

NOVEMBER 2022

REACH

a newsletter for Delaware's Early Childhood Professionals

Dear early childhood educators,

Fall is here! Now that we're all settling into our new routines, let's spend some time thinking through how we are supporting the needs of each and every child and family served. We're going to focus this month on ensuring access in children's learning environments – making sure that we're providing a wide range of learning opportunities to support each child in the program. We'll be sharing resources on social media throughout the month of October.

We also have some exciting updates in this month's issue, including further details about our upcoming podcast and some new opportunities for Delaware's family child care educators. Additionally, you can read a summary from the Department of Education Early Childhood Support team about the next steps for early childhood in Delaware.

Last but not least, make sure to sign up to participate with us during Children's Book Week! We'd love to spend a morning or afternoon at your program reading with your children and sharing books and resources.

With kind regards,

Kristy Sheffler
Deputy Director, DIEEC

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Voices from the Field

Christina Cultural Arts Center - Early Childhood Education Arts Academy

Where Performance Pays off in the Community

Market Street is a hub for Wilmington's cultural assets, with The Grand, The Queen, and The Playhouse on Rodney Square all located within a five block radius. Anchoring this lineup is the Christina Cultural Arts Center (CCAC), an integrated arts and academic program that uses the power of art to promote school success for Wilmington's youth, the most crucial asset for the city's future.

A part of CCAC's work is teaching and caring for the community's youngest members through the Early Childhood Education Arts Academy (ECEAA). The program serves three-year-olds through five-year-olds and employs the fine arts to teach educational concepts.

"Art is another teaching tool," said Shysheika Edwards, ECEAA's educational director. "We know the brain is developing quickly during the early years. Drama, dance, music, and art help us better address and connect with a child's potential."

Continue reading this feature here:

<http://bit.ly/3OqjIz9>



Literacy

DIEEC Celebrated Children's Book Week

Literacy and Math Team Up

This week we are celebrating Children's Book Week, the longest-running national literacy initiative, with our volunteer readers visiting licensed early childhood education programs and reading books aloud. This year's theme is "Everyday Math." Many children's books are perfect for introducing and reinforcing math concepts, so we selected age-appropriate books to help you weave math concepts throughout your day.

You may want to check them out as you build our your library resources.

Infants

Ten Little Fingers & Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox
Baby Touch and Feel: Numbers by Dorling Kindersley, Inc.

Toddlers

Ten Tiny Babies by Karen Katz
Bears on Chairs by Shirley Parenteau
Round is a Tortilla by Roseanne Greenfeld Thong
Owl Babies by Martin Waddell

Preschool

10 Little Rubber Ducks by Eric Carle
My Granny Went to Market by Stella Blackstone
Inch by Inch by Leo Lionni

School Age

Counting on Frank by Rod Clement
The Eleventh Hour: A Curious Mystery by Graeme Base

News and Updates

ASQ UPDATE

An update from our partners at the Delaware Department of Education

Don't forget! Beginning July 1, 2023, all licensed child care providers will be required to ensure completion of the ASQ developmental and social emotional screenings for all enrolled children ages 0-5 (except those 5-year-olds who are in kindergarten or those who already have an IFSP or IEP).

Do not purchase anything! The Delaware Department of Education has orientation trainings and materials to support you in meeting this new requirement. To learn more and get started today, go to the DOE developmental screening website for more information and training links.

Here is that link:

https://education.delaware.gov/families/birth-age-5/early_resources/developmental_screenings/

DIEEC LAUNCHES A PODCAST

X, "Why", Z: Reflections from Early Childhood Education Professionals

It's here! The first episode of our podcast X, "Why," Z: Reflections from Early Childhood Education Professionals premiered on October 28 and is now available on our website and wherever you stream/subscribe to your podcasts.

You don't want to miss this episode "Making Connections" where Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, vice president of National Policy for Start Early, speaks with hosts Meg Keating and Irene Ashe about the "why" behind her passion for early childhood. The conversation is thought provoking, insightful, and funny. It is sure to fuel your spirit.

New episodes will be available the last Friday of every month, with eight episodes planned for the premiere season. The next episode drops on Friday, November 25 and features our 2022 DIEEC Educators of the Year, Rhondalin Cannon-Tingle and Colleen Millman.

Stay tuned for details on upcoming episodes by following us on our social media platforms and bookmarking our podcast page.

<https://www.dieec.udel.edu/x-why-z-podcast/>

Leadership Cohort

DIEEC OFFERS NEW PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

"We have set goals as a result of this leadership cohort. We are expanding our programs and are looking for a variety of community outreach opportunities for the families we serve in our programs."

Anyone who has served in a leadership capacity knows it can feel lonely. Whether you are an owner, director, or curriculum coordinator the day-to-day role can be isolating while you work to set goals and implement strategies. To help support you, we are excited to offer a series of professional learning experiences called "The Business of Early Childhood: Leadership Cohort." By participating in this series, you are joining a group of like-minded leaders in building your leadership skills to improve the quality and culture of your program.

The series includes the following professional learning experience (PLE) workshops:

- *Your Purpose, Passion, and Position as a Leader*
- *Mission and Vision: The What, Why, and How*
- *Your Influence, as a Leader, in Creating a Great Place to Work*
- *The Art of Strengths-Based Observation and Feedback for Leaders*

After attending each workshop, we support you through individual coaching sessions and group reflective experiences.

If you and/or your team are interested in a cohort experience, reach out to Jen Potts at jpotts@udel.edu.

These opportunities are also available individually on our PLE registry.

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

DIEEC ECE Provider Survey

YOUR VOICE

Thank you to all those who responded to the survey DIEEC sent to Delaware's ECE professionals this summer. Like you, we are committed to continuous quality improvement. Your feedback helps us improve our services to meet your professional development needs and support your program more effectively.

In the next several REACH issues, we will spotlight your responses and include our areas of alignment and outline what we are doing to better address your feedback.

Respondents indicated virtual PLEs as the preferred option for training.

- We are thoughtful around our content and how it is being delivered, and you'll find a variety of formats on our calendar. Since virtual options are a preference for many, we are looking to offer more opportunities to meet educators' diverse needs. For example, we are working on a new asynchronous option where educators can watch an episode of Circle Time Magazine with a focus on early math, try out and film a math activity, and receive specific, strengths-based feedback from a DIEEC professional development coordinator. This format allows educators flexibility in accessing and completing their professional learning on their schedule AND get support in implementing new teaching strategies, all by utilizing the online video sharing and coaching feedback tool, Coaching Companion.