

R E A C H

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



October 2019



You're here for Delaware's children and families.
We're here for YOU!



Science Everywhere! Upcoming Kent and Sussex Counties Workshops

Science is one of the most important subjects a young child can learn because it fits perfectly with a child's natural curiosity, asking the "why." Learning these skills help children to generate ideas, make decisions, and use evidence to understand important questions.

DIEEC Professional Development has a full offering of science workshops. We are



West End Neighborhood House

A School-Age Program with Quality at its Center

West End Neighborhood House has been improving the lives of an ethnically, economically, and culturally diverse community since 1883. In 2016, the agency served over 10,000 individuals, and that number continues to grow, partly because of the outreach to students, ages 5 through 12, in the before- and after- care program and the full-day summer camp program.

excited to announce we've added more in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Be sure to register for these upcoming workshops at

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

Sussex (Adams State Service Center):

- **October 15, 6:30–8:30 Healthy Together**
- **April 9, 5:30–8:30 Seeing Science Everywhere: Seasons & Weather**

Dover (Blue Hen Corporate Center):

- **November 18, 5:30–8:30 Seeing Science Everywhere: Seasons & Weather**
- **March 11, 6:30–8:30 Healthy Together**

On-Site Training Fee Update

We are pleased to announce that effective immediately the fee for on-site trainings will be a flat \$200 for three hours.

More information on on-site trainings and how to request are available at

<https://dieecpd.org/onsite-training>



Meet the Voice of DIEEC Tara Horwitz - "How can I help you?"

If you have ever called the Institute, you surely were greeted by the kind voice of Tara

West End Neighborhood House is a Star Level 3 program that is actively working toward its Star Level 4. Before care begins at 6:00 a.m. and after care ends at 6:00 p.m. The more than 30 children in these programs come from far and wide - two school districts and three Charter schools. The program focuses exclusively on school-age children.

"We are always looking for ways to get better," said Lynnea Chapman-Woody, child care coordinator. "The time the children spend with us is critical in getting their day off to a good start and to provide learning support through various activities."

Activities include field trips, sports, technology, arts and crafts, and academic enrichment. During the school year, the program implements a supplemental curriculum called AI's Pals which is focused on developing children's social-emotional skills, problem-solving abilities, and healthy decision making.

"The success of these activities is made possible because of our passionate staff," said Kimura Anderson, program director. "Our four classrooms are supported by very committed teachers."

Both Lynnea and Kimura credit Stars for helping them support their teachers by providing structure and fresh ideas. "Working with Stars gives us new eyes," added Lynnea.

In addition to a school-age program, West End Neighborhood House offers a full-day summer camp program which includes educational programming, a reading curriculum in conjunction with University of Delaware, weekly field trips and a robust technology program to include coding, access to Chrome books, and Microsoft training.

The quality of the camp is getting the attention of surrounding communities. In one year, the number of children registered increased from 12 to 115. Quality clearly has a room at the West End Neighborhood House.

Horwitz. Tara, an administrative assistant on our staff, answers our general phone number and is the gatekeeper for all questions and concerns from early care and education professionals.

Tara spends a large part of her day helping with log-in problems and questions with our website, workshop questions, workshop registration, and payments for registration of workshops. She also does follow-up by emailing workshop reminders as well as preparing workshop materials for instructors.

"My focus is to make sure the workshops are great for providers," said Tara. "From the first point of contact with us on the phone, to attending the training, I want to deliver the best customer experience."

When Tara is not working, she loves spending time with her twelve-year old son and her scruffy dog Ben. She also is an artist and enjoys drawing and painting. Finally, she is diligent about fitness and keeps her fellow staff members "on their toes" about getting in their steps!

Professional Development Planning

What are your learning goals?

Our trainings build on one another to increase your knowledge in a particular area or competency. By going to our website, <https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar/competencies> you can see all the different workshops offered to support a competency and then select based on your goals.

This is a starting point to develop a professional development plan. A plan will help keep you accountable to your goals.

To facilitate planning, we have provided training by county for the next couple of months.

Curriculum Professional Development Day - Coming Spring 2020

We need your feedback!

We are excited to share that we are working on a full-day, quality assured professional development event to support curricula this upcoming spring. The objective of the training is to support you with your understanding of curriculum.

