

PDG Connection

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A Message from the Deputy Associate Superintendent

We are at the midpoint for the second year of Preschool Development Grant (PDG)—and what an exciting time to be a part of this fantastic program! In the most recent edition of the Office of Early Learning (U.S. Department of Education) newsletter, there was a spotlight on Arizona! Specifically, the collaboration between ADE (as the administrator of PDG) and Quality First. To read the whole spotlight, go to [Arizona PDG Spotlight](#).



Annual monitoring visits are being conducted, and the results are revealing all of the great work of our programs. Anecdotally, I would like to share some of the wonderful things I have been hearing and seeing:

More community programs are participating on school district teams for the Early Childhood Quality Improvement Practices (ECQUIP) process. This increase in community-wide collaboration is helping to improve or enhance local practices for ensuring transitions between programs, and to kindergarten, are seamless.

The support from ADE's Early Childhood Education program specialists, alongside the supports from the cadre of Quality First coaches and specialists, is greatly appreciated. One program administrator told me, "Without the support from your staff and Quality First, this would be impossible for us private providers. I am telling everyone I know that you guys are amazing!"

Excitement is growing for next year. We conducted eight in-person informational meetings for year three of PDG. We had a great mix of current participants and potential participants attend the meetings. Many current participants indicated they will be submitting proposals to serve more children next year.

I cannot express how grateful I am to the Early Childhood Education team for their tireless work to support you, and my appreciation for your commitment to helping us serve Arizona's youngest citizens in high-quality programs. This is hard work, and worth every effort. Thank you, sincerely.

Sincerely,
Nicol Russell
Deputy Associate Superintendent for Early Childhood &
Head Start State Collaboration Office Director
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Nicol.Russell@azed.gov

Our Mission

To provide leadership and support to schools, organizations, educators, families and communities in implementing programs that assist all children from birth through age 8 to become successful lifelong learners.





**Save the
Date!**

2017 Summer Institute

June 21-23, 2017

Westward Look • 245 East Ina Road • Tucson, AZ 85704

More details coming soon!

PDG Fiscal Monitoring

In June 2016, five subgrantees were selected to participate in fiscal monitoring for the 2015-2016 PDG school year. The PDG fiscal monitoring team reviewed detailed expenditure reports, time and effort documentation, and program activity within the Grants Management System (GME). SY15 fiscal monitoring was completed in early December 2016, and a [Summary of PDG Fiscal Monitoring Findings SY2015](#) was sent to all participating PDG programs.

The goal of PDG fiscal monitoring is to support PDG programs to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. Recommendations provided in the [Summary](#) are meant to assist PDG programs in achieving a sound financial system of managing funds. The [PDG Fiscal Monitoring Webinar](#) is available, and provides guidance on the fiscal expectations for PDG subgrantees. Any PDG subgrantee may be fiscally monitored in the future.

Have questions or comments? Contact PDG@azed.gov or call 602.364.1530

Engaging Families in Learning

Ariana Lopez, ADE Program Specialist



Family engagement is a critical component of any high quality early childhood program. Partnering with the families of the children being served ensures that learning can best fit the needs of the child both in school and at home. According to ADE's [Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education](#) (2013), "In a high quality early education program, frequent two-way communication is established and maintained, and families are presented with multiple opportunities to participate in activities and decisions that concern their children" (p. 39). Some ways to facilitate two-way communication in your program are:

- Make phone calls to families
- Use an app that allows you to text families and receive responses back (i.e.: Remind, ClassDojo, bambizo, and Edmodo)
- Utilize a notebook that enables messages to be communicated back and forth with families
- Send emails to families
- Conduct surveys to evaluate what families want. For example:
 1. What they see as their child's strengths
 2. What goals they have in mind for their child
 3. What their child's favorites are
 4. Any areas of concern they may have regarding their child
- Hold parent – teacher conferences regularly throughout the year

Remember, children spend the majority of their time with their families so forming strong partnerships with them are critical for children's success in school and in life!



Want to learn more?

