



Early Childhood Education



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

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.

In Case You Missed It...

Last November, the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), published the Self-Regulation and Toxic Stress Report 4: Implications for Programs and Practice. The report was the fourth and final in OPRE's series on self-regulation and what a great series it has been! To access the full report, go to [OPRE Report](#). Here are my two takeaways from this timely resource:

Context matters. Self-regulation supports and interventions should match the student and the context in which she/he lives. As it is with many other things, it comes down to doing the right thing, at the right time, with the right supports, for the right reasons.

Even adults need support. It is particularly important for staff (support, instructional, administrative) to receive training and professional development on self-regulation. Rather than assume all adults are equipped to adequately support children in the development of self-regulation, an intentional effort should be made to ensure teachers understand self-regulation, demonstrate it, and can teach it.

The Early Childhood Unit, along with the K-12 Standards Unit, is collaborating on ways to support social emotional development, including self-regulation, from birth through grade 12. National and local resources like this will be used to provide the underpinning of our work. Stay tuned!

Nicol

Nicol Russell

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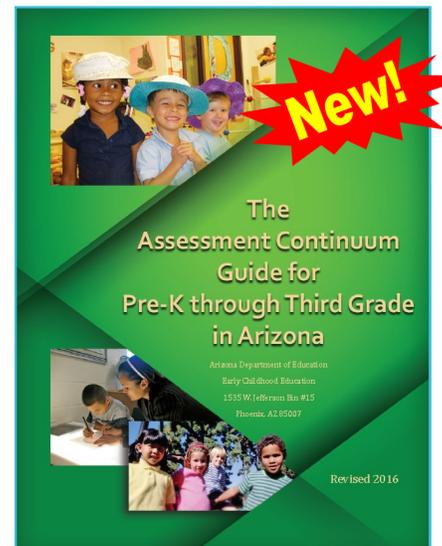
Early Childhood Online Module in Executive Functioning

Executive function skills are key to managing one's self and one's resources in order to achieve short-term and long-term goals. Adults can help children strengthen their executive function skills by providing an engaging environment that encourages independent exploration and creativity.

Expand your knowledge about executive functioning in early childhood education through the Washington Department of Early Learning's new online module. Topics covered in the module include Developing Executive Function, Your Role as an Adult Caregiver, and Examples of Executive Function. This module is free and available online at [Executive Function Module](#).

Learn more about how to recognize executive function skills in children by viewing the "Approaches to Learning" tab in the [Arizona Early Learning Standards 3rd Edition](#).

Click to access



Let's
RECAP

In case you missed it: Read about the [2016 Accomplishments](#) of the Office of Early Childhood Development at the Administration for Children and Families!

Resources

[Arizona Early Learning Standards](#)
[ECQUIP Manual](#)

[HELP Manual](#)

[Early Literacy Guide for Families](#)

[Arizona's School Readiness Framework](#)



“Better Together”

Early Childhood Special Education Summit



February 16-17, 2017 • 9:00am-4:30pm

Glendale Civic Center

5750 W Glenn Dr. Glendale, AZ 85301

Cost: \$145.00/person

There is still time to register for the Arizona Department of Education’s 2nd Annual Early Childhood Special Education Summit! All early childhood educators are encouraged to attend. The title of this year’s summit is “Better Together” emphasizing the need to connect, collaborate, and co-create systems designed to build quality early childhood experiences. Children with disabilities need high quality inclusive settings in order to reach their full potential.

[Register Here!](#)

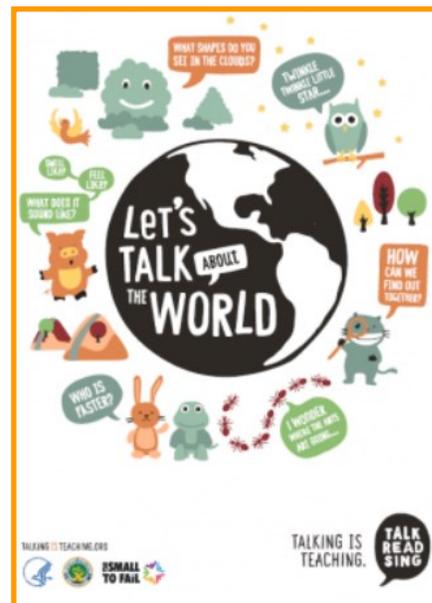
Let’s Talk, Sing, and Read about STEM!

Too Small to Fail, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education, is offering families and educators a set of early STEM resources to support STEM in early learning. By using strategies outlined in the tip sheets for [families](#), [infant/toddler teachers](#), [preschool teachers](#) and the “[Let’s Talk About the World](#)” poster, everyday moments can become learning opportunities for children in terms of exploration and discovery!

Source:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/eed/learning-about-stem>

Click to access



On the Path to Inclusion

Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood Education

Click to enlarge



Director of inclusion at KinderCare, Kate Jordan-Downs, takes readers on a journey through the evolution of inclusion throughout history and in her classroom in her article, [A Journey Toward Inclusion](#). Jordan-Downs highlights the importance of inclusion by citing the joint [policy statement on inclusion](#) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education. A “spirit of inclusion rather than exclusion” was the driving factor in the authors passion and continued dedication to implementing inclusive education as she tired of seeing children turned away from classrooms for looking, speaking, and behaving differently than peers.