As we begin to plan, we want to be sure the content reflects what your needs are related to this broad topic. Therefore, to help us better design the day, please take a few minutes to complete this survey at

<https://bit.ly/2MsQinY>

Stay tuned for more details!

Stars Resources

Curriculum & Assessment (C&A)

Technical Assistants

Stars has a team of C&A Technical Assistants who are available to support you in all aspects of curriculum and assessment.

More details are included at <https://bit.ly/2IyLU5R>

Contact Jen Potts at 302-463-8128 or jpotts@udel.edu

Delaware Approved Comprehensive Curricula List is available at

<https://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/curriculum-and-assessment/>

Sussex County, Kent County, New Castle County are attached to this publication.

Delaware Institute of Excellence for Early Childhood (DIEEC) Office Hours

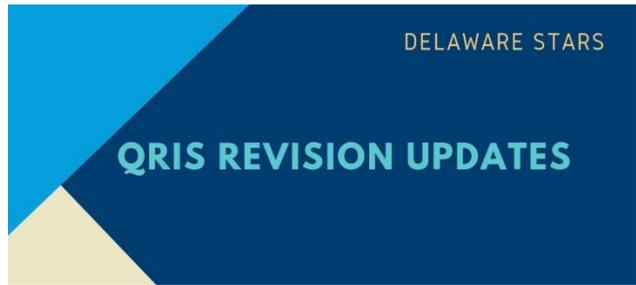
Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. We are here to support you!

Monday - Friday 8-4:30 p.m.

Contact us at 302-831-3239 or by email Institute-Early-Childhood@udel.edu.

Be sure to leave as many details as possible so we can be responsive to your needs. Please allow us two business days to respond to your inquiry.

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



QRIS Revision Updates

QRIS Revision Advisory Committee

The QRIS Revision advisory committee met at the end of August to review goals and proposed outcomes for the revision process. The committee also began drafting a theory of change for the revised Delaware Stars.

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) has formed three subcommittees by environment (family child care, center-based care, and school-age only care). The subcommittees will be meeting in the next several weeks to review existing Delaware Stars standards and make recommendations.

We appreciate the strong interest from the field in participating on these subcommittees. The QRIS Revision advisory team will be meeting again in late October to review the work from the subcommittees.

QRIS Information Meetings

Following the recent statewide QRIS Information Meetings, the Office of Early Learning released this the summary report of the information collected. The report is available at the end of this publication. If you have any questions please email John Fisher-Klein, john.fisher-klein@doe.k12.de.us.

Ages and Stages Developmental Screening - News and Updates

Professional Development Training Available

"Introduction to the Ages & Stages Questionnaires-Developmental Screening Tools" is back on the DIEEC training calendar after a brief absence during the summer.

This training for ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 focuses on the importance of developmental screening, exploring the

ASQ tools, translating the results, and integrating families into the process.

Scheduled sessions are on the calendar for October, November & December. These dates include registration details. Additional sessions will be added to the DIEEC calendar through spring 2020 for each county.

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

A limited number of on-site trainings can be arranged upon request by early care and education programs. Contact Andrea Prettyman or call 302-233-6475 or email andrea.prettyman@cffde.org with any questions.

What's New with ASQ?

Included in this publication is an implementation update provided by the Office of Early Learning. As always, if you have any questions please contact Jamie Walko, Jamie.Walko@doe.k12.de.us.



Fall and all its fun!

October and November Calendars

And so it begins...all the fun and festivities associated with fall and then the fast approaching holidays.

To help you make the most of this time of year, we've provided calendars for the next couple of months that include free activities throughout the state. Check out what's available in your area!

Please note more activities have been added to the October calendar.

* October Calendar & November Calendar

*STEAM week was mistakenly included on the last REACH's October Calendar. **National STEAM Day is**

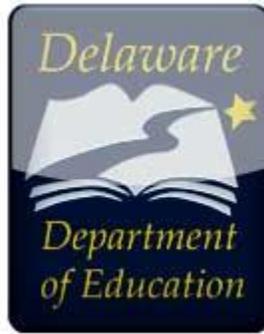
November 8th. Look for STEAM related postings in November on all our social media outlets.