- ⇒ ADE's Family and Community Engagement [webpage](#)
- ⇒ Head Start [Resources](#) on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Preparing for PDG Year 3

The Arizona Department of Education's Early Childhood Unit, along with Arizona's early childhood community are already preparing for Year 3 of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). The overarching goals of the PDG are to improve learning outcomes for all children as well as to close the learning gap. We are happy to announce that in PDG Year 3, the opportunity to apply to become a PDG sub grantee will be open to all preschool programs throughout Arizona.

Important!

To receive and submit a proposal for review, you must either attend an in-person PDG Year 3 informational session (held throughout AZ in various locations) or watch the [PDG Year 3 Informational Session Webinar](#). Proposals for Year 3 will be emailed on February 6, 2017 only to past PDG sub grantees and new, interested programs who attended the informational sessions (in-person or webinar). Proposals are due to PDG@azed.gov by March 6, 2017. **Late proposals will not be accepted.**

Deadlines and Next Steps

- ⇒ Proposals sent to programs February 6, 2017
- ⇒ Proposals due to ADE by March 6, 2017
- ⇒ Decisions and award letters made by April 1, 2017
- ⇒ Implementation of PDG Year 3 by August 2017

Proposals can be found on our website at [PDG Year 3 Proposal](#)



Program Spotlight: *Wesleyan Preschool*

Carrie Clark, Preschool Director and Educator

Our participation with the PDG has helped us develop a true understanding of Early Childhood Education and how preschool should look and, even more importantly, how preschool should NOT look. We can articulate our educational philosophy, explain to parents, educators, and community members WHY and HOW we integrate play into our day and the reasons we focus on Social/Emotional development, and allow the academics to happen naturally while we assist students in finding their unique passion for learning.

Our program has grown from 8 students to 46 students in under a year. Trainings and support given to us through the PDG accounts for this growth. The trainings we receive from our PDG Coach, SMART Support, Inclusion Specialist and QF Coach are key to our success and ability to grow, learn and succeed. Our students leave our program with conflict resolution skills, the ability to participate in extended learning and the social/emotional maturity to regulate their emotions so they can not only participate in their learning but also make positive contributions within the classroom. We recognize that Kindergarten readiness does not have to mean that students meet academic thresholds. Kindergarten readiness means that students enter the classroom ready and excited to learn. We could not have reached the level we obtained without the trainings and assistance from our PDG Specialists.

Scope of Work

All activities and tasks listed in the Scope of Work to be completed by PDG sub grantees are listed below:

- ⇒ Kindergarten Transition Plan
- ⇒ Family Engagement Needs Assessment and Plan
- ⇒ Child Find Analysis
- ⇒ Participate in professional development
- ⇒ Professional Development Plan
- ⇒ Most in Need Selection Criteria
- ⇒ Comprehensive Assessment Plan
- ⇒ Least Restrictive Environment
- ⇒ Create a protocol for sharing waiting lists

Upload and Submit to
ALEAT by

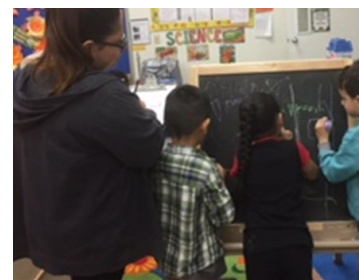
March 1, 2017

Program Spotlight: *Kids Can Doodle*

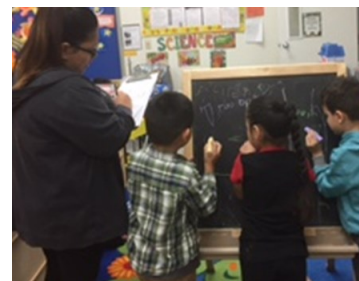
Eric Bucher, ADE ECE Program Specialist

It is an early Thursday morning, and the PDG classroom is filled with the sounds of 4-year old children engaged in rich dialogue as they investigate developmentally appropriate materials during free choice play. Teacher Valerie engages a small group in a math counting game while other children choose to construct with wooden blocks, paint images from a space science book using Tempera, or draw the letters of their names in sand using their fingers and tools.