The author goes on to speak of the barriers to the practice of inclusion such as scare resources and specialized training, continued use of inappropriate disciplinary practices (such as suspensions and expulsions), and, often overlooked, ineffective attitudes of educators and administrators. While barriers exist, so do winding pathways to achieving goals. When educators are strategic with resources, purposeful in interactions with families, and collaborative and relentless in their efforts, Jordan-Downs explains how the dream of inclusive education for all children can be realized.

ADE ECE presents:

2017 Early Childhood Summit

June 21-23, 2017

Westward Look • 245 E. Ina Rd. • Tucson, AZ
85704

Details coming soon!

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

ADE Early Childhood Education Professional Development Update

Lauren Zbyszinski,

ECE Director of Professional Learning and Sustainability

I hope you all are having a wonderful 2016-2017 school year. I am excited to share with you some of the professional learning updates from the Early Childhood Education unit. First, we have concluded a full revision of each module of the *Arizona Early Learning Standards 3rd Edition*. In addition to including current research, updated strategies, and a connection to Arizona's K-12 standards, each of the eight modules (*Social-Emotional Development, Approaches to Learning, Language & Literacy Development, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Development, and Fine Arts*) are now 4 hours in length. In addition to revising the standard trainings, our staff is working diligently at revising accompanying two-hour sessions. Through this work, our professional development opportunities will now provide sessions that build on each other to allow each of you to develop your professional learning pathways.

It is also exciting to announce that all Introduction trainings (*Introduction to the Early Learning Standards, Introduction to the Infant and Toddler Developmental Guidelines, and Introduction to the High Quality Program Guidelines: Birth through Kindergarten*) are all available as webinars! Please visit our [EMS website](#) to find these trainings.

As we continue in our efforts to provide you with a robust professional learning experience, we are also progressing in our work to connect the ADE professional learning opportunities to the [Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry](#). Please keep watch for an announcement of this completion soon!

The exceptional work of supporting kindergarten teachers continues through our partnership with the Alesi Group and the professional learning opportunities of the [Kindergarten Experience](#). I invite our kindergarten teachers to visit their website to see upcoming events and PD opportunities.

I am truly excited for this year and for the initiatives and work the ECE unit is completing. I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming events!

Transforming the AZELS Science Standard into an Engaging Investigation Station

Highlighting a High Quality Special Education Preschool Program

Eric Bucher, ADE ECE Program Specialist



Photographs: Cartwright ESD, 2017

Colleen Harvey is an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher in Cartwright Elementary School District serving young children with special needs and their families.

Colleen attended ADE's *Science Standard Module* workshop to strengthen her professional skills in supporting children's scientific thinking and approaches to learning skills such as curiosity. She discovered, "My understanding and learning is increasing in the area of science. Young children... love to explore, question and investigate when given the opportunity." Having constructed a deeper understanding of science for young children, she decided to take action!

To support inquiry-based learning in her classroom, Colleen took initiative to set up a unique science investigation station for children outdoors where she intentionally provides ample opportunities for children to engage with interesting, quality materials during small group active investigation time. "I chose to offer several science materials outside my classroom to give the children an opportunity to investigate the items more closely," she explains. "The children have been using binoculars and magnifying glasses to more closely examine the snake, the lizard, the spider and other items. They are using magnetic wands to see which items *stick* and which do not. The children use the measuring items in the sensory table to measure and compare bird seed, to touch and decide if it is hard or soft, and watch it fall through the strainer."

In this space, teaching staff investigate the materials alongside children and promote communication and cognition skills by asking open-ended questions and responding to the children's observations. Colleen remarks, "This has been a wonderful experience for the children and for me."

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Interested in Learning More about Developmentally Appropriate Preschool Science?

Participate in the ADE Science Standard Module. Register for upcoming workshops at [EMS Website](#) or contact your regional ADE ECE Program Specialist (see pages 8-10).

Set up a dedicated science space with a table, chairs, and a shelf or two and include interesting developmentally appropriate materials for investigation such as:

- ⇒ A sensory bin with smooth and rough rocks, fabrics, pine cones, or other appealing textured objects
- ⇒ Tools to discover more about the materials like magnifying glasses, a light table, or a scale

Journals, clipboards with paper, pencils, writing utensils, and other materials for children to note and record their observations

Research more possibilities in an article based on current research and best practices:

Infants and Toddlers: “Beyond Bouncing the Ball” by Bucher & Hernandez

Preschoolers: “Science is in the Air” by Bosse et. al

PreK-3: “Promoting Children's Science Inquiry and Learning Through Water Investigations” by Hoisington et. al



Photographs: Cartwright ESD, 2017

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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
Juliana Panqueva 602-542-8812 Juliana.Panqueva@azed.gov	Fiscal Support	Fiscal Support	Fiscal Support

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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
TBD 602-542-1102	Roosevelt	Roosevelt	Maricopa County: Roosevelt
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

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

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