Be Sure to Follow Delaware Stars on Social Media



Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood
Delaware Stars for Early Success
Professional Development Department
Main (302) 831-3239 | Fax (302) 831-4223
Visit PD at www.dieecpd.org
Visit DE Stars at: www.delawarestars.udel.edu





WHAT'S NEW WITH THE ASQ? IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2019

General Update

By now, each Delaware Stars program should have access to their new ASQ account and the link to their corresponding school district and Birth to Three program contacts.

- If your program did not get an email with those links or an email from donotreplybrookes.com to create a new password, it is possible that we have an incorrect email address for your program or you missed the deadline to set up a new password. Please contact Jamie Walko as soon as possible at jamie.walko@doe.k12.de.us in order to gain access to the new links and create your new password.
- It will take up to 2 weeks for the school districts to review your screenings and place them into your "classroom". After 2 weeks, please contact your school district ASQ lead to follow up.
- Seaford school district's account will be set up in early October. Please look for further information at that time.

Key points about stored information:

- You will no longer have access to your original ASQ accounts after Jan. 1, 2020
- If you feel you may need information in your current account after Jan. 1, 2020, you should run reports so that you have hard copies of any information
- If you find that you need information after Jan. 1, 2020 from your old ASQ account, please contact Jamie Walko, who will have access to the data

Current Challenges

The first challenge is that families are not using the correct screening link for their child's age.

Key points on directing parents to the correct link:

- Use the Birth to Three link for parents with children aged birth through 35 months
- Use the school district link for children that have turned three years of age
- The Birth to Three program ends upon the child's third birthday, so it covers birth through the end of age two. If children are screened using the incorrect link, they need to be

manually transferred to the correct school district, which will delay your program's access to the screening results

The second challenge that has occurred is that parents are not entering the name of the program their child attends.

Key Point to remind parents:

- Parents must enter the specific name of program in the child profile field
- There are many programs with very similar names or multiple locations. It would be extremely helpful if you listed your exact program name on the invitation letter so that parents know what to type.
- If the program name is not accurate (such as simply Head Start, TLK, Telamon, etc.), it will require back and forth communication to address this, which will affect the timeliness of access to your screening records

Thank You

The Office of Early Learning is committed to working with Delaware Stars programs as it implements this new process which will allow us all to achieve our goal of providing a developmental screening to all Delaware children age birth to five. Thank you for your patience.

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

New Castle County

October 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
10/08/2019 06:30 pm 10/10/2019 06:30 pm	Developing Relationships, Developing Brains: Infants and Toddlers	Intermediate CD	4.00	501 South College 501 South College Avenue, Newark	\$18.00
10/14/2019 06:30 pm 11/11/2019 06:30 pm	The Parent Voice: Engaging Families	Intermediate FM	4.00	Claymont Community Center 3301 Green Street, Claymont	\$18.00
10/15/2019 06:30 pm 10/17/2019 06:30 pm	Child Assessment for Administrators: Polishing the Lens	Intermediate OA	6.00	Hudson State Service Center 501 Ogletown Rd., Newark	\$20.00
10/17/2019 05:30 pm	Seeing Science Everywhere: Seasons and Weather	Intermediate CE	3.00	Delaware Museum of Natural History 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington	\$5.00
10/26/2019 09:00 am	Implementing Teaching Strategies Gold	Intermediate OA	6.00	University of Delaware - Downtown Center 13 East 8th Street, Wilmington	\$20.00
10/28/2019 06:30 pm	Intergrating the Early Learning Foundation (ELF's) & Daily Experience	Intro CE	3.00	501 South College 501 South College Avenue, Newark	\$15.00
10/29/2019 05:30 pm	Seeing Science Everywhere: Habitats and Animals	Intermediate CE	3.00	Delaware Museum of Natural History 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington	\$5.00
10/29/2019 06:30 pm	Introduction to the Ages & Stages Questionnaires-Developmental Screening Tools (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2)	Intro OA	3.00	State Police Troop #2 100 Langrange Avenue, Newark	\$0.00