At the art easel, Teacher Bianca observes the children interacting with chalk that the teachers intentionally offered, asks relevant open-ended questions, and discovers what the children are thinking and doing. She is prepared with a clipboard, paper, and a pen to record these anecdotal notes which she later uploads into TSG as evidence of children's learning in the classroom.



By continuously collecting evidence, like objective anecdotal notes and photographs over time and consistently inputting evidence into TSG, the teachers can track children's developmental progress and plan for activities and materials to scaffold learning. Bianca reflects, "Writing down what children say after being asked questions models listening skills and improves language and communication skills between teacher and student. I encourage children to use language and ask questions as an opportunity to discover new things and reflect on their experience."



Photographs: Kids Can Doodle, 2017

About the Program

Kids Can Doodle has 3 PDG classrooms in the Washington Elementary School District. Their mission is to provide a safe environment to help the whole child develop, give children the opportunity to learn with appropriate materials, scaffold their levels of development, and work with families to help children develop a love for learning.

As Director Homi explains, "Being part of PDG is a great addition to our program. It gives children who are at risk in our neighborhood a chance to participate in a quality program therefore preparing them for school and giving them tools to have a better chance of being successful in Kindergarten." For more information: (602) 347-9866.

Ask Alma!

Alma Quintana is an ECE Program Specialist and the ECE PDG Administrator for the Arizona Department of Education



Q: Is there a difference between an Educational Attainment Plan and a professional development growth plan or are they one and the same?

A: Yes. The Education Attainment Plan is for all staff whom do not meet the PDG qualifications for instructional staff. ADE is asking all programs that currently have lead teachers without a bachelor's degree to fill out an Education Attainment Plan. The Professional Development Growth Plan is for data purposes. The goal is for program administrators to create a plan, based on individual staff needs, so to have all staff fill out a Professional Development Growth Plan and for administrators to look at the trends so that a comprehensive professional development plan can be created based on the data found.

Q: Can PDG funds be used for out of state travel such as attending conferences?

A: No, PDG funds may only be used for ADE professional development.

Q: Can programs use PDG funds to advertise free preschool at our preschool program?

A: Programs may conduct outreach to families for the PDG, provided within the local program. Examples of outreach include flyers, newspaper ads, and banners. Banners may use wording such as “Preschool Opportunities for eligible 4 year olds” on a banner to advertise to families and the surrounding community.

Do you have a PDG-related question? We are happy to help!

Send your inquiries to PDG@azed.gov

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ECE Program Specialist	High Needs Community (HNC)	Monitoring	Counties
Alma Quintana 602-364-1910 Alma.Quintana@azed.gov	Avondale Tolleson Littleton Paloma Riverside	Gila Bend, Littleton, Morristown, Nadaburg, Phoenix El	Maricopa County: Aguila, Arlington, Avondale, Buckeye, Dysart, Gila Bend, Isaac, Laveen, Liberty, Litchfield, Littleton, Madison, Mobile, Morristown, Murphy, Nadaburg, Palo Verde, Paloma, Phoenix, Riverside, Tolleson, Union, Saddle Mountain, Sentinel, Wickenburg
Erika Argueta 602-542-3160 Erika.Argueta@azed.gov	Gadsden/ San Luis Crane Somerton	Kingman, Valentine, Wellton, Yuma, Yucca	La Paz County: Bouse, Parker, Quartzsite, Salome, Wenden Pima County: Ajo Yuma County: Crane, Gadsden, Hyder, Mohawk Valley, Somerton, Wellton, Yuma Mohave County: Bullhead City, Hackberry, Kingman, Lake Havasu, Mohave Valley, Owens, Topock, Valentine, Yucca, Littlefield, Peach Springs, and Colorado City

