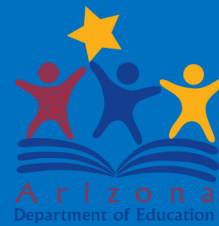




Arizona Department of Education Early Childhood Education



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 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.

Hello Early Childhood Colleagues!

Another school year has come to an end and there is much to recap! During the last school year, 6142 individuals participated in the 368 professional development opportunities that were offered by the Early Childhood Education team.

I want to congratulate the ECE team who wrote and received 80 million dollars for the Preschool Development Grant. This was not an easy task but they are a committed and professional group that is devoted to doing what is best for Arizona's youngest learners. Although this opportunity was not afforded to every high needs community in Arizona, we hope to leverage the success of this grant implementation in future years. You can find additional information here: <http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/preschool-development-grant/>

This past school year the ECE team finalized the School Readiness Framework. This is the culmination of two years of statewide work from numerous professionals committed to driving a shared understanding of the comprehensiveness of school readiness. More information about the School Readiness Framework can be found on page 2. I hope you are able to join us for the launching of the framework at the School Readiness Summit in June. This is an opportunity for ECQUIP teams, preschool and Kindergarten partners and, of course, leadership.

I would like to make note of our continued relationship with Teaching Strategies as the publisher of the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment. This summer, the ECE staff will be reviewing and revising professional development modules to intentionally link effective instruction and environments to assessment. ADE is also working with partners to create ECE guidance documents and tools to assist with implementation of a variety of assessments for preschool through kindergarten. The ECE team is looking for K-3 programs that are interested in piloting formative assessment in elementary classrooms. If interested in applying to be a part of this pilot, follow this link to our website. <http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/formative-assessment-pilot-for-primary-teachers/>

Please keep in touch this summer by monitoring the ADE/ECE web-page for new items and information!

- Amy

⇒ **Completion Reports** will be live July 1, 2015 and due September 30, 2015

⇒ Next **Gold Checkpoints** are:

- October 25, 2015
- February 5, 2016
- May 27, 2016
- July 31, 2016



Early
Literacy



*Access Early
Literacy Resources in
3 easy steps!*

1

*Visit our webpage at
[www.azed.gov/early-
childhood/](http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/)*

2

*Click the image you
see above on the right
hand menu*

3

*Click on the links to
download helpful
publications and
listen to webinars*

Certification changes

To view the Certification Changes related to Early Childhood Education, please click [here](#) . These revisions are effective April 27th, 2015.

To view the Reciprocal Extension Form, please click [here](#). These revisions are effective May 4th, 2015.

Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Position Statement

Leadership in Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education

Promoting high-quality leadership at all levels of the early
intervention / early childhood special education service systems

To view the Position Statement, click [http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/
files/2015/05/ldrshppositionstatement_final_mar-2015-111.pdf](http://www.azed.gov/early-childhood/files/2015/05/ldrshppositionstatement_final_mar-2015-111.pdf)

Arizona's School Readiness Framework

In Early 2015, the Early Childhood Unit proudly presented Arizona's School Readiness Framework (ASRF) to the public. Over 2 years and countless collaborations later, Arizona has adopted a comprehensive approach to describing what readiness looks like for young children entering kindergarten. In seeking a common definition of school readiness, the description of school readiness used in the ASRF emphasizes both the knowledge and attributes children need in order to attend to rigorous curriculum presented in the classroom. To view Arizona's School Readiness Framework online, click the icon below.

Resources

[Arizona Early Learning Standards
ECQUIP Manual](#)
[HELP Manual](#)
[Early Literacy Guide for Families](#)
[Summer Reading](#)
[Read On Arizona](#)

Arizona's School Readiness Framework



Training to be
Provided by
STAR® Autism
Support



Application Questions?

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You are invited!

Those interested may apply to participate in an innovative project during the 2015 - 2016 school year designed to increase early childhood/K-3 school district teams' capacity to work effectively with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) during the critical years of brain and behavior development.

Applications will be reviewed by an ADE internal committee. Criteria to be considered are: submission date, geographical location, number of students with ASD, number of students with ASD being served, and demonstrated needs. Districts are encouraged to apply even if they were previously part of the project as an Early Childhood Team.

The STAR Program is a comprehensive behavioral program that incorporates the applied behavior analysis strategies of: Discrete Trial Training, Pivotal Response Training and Teaching Functional Routines. STAR also promotes the use of positive behavior interventions, environmental supports (visual supports, visual schedules, etc.) in inclusive and self-contained settings.

- ⇒ **Participants will consist of up to 10 members from Local Education Agency teams**
- ⇒ **We are excited to continue to expand this opportunity in learning communities. Last year, we held cohorts with grades Pre-K to Grade 3; this year we are moving up to middle school and high school!**
- ⇒ **Applications can be found on our webpage by clicking [HERE](#)**

Did you know: Open-Ended Questions Encourage Creative and Critical Thinking!

A 30 million word gap exists between 3 year olds of low income families and those 3 year olds of high income households. Studies show that the amount of words children are exposed to well before kindergarten is directly related to this gap. Provided by the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), as part of their partnership with [Clinton Global Initiative](#) Commitment to Action, "Take Time. Talk!" is an instrument to assist parents and those caring for children take part in giving children the words they need. Positive, open-ended conversations bolster vocabulary skills of some of our youngest learners, those ages 0-5.