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

New Castle County

November 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
11/02/2019 09:00 am	Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice	Intro OA	6.00	501 South College 501 South College Avenue, Newark	\$20.00
11/07/2019 06:00 pm	Healthy Together: Teaching Nutrition and Healthy Living to Preschool Children	Intermediate HS	2.00	Delaware Museum of Natural History 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington	\$5.00
11/09/2019 09:00 am	Flip It: Flipping the Challenging Behavior	Intermediate SE	6.00	University of Delaware Downtown Center 13 East 8th St, Wilmington	\$20.00
11/12/2019 05:30 pm	Seeing Science Everywhere: How We Grow	Intermediate CE	3.00	Delaware Museum of Natural History 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington	\$5.00
11/16/2019 09:30 am	Introduction to the Ages & Stages Questionnaires- Developmental Screening Tools (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2)	Intro OA	3.00	State Police Troop #2 100 Langrange Avenue, Newark	\$0.00
11/19/2019 06:30 pm	Math 1,2,3: Understanding Children's Math Development	Intro CE	3.00	501 South College 501 South College Avenue, Newark	\$10.00
11/20/2019 06:00 pm 12/04/2019 06:00 pm	Science Up: Birds and Bugs	Intro CE	4.00	Delaware Museum of Natural History 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington	\$10.00
11/23/2019 09:00 am	Child Assessment for Administrators: Polishing the Lens	Intermediate OA	6.00	501 South College 501 South College Avenue, Newark	\$20.00

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

New Castle County

December 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
12/03/2019 06:30 pm 12/05/2019 06:30 pm	Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice	Intro OA	6.00	501 South College 501 South College Avenue, Newark	\$20.00
12/07/2019 09:00 am	Culturally Responsive Teaching	Intermediate PR	4.00	501 South College 501 South College Avenue, Newark	\$18.00
12/10/2019 06:30 pm	Kindergarten Readiness	Intermediate CE	3.00	501 South College 501 South College Avenue, Newark	\$15.00

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

Kent County

October 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
10/01/2019 06:30 pm 10/03/2019 06:30 pm	Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice	Intro OA	6.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$20.00
10/09/2019 06:30 pm	Intergrating the Early Learning Foundation (ELF's) & Daily Experience	Intro CE	3.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$15.00
10/15/2019 06:30 pm 10/17/2019 06:30 pm	Implementing Teaching Strategies Gold	Intermediate OA	6.00	POLYTECH Adult Education 823 Walnut Shade Rd., Woodside	\$20.00
10/19/2019 09:00 am	Flip It: Flipping the Challenging Behavior	Intermediate SE	6.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$20.00
10/30/2019 06:30 pm 11/04/2019 06:30 pm 11/06/2019 06:30 pm 12/09/2019 06:30 pm 12/11/2019 06:30 pm	Play for Development and Learning PLUS	Advanced CE	10.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$10.00

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

Kent County

November 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
11/05/2019 06:30 pm 11/07/2019 06:30 pm	Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice	Intro OA	6.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$20.00
11/16/2019 09:00 am	Giving Care to the Caregiver: Recognizing Compassion Fatigue and How to Plan for Balance	Intro PR	4.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$18.00
11/18/2019 05:30 pm	Seeing Science Everywhere: Seasons and Weather	Intermediate CE	3.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$15.00

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

Kent County

December 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
12/03/2019 06:30 pm 12/05/2019 06:30 pm	Differences Matter: The Diversity of Gender in the Early Childhood Program	Intermediate CD	4.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$18.00
12/10/2019 06:30 pm 12/12/2019 06:30 pm	Child Assessment for Administrators: Polishing the Lens	Intermediate OA	6.00	DIEEC Dover Office- Blue Hen Mall Corp., Center, Suite 1E 655 Bay Road, Dover	\$20.00

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

Sussex County

October 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
10/01/2019 06:30 pm 10/03/2019 06:30 pm	Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice	Intro OA	6.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$20.00
10/02/2019 06:30 pm	Introduction to the Ages & Stages Questionnaires-Developmental Screening Tools (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2)	Intro OA	3.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$0.00
10/12/2019 09:00 am	FCC Business Practices 2: Contracts and Policies	Intermediate MA	2.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$10.00
10/15/2019 06:30 pm	Healthy Together: Teaching Nutrition and Healthy Living to Preschool Children	Intermediate HS	2.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$15.00
10/22/2019 06:30 pm	Introduction to the Ages & Stages Questionnaires-Developmental Screening Tools (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2)	Intro OA	3.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$0.00
10/26/2019 09:30 am	Differences Matter: The Diversity of Gender in the Early Childhood Program	Intermediate CD	4.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$18.00