ECE Program Specialist	High Needs Community (HNC)	Monitoring	Counties
Elizabeth Hamilton 602-364-1948 Elizabeth.Hamilton@azed.gov	Fowler Glendale Pendergast Stanfield	Blue Ridge, Florence, Fowler, Picacho El, Red Rock, Stanfield	Navajo County: Blue Ridge, Heber-Overgaard, Holbrook, Joseph City, Show Low, Snowflake, Whiteriver, Winslow Maricopa County: Fowler, Glendale, Pendergast, Pinal County: Eloy, Picacho, Ray, Red Rock, Superior, Toltec, Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Florence, J. O. Combs, Maricopa, Sacaton, Stanfield
Juliana Panqueva 602-542-8812 Juliana.Panqueva@azed.gov	Fiscal Support	Fiscal Support	Fiscal Support
Lori Masseur 602-542-3136 Lori.Masseur@azed.gov	Alhambra Wilson Osborn	Alhambra, Kayenta, Round Valley, Vernon	Apache County: Alpine, Chinle, Concho, Ganado, McNary, Red Mesa, Round Valley, Sanders, St. Johns, Vernon, Window Rock Coconino County: Chevelon Butte, Coconino County Accommodation, Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Maine Consolidated, Page, Tuba City, Williams and Fredonia Navajo County: Cedar, Kayenta, Pinon Maricopa County: Alhambra, Wilson, Osborn
Ariana Lopez 602-542-4615 Ariana.lopez@azed.gov	Douglas Willcox Santa Cruz	Cochise, Naco, Nogales, San Simon, Sonoita	Cochise County: Apache, Ash Creek, Benson, Bisbee, Bowie, Cochise, Double Adobe, Douglas, Elfrida, Fort Huachuca, McNeal, Naco, Palominas, Pearce, Pomerene, San Simon, Sierra Vista, St. David, Tombstone, Willcox Santa Cruz County: Nogales, Patagonia, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Valley, Sonoita
TBD 602-542-1137 Terry.Doolan@azed.gov	Kinder Kollege		Maricopa County: Kinder Kollege

ECE Program Specialist	High Needs Community (HNC)	Monitoring	Counties
Millie Archer 602-364-1966 Millie.Archer@azed.gov	Sunnyside Flowing Wells Tucson Uni- fied	Empire, Oracle, Pima, Solomon, Tanque Verde, Thatcher	Pima County: Altar Valley, Amphitheater, Baboquivari, Catalina Foothills, Continental, Empire, Flowing Wells, Marana, Pima Accommodation, Redington, Sahuarita, San Fernando, Sunnyside, Tanque Verde, Tucson, Vail Graham County: Bonita, Fort Thomas, Graham County Special Services, Klondyke, Pima, Safford, Solomon, Thatcher Pinal County: Mammoth-San Manuel, Oracle
Sas Jakeo-Singer 602-542-3183 Sas.Jakeo-Singer@azed.gov	Creighton Balsz Tempe	Chandler, Paradise Valley, Payson, San Carlos, Scottsdale	Gila County: Gila County Regional, Globe, Hayden-Winkelman, Miami, Payson, Pine Strawberry, San Carlos, Tonto Basin, Young Maricopa County: Chandler, Creighton, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Higley, Kyrene, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, Tempe Greenlee County: Blue, Clifton, Duncan, Eagle, Greenlee County Accommodation, Morenci
Eric Bucher 602-542-3143 Eric.Bucher@azed.gov	Washington Peoria Cartwright Deer Valley	Ash Fork Joint, Canon, Cartwright, Crown King, Hillside, Mayer, Seligman, Yarnell	Maricopa County: (North) Cartwright, Cave Creek, Deer Valley, Peoria, Washington Yavapai County: Ash Fork Joint, Bagdad, Beaver Creek, Camp Verde, Canon, Chino Valley, Clarkdale-Jerome, Congress, Cottonwood-Oak Creek, Crown King, Hillside, Humboldt, Kirkland, Mayer, Prescott, Sedona-Oak Creek, Seligman, Skull Valley, Walnut Grove, Williamson Valley, Yarnell

A Note About Contacting ADE ECE Specialists:

Although ADE ECE Program Specialists are assigned to specific geographic locations throughout Arizona, please do not hesitate to contact any available Specialist when calling or emailing with questions. If your designated specialist for your area is unavailable, feel free to reach out to another ADE ECE Specialist as they are all equally knowledgeable and eager to assist.

Thank you!



Diane Douglas
State Superintendent of Public
Instruction