The tool is **FREE** and is available in both English and Spanish.

["Take Time. Talk!" in English](#)

["Take Time. Talk!" in Spanish](#)

**Take Time.
Talk!**

Giving
Children
the Words
They Need.



A poem inspired by Approaches to Learning

Energy

The energy of a child
Is a beautiful thing.
Let them use it wisely-
Channel it,
Encourage it,
Let it grow
into creativity !

Things of beauty
you will see,
as you let these children
be free,
to explore
build and learn.
Let go and let them
do it!
They will love you forever
for it!

Rex Hoyt

February 27th, 2015

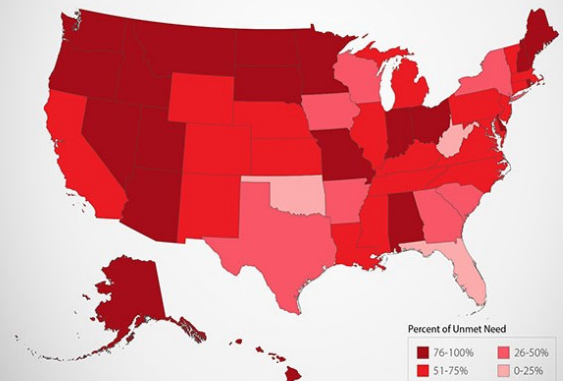
Unmet Need for High Quality Early Education

High-quality early education lays the successful foundation on the path to becoming school ready. Regrettably, not all children in the U.S. have equal access to the high-quality early learning. In fact, 60 percent of four-year-olds are not enrolled in preschool programs that are funded publicly.

The school readiness gap that exists between children from low income and high income families can only be closed through new investments in high-quality early education. To view the U.S. Department of Education's report that outlines the need for high-quality early education in America, click [here](#).

Early Learning Unmet Need

More than 2.5 million four-year-olds don't have access to publicly funded preschool programs



Source: National Institute for Early Education Research (2013). The State of Preschool 2013. State Preschool Yearbook.

Teachers' Institute

Aiming for Greatness

This two-day conference, hosted by the Arizona Department of Education, is tailored to the needs of both general education and special education teachers. National and Arizona educators will be featured at the Institute and breakout sessions will be relevant to both general education and special education teachers. Some sessions will be aligned to topics addressed at the Leading Change Conference for Administrators but focused on classroom application.

Sessions will be divided into six Strands with various topics being presented within each strand. The six strands are:

- Behavior/Classroom Culture
- Instructional Planning & Resources
- Teacher Leadership
- Assessment Systems & Data Literacy
- Special Topics
- Standards and Content

For more information and to register please visit <http://www.azed.gov/teachers-institute/>

Teachers' Institute

July 9-10, 2015






8:00am-4:00pm

Glendale Renaissance Hotel

9495 W. Coyotes Blvd.

Glendale, AZ 85305

Target Audience

-  Special and General Education Teachers Preschool to Grade 12
-  Teacher Leaders
-  Instructional Coaches
-  Related Service Providers
-  ELL Teachers

School Readiness Summit

June 11-13, 2015

Sheraton Mesa Hotel

860 N. Riverview, Mesa, Arizona 85201

This 3 day professional development opportunity targets professionals working within settings that support the early part of the educational continuum. Key features of the Summit include the recently completed Arizona's School Readiness Framework document and the opportunity to engage with other educational professionals around Arizona to establish a common definition of school readiness across the state. There will be a heavy focus on children's Approaches to Learning in regards to the Pre-K through kindergarten experience. Sessions will be centered on:

- ⇒ Effective Instructional Strategies
- ⇒ Analyzing key components of the learning standards
- ⇒ Engaging participants in hands-on experiences
- ⇒ Understanding the educator's role in the inquiry process
- ⇒ Discussing the continuum of early learning
- ⇒ Identifying educator roles in helping children become school ready and achieve academically



Great for Pre-K and Kindergarten Teachers, Administrators, Paraprofessionals, Curriculum Specialists, and Instructional Coaches

To register, click <http://www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration/EventLocationSelection.asp?EventID=4124>

Block Room Rate of \$81.00/night is available. Book your room [HERE](#)

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

This month and throughout the year, all individuals and organizations are encouraged to play a role in creating a safe and nurturing environment for children and families. When parents are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to care for their children, maltreatment of children can be prevented and healthy social and emotional well-being of children and families is promoted. Click on any of the resources below to learn more:

[Making Meaningful Connections: 2015 Prevention Resource Guide](#)

[Parenting a Child Who Has Experienced Abuse or Neglect](#)

[Protective Factors Approaches in Child Welfare](#)

[CBCAP Prevention Video Success Stories](#)

For more information specific to preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect, visit the [2015 National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#) website.



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Bend, Laveen, Liberty, Littleton, Mobile, Murphy,
Palo Verde, Paloma, Phoenix, Riverside, Union,
Roosevelt, Saddle Mountain, Sentinel, Tolleson,
Wilson

Pima County(West – Ajo)

Yuma County

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Isaac, Litchfield, Madison, Morristown,
Nadaburg, Osborn, Pendergast, Peoria,
Washington, Wickenburg
Yavapai County