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

Sussex County

November 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
11/02/2019 09:00 am	FCC Business Practices 3: Marketing and Insurance	Intermediate MA	2.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$10.00
11/04/2019 06:30 pm 11/06/2019 06:30 pm	Implementing Teaching Strategies Gold	Intermediate OA	6.00	Sussex Central High School 26026 Patriots Way, Georgetown	\$20.00
11/14/2019 06:30 pm 11/21/2019 06:30 pm	Flip It: Flipping the Challenging Behavior	Intermediate SE	6.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$20.00
11/19/2019 06:30 pm	Introduction to the Ages & Stages Questionnaires- Developmental Screening Tools (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2)	Intro OA	3.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$0.00

DIEEC Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

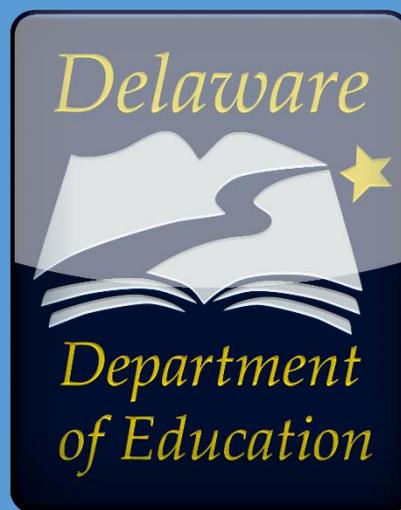
Sussex County

December 2019

Register at: www.dieecpd.org

DATE/TIME	TITLE	LEVEL	HOURS	LOCATION	PRICE
12/02/2019 06:30 pm	Math 1,2,3: Understanding Children's Math Development	Intro CE	3.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$10.00
12/03/2019 06:30 pm 12/05/2019 06:30 pm	Child Assessment for Administrators: Polishing the Lens	Intermediate OA	6.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$20.00
12/07/2019 09:00 am	Child Assessment for Teachers: The Power of Practice	Intro OA	6.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$20.00
12/12/2019 06:30 pm 12/16/2019 06:30 pm	Culturally Responsive Teaching	Intermediate PR	4.00	Adams State Service Center 546 S. Bedford St., Georgetown	\$18.00

DELAWARE STARS FOR EARLY SUCCESS: REVISION REPORT 2



John Fisher-Klein

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Office of Early Learning

September 2019

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Executive Summary

Delaware Stars for Early Success (Stars) is Delaware's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) administered by the Delaware Department of Education. A QRIS is a method to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education and school-age settings. The goal of Delaware Stars is to invest in participating programs in order to increase access to high-quality care for all of Delaware's children, especially those from low-income families.

Beginning in August 2019, the Delaware Department of Education's (DDOE) Office of Early Learning (OEL) conducted six information sessions throughout Delaware, at which a draft proposal for structural changes to Delaware Stars was shared and discussed. The draft proposal illustrated a hybrid system with building blocks at Star Levels One, Two, and Three, and points at Star Levels Four and Five. Each level emphasizes a different focus. At Star Level One, the focus is Health and Safety. At Star Level Two, the focus is on Leadership and Administration. At Star Level Three, the focus is on Environment. At Star Level Four, the focus is on interactions. At Star Level Five, the focus is on intentional teaching.

Discussion focused on:

- The proposed ordering of the foci
- Items, beyond licensing regulations, that should be verified at Star Level one
- The identification of "leaders" in programs and the supports necessary for that group
- The components of quality environments
- The supports needed for positive interactions and intentional teaching practices

Background

OEL is the state entity that manages Delaware Stars. The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) at the University of Delaware implements the program and handles day-to-day activities, including providing technical assistance, assessment and verification of Star levels. Delaware Stars has been in existence for more than 10 years, during which time the system has seen periods of rapid change and growth. Like other systems across the country, Delaware Stars has been shown to improve children's executive functioning and moderately increase growth in other domains. However, room for improvement is evident based on research, anecdotal data and the *Evaluation of Delaware Stars for Early Success* report.

The *Evaluation of Delaware Stars for Early Success* report was completed by the RAND Corporation in 2016. The purpose of this evaluation was to support Delaware in its efforts to design and implement an effective, robust system for measuring and reporting on the quality of early learning and care programs in home and center settings. The evaluation further aimed to inform efforts to improve the quality of programs in ways that are beneficial for participating children and their families. The evaluation of Delaware Stars provided independent, objective, and rigorous empirical evidence of the extent to which rating tiers reflect relevant differences in the quality of home- and center-based providers and documented providers' experience with technical assistance, financial supports, and other QRIS features.

