinions?	What were your goals regarding these activities?	What supports will you need to accomplish these goals?

Adapted from Framework for Reflective Questioning (Rush & Sheldon, 2011 p. 78)

If you are wondering where to start with literacy, your own classroom environment is the best place! Setting up the environment is an important part of encouraging literacy concepts in early childhood. It's easy to assume that most literacy instruction occurs during storybook reading or when children spend time in the library center, but this is not always the case. While the library area is an important component of the early childhood environment, there are many other areas to encourage literacy.

For example, in the dramatic play area you could add literacy items to accompany various themes. Some examples include:

- *Restaurant: menus, notepads, play money, name tags, and signs*
- *Post office: paper, envelopes, pretend stamps, address labels, and postcards*
- *Grocery store: advertisements, coupons, receipts, grocery lists, and various empty food containers with product logos.*

Additional areas to include literacy items could be blueprints, pencils, and paper in the block area; alphabet puzzles for fine motor skill; magnetic letters and chart paper for science; magazines for collages, and letter stencils and stamps in the art area. Many of these materials will also help to foster an interest in writing skills.

TIP: If you have limited space try creating a "prop box" to store these items when they are not in use.



Writing tends to receive less attention in society due to the abundance of technology in our everyday lives. Years ago, children watched their parents, teachers, older siblings, and other adults in their lives writing frequently. Today, children are more likely to see adults emailing, texting, and using smart phone apps for to-do lists. Teachers and caregivers must be intentional about providing children with opportunities to practice writing and observe writing in their classrooms. Writing is most interesting to children when it serves a purpose. Consider having the children sign in when they arrive each morning. Encourage them to write while engaging in dramatic play themes even if it is just scribbling.

In addition to the ideas above, alphabet knowledge and phonological awareness (word awareness, syllables, rhyming, and phonemes) can also be taught in a “hands-on” manner with materials in the classroom. Consider making letters out of play dough or with sticks found during outdoor play. Give older preschool children a word and then have them find something in the classroom that might rhyme with that word or have them clap out syllables.

For our littlest learners, keep in mind that language and literacy go hand-in-hand. Talk to infants during routine times such as diaper changes and feedings. Help toddlers learn words for items in the world around them. And of course, storybook reading is a great way to incorporate literacy at any age!

SAVE THE DATE

Inaugural deaeyc Aspire Conference

Saturday, June 2, 2018

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Middletown High School

120 Silver Lake Road

Middletown, DE 19709

Keynote Speakers

Carol McCloud, President, Bucket Fillers, Inc.

Carol McCloud, a.k.a. the "Bucket Lady", has captivated all ages and encouraged them to become daily bucket fillers since her first book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*, was published in 2006.

Michael Napolitano, Founder, Rockness Music

Michael Napolitano is a father, teacher, founder and director of Preschool of Rock/Rockness Music. He performs, composes, produces and engineers all of the music for Preschool of Rock and Michael & the Rockness Monsters. Previously Michael was a contributing member of the creative team for the Blue Man Group.

Conference Highlights

- Building Positive Parent Teacher Relationships
- Stewards of Children
- Advocacy Training 101
- Program Based Financial Mgmt.
- ESL in Early Childhood Education
- Bucket Filling in the classroom
- Music & STEM
- Learning through Play
- Social Emotional Development
- Incorporating the outdoors into your classroom
- Early Education & Nutrition
- Multi-Language Exposure Benefits

Registration Opening Early April!

Questions? Contact deaeycmeetings@gmail.com

deaeyc

Delaware Association for the
Education of Young Children



Fourth Annual **WILMINGTON** *Readiness Team*

Empowered Parent Conference

Saturday May 19th 9:30am-2:30pm

**Stubbs (Fredrick Douglass) Elementary School
1100 N. Pine St. Wilmington, DE 19801**



- Transportation And Childcare Available**
- Interactive Workshop**
- Complimentary Breakfast And Lunch**
- Kindergarten Registration Information**
- Developmental Screenings**

**For More Information Contact Daphne Evans
302-439-0224 devans@ccacde.org**