OEL contracted with the RAND Corporation to conduct this independent evaluation of Delaware Stars from June 2013 until the report's release in 2016.

Final recommendations based on the RAND evaluation include:

- OEL should look beyond the findings of any one study for its QRIS and discern the broader findings with relevance for QRIS design and implementation
- OEL should consider a streamlined rating system based on carefully selected measures of the dimensions of quality that matter most to Delaware Stars' ultimate goals
- Providers are generally supportive of technical assistance, but there is room for improvement
- There is opportunity for further marketing of Delaware Stars to families with young children
- Improved data management is warranted (Karoly, Schwartz, Setodji, & Hass, 2016).

The Delaware Stars revision process began in December 2017 with the formation of a committee to guide it. The current committee members are:

- Heidi Beck – Executive Director of New Directions Early Head Start, DIEEC
- Cindy Brown – Education Associate (Part B 619 coordinator), OEL
- Martha Buell – Director, DIEEC
- Veronica Commodore – Director of Professional Development, DIEEC
- Caitlin Gleason – Education Associate, OEL
- Rena Hallam – Principal Investigator of Delaware Stars, DIEEC
- Belvie Herbert – Social Service Senior Administrator, Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)
- Kimberly Krzanowski – Executive Director, OEL
- Lucinda Ross – Executive Director, St. Michael's School and Nursery

- Michelle Shaivitz – Executive Director, Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children
- Kristy Sheffler – Director of Delaware Stars, DIEEC
- Elizabeth G. Timm – Social Services Administrator, Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF)

Information Session Feedback

In order to garner feedback from multiple stakeholders, OEL conducted afternoon and evening information sessions across the state. In all, 210 stakeholders, mostly early learning professionals, attended. Attendees were provided with a graphic (attached) of the draft structure. The draft was presented with the advisory committee's justification for the proposal.

Star Level One: Health and Safety

Keeping children safe and healthy is one of the most important tasks of early childhood educators. Delaware's Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) sets regulations to ensure this task is accomplished. In this draft structure, being licensed is considered evidence of meeting the requirements for Star Level One. Participants were asked if this fits with their idea of quality, and if additional standards (beyond OCCL's regulations) should be included in this block.

Participant feedback was mixed. While some participants expressed comfort with licensing regulations alone being the standard for Star Level One designation, others felt strongly that more should be required for entry into Delaware Stars. Suggestions included:

- Conducting a verification visit (beyond that completed by OCCL) to ensure basic health and safety practices are met
- Requiring developmental screenings
- Adding nutrition standards
- Ensuring "best practice" is covered by OCCL regulations, and adding standards when it is not
- Requiring total compliance with OCCL regulations
- Ensuring standards are aligned with local fire codes
- Ensuring requirements "above the minimum," and looking to the National Association for the Education of Young Children and Head Start as examples.

Star Level Two: Leadership & Administration

Effective leaders and their administrative practices create the foundation for high-quality care and education. In the draft structure presented, Star Level Two includes standards around leadership and administration. This could include items like business practices, staff qualifications, and professional development requirements. Participants were asked to identify who should be categorized as a leader and to share what supports this group will need to be successful.

Participants identified leaders as:

- Teachers
- Coordinators
- Administrators
- Families
- Boards of Directors
- Child care business owners

Participants highlighted a need for support in the following areas:

- Quality assured training

- Online training
- In-person training
- Training cohorts
- Leadership training
- Continued support for and acceptance of credentials
- Flexible closing days supported by Purchase of Care
- Financial assistance for higher education
- Emotional support and encouragement
- Access to health care benefits
- Networking opportunities
- Succession planning
- Greater access to Technical Assistants

Star Level Three: Environment

High-quality environments support children’s learning and development. In the draft structure, Star Level Three emphasizes quality environments. While this level is conceptualized as a block of required standards, it is possible that a tool such as the Environmental Rating Scale or CLASS could be used to determine compliance in this area. Participants were asked to identify the components of high-quality environments. They emphasized:

- Having a variety and sufficient amount of developmentally appropriate materials that are readily available and accessible for children to use
- The need for flexibility based on the physical space being used
- The importance of a “welcoming” space
- Literacy resources
- The importance of teacher to child interactions
- The importance of Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)
- Quality environments are inclusive of all children, regardless of children’s needs
- Emphasizing “how environment is run” over physical space and materials
- The importance of flexibility to meet children’s needs and interests

Star Levels Four and Five: Interactions and Intentional Teaching

Positive interactions between educators and children form high-quality learning experiences. Teaching practices informed by rigorous, authentic assessment and reflection promote child learning. Star Levels Four and Five are conceptualized as points-based. A tool, such as the Environmental Rating Scale or CLASS, will be used to assess programs in this area. Participants were asked what supports are needed to ensure positive interactions and to support intentional teaching practices. They requested:

- Child mental health supports for school age children
- A cohort program for administrators
- Coaching as a follow-up activity for professional development/training
- Support for teachers of children with special needs
- A greater variety of “quality assured” training
- Lower ratios of children to teachers in classrooms
- Additional technical assistance around interactions

- A teacher resource center in New Castle County
- Training specific to measurement tools
- Training specific to curriculum usage
- Expansion of the pool of qualified staff

Conclusions

Overall, stakeholders attending information sessions are embracing the revision process and see value in the proposed structural changes. They continue to seek further alignment among Delaware Stars and the OCCL. Additionally, they desire more interaction with both Delaware Stars staff and peers. While participation by family child care providers was limited, they overwhelmingly support a system that embraces and supports the differences between in-home care and center-based care.

The advisory committee must now revisit the draft structure and address the following concerns, either by adjusting the structure or ensuring to-be-developed standards are addressed:

- To ensure alignment with OCCL while simultaneously building quality, include entrance criteria that adequately addresses health and safety while not being overly burdensome. Specifically, participating programs must ensure at entrance/Delaware Star Level One that appropriate policies and procedures are in place and evidenced by practice to support a safe experience in the early learning setting.
- Stakeholders indicate a great need for support for leaders and administrators. Most support a cohort training model, similar to the Aim4Excellence program previously used in Delaware. It bears noting that issues of workforce development and the availability of qualified staff were raised repeatedly.
- Interactions between teachers and children are of the utmost importance, and must be addressed at all levels of the system. The structure must support the improvement of interactions throughout, not just at Delaware Star Levels Four and Five.

References

Karoly, L.A., Schwartz, H.L., Setodji, C.M., Hass, A.C. (2016). Evaluation of Delaware Stars for Early Success: Final Report. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

October 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<p>1 Preschool Story Time, Bear Library</p> <p>Preschool Story Time, Lewes Lib</p>	<p>2 Kids and Cookies, Appo Library</p> <p>Toddler Tales, Claymont Lib</p> <p>Baby and Me, Dover Library *various dates</p>	<p>3 Toddler Tales, Bear Library</p> <p>Little Learners, Dover Library</p>	<p>4 Rhythm, Rhyme & Story Time, Appo Library</p> <p>Toddler Stay and Play, NCC Library</p>	<p>5 Storytime for families, Brandywine Hundred Lib</p> <p>6th Annual Old-Fashioned Community Carnival, Lewes Lib</p>
6	<p>7 Jitterbugs, Bear Library</p> <p>Mother/Baby Support Group, Christiana Hospital</p>	<p>8 Rhythm, Rhyme & Story Time, Hockessin Lib</p>	<p>9 Parent-Tot Yoga, Rehoboth Lib</p>	<p>10 Book Babies, Kirkwood Library</p> <p>Preschool story time, Kent County Lib</p>	<p>11 Jitterbugs Story, Claymont Library</p>	<p>12 Microsoft Office Basics, Bear Library</p> <p>Microsoft Publisher Basics, Bear Library</p>
13	<p>14 Book Babies, Brandywine Hundred Library</p>	<p>15 Rhythm, Rhyme & Story Time, Kirkwood Lib</p>	<p>16 Sign, Sing and Play, Appo Library</p> <p>Free Blood Pressure Screenings, Rt 9 Lib</p>	<p>17 Preschool Pals, Rehoboth Lib</p> <p>Story! Time, Kent County Lib</p>	<p>18 Book Babies, Appo Library</p> <p>PAGES Art & Literacy Magazine Kickoff, Brandywine Hundred Lib</p>	<p>19 Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Bear Library</p> <p>Black Bird Creek Fall Festival, Townsend</p> <p>Every Woman Matters-- Breast Cancer Health Awareness, Christiana (registration required)</p>
20	<p>21 Book Babies, Brandywine Hundred Lib</p>	<p>22 Crafty Story Time, NCC Library</p>	<p>23 Rhythm, Rhyme and Story Time, Claymont Lib</p> <p>Goosebumps, Family Pizza and a Movie, NCC Lib</p>	<p>24 Preschool Pals, Rehoboth Lib</p>	<p>25 Toddler Stay and Play, NCC Library</p> <p>Pumpkin Carving, NCC Library</p> <p>Downtown Dover Safe Trick or Treat</p>	<p>26 Halloween Hijinx-- Fall Festival, Appo Library *puppet show</p> <p>Introduction to Google Drive, Bear Library</p> <p>Diwali Celebration, Rt9 Lib</p>
<p>27 Halloween Parade & Trick of Treat Main Street</p> <p>Trunk or Treat Peoples Plaza</p>	<p>28 L.E.A.P (Literacy Education Assistance Pups) Lewes Lib</p>	<p>29 Rhythm, Rhyme and Story Time, Kirkwood Lib</p> <p>Preschool Story Time, Lewes Lib</p>	<p>30 Diwali Celebration, Bear Library</p> <p>Not so scary Halloween Party, Brandywine Hundred Lib</p> <p>Halloween Spokebration, Claymont Lib</p> <p>Halloween Parade, NCC</p>	<p>31 Toddler Tales, Bear Library</p> <p>Book Babies, Kirkwood Lib</p>		

November 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<p>1 Rhythm, Rhyme & Story Time, Appo Library</p> <p>Book Babies, Claymont Lib</p> <p>Tot Time, Rehoboth Lib</p>	<p>2 Computer Basics, Internet Basics, Bear Library</p> <p>Computer Basics, Search Engines and Beyond, bear Library</p> <p>Guest Children's Book Author "When Poke Woke" Claymont Lib</p>
3	<p>4 Book Babies, Brandywine Lib</p>	<p>5 Rhythm, Rhyme and Story Time, Hockessin Lib</p> <p>Preschool Story Time, Lewes Lib</p>	<p>6 Jitterbugs, Brandywine Lib</p> <p>Children's Creative Movement, Dover Lib</p>	<p>7 Read for the Record: Thank you, Omu, Kent County Lib</p> <p>Book Babies, Kirkwood Lib</p>	<p>8 Story Time, Smyrna Lib</p> 	<p>9 International Games Day, Brandywine Lib</p>
10	11	<p>12 Preschool Story Time, Bear Lib</p> <p>Toddler Tales, Brandywine Lib</p>	<p>13 Sign, Sing and Play, Appo Library</p> <p>Rhythm, Rhyme and Story Time, Claymont Lib</p> <p>Delaware Early Childhood Council Meeting, Newark</p>	<p>14 Book Babies, Kirkwood Lib</p>	<p>15 Book Babies, Appo Library</p> <p>Caterpillars (Tots) Story Time, Georgetown Lib</p>	16
17	<p>18 Library kid Chefs, Bear Lib</p> <p>Thanksgiving Friends, Elsmere Lib</p> <p>Book Babies, Newark Lib</p>	<p>19 Toddler Time, Dover Lib</p> <p>Story Time (3-6) Newark Lib</p>	<p>20 Jitterbugs, Brandywine Lib</p> <p>Toddler Tales, Claymont Lib</p> <p>Butterflies (Early Literacy) Story Time, Georgetown Lib</p> <p>Yoga Tales, Newark Lib</p>	<p>21 Little Learners, Dover Lib</p> <p>Jitterbugs, Elsmere Lib</p>	<p>22 Tot Time, Rehoboth Lib</p>	<p>23 Thankful Turkey Story and Craft Time, Claymont Lib</p> <p>Native American Heritage Celebration, Claymont Lib</p> <p>Engineer Early, Dover Lib</p>
24	<p>25 Sensory Story Times, Appo Library</p>	<p>26 Story Time (3-6) Newark Lib</p>	<p>27 S.P.I.C.E.S character growth for preschoolers, Brandywine Lib</p> <p>Thankful Turkey Story and Craft Time, Claymont Lib</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>29</p> <p>UD/DIEEC Offices are closed</p>	30	