

REACH

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



June 2018



You're here for Delaware's children and families.

We're here for YOU!



Professional Development Summer Schedule

Check out New Opportunities!

"The lazy days of summer" doesn't apply to our approach to our training opportunities for the next several months. In fact, we are gearing up for Fall, so you are more prepared than ever to take on the new school year.

Provider Spotlight: Hope Lutheran Early Education Center

Celebrating Over 50 Years of Connecting with the Early Child Care Community



Back in 1967, Hope Lutheran Church in New Castle Del. offered a kindergarten program to the community before kindergarten was a part of primary school education. Fast forward 51 years, and Hope Lutheran has evolved into an early education center with six classrooms for children ages 2 through 8, offering before- and after-school care.

A Star Level 5 program, Hope Lutheran attributes their success, in part, to their focus on community. "We create opportunities for parents and caregivers to stop in our offices to talk with us," said Laura Cahill, center director. "We try to make our center as similar to home as possible while giving children many opportunities to learn."

Announcing "Every Day Math"

Introducing math concepts to preschool children is often challenging. They are not ready for worksheets; however, young children are natural mathematicians. Join us for "Every Day Math." At this training you'll discover how to strengthen children's natural abilities and stimulate their minds through the power of play, effective skill-building experiences, and using "math talk" in everyday experiences."

"Inspire Me" Summer Camp

Summer does allow for time to be more flexible. To this end, we've grouped six workshops that will be held during three days. Similar to a camp format, there is a morning (8:30 – 11:30 a.m.) and afternoon (12:30 – 3:30 p.m.) session. Participants can take all six workshops or the one(s) that meet their needs.

They include: Kindergarten Readiness; Transitions; Sing, Dance & Stomp; Supporting Sensory Learning: Infants, Toddlers, and Beyond; Integrating Early Learning Foundations into Daily Experiences (formerly ELFs 2.0); Visual Arts.

For more information and to register go to <https://dieecpd.org/registry/calendar>

Laura also points out that she and her team are very intentional about keeping their work "simple, sweet, slow and steady." This approach is rooted in the center's core values of education, nutrition, and spirituality.

"We just don't focus on academics," added Janine Borrelli, office manager. "We're about nourishing the mind, body, and soul."

Both Laura and Janine our quick to point out Delaware Stars and TA Dan Reagan's role in the center's success.

"We wanted to work with Stars from the very beginning," said Laura. "It wasn't about the money but we wanted the coaching."



"And Dan has done exactly that," she added. "He's encouraged us to be who we are while improving. Now we think about the 'why' of the many aspects of our work."

"We know what Stars expects us to do is the right thing to do for our children," said Laura.

Stars News

"Planning Meaningful Learning Experiences for School-Age Children in Family Child Care" - June 9th Date Still Available.



There are still openings for "Planning Meaningful Learning Experiences for School-Age Children in Family Child Care" on the June 9th date.

Family child care providers will learn how to use a project-based approach to create engaging activities for school-age children. The activities will keep students busy learning in a fun and authentic way. For those that participate in DE Stars, you will also learn about resources and strategies for meeting LC1 and LC3, or providing daily activities through a structured framework for school-aged children.

Mark your calendar for this half-a-day opportunity.

Upcoming Deadline for Capacity Grant

5	6	7
12	13	14
19	20	21

The next deadline for programs applying for the Capacity Grant through Children & Families First is noon on Friday, July 13, 2018.

The Capacity Grant provides resources to enhance the quality and expand the supply of early childhood education programming throughout Delaware. Award amounts range from \$2,000-\$6,000 based upon program type and enrollment.

Visit the Children & Families First website <http://www.cffde.org/> for FAQs with details about eligibility requirements and to apply. Contact Andrea Prettyman, the Capacity Grant Program Manager, or call 302-233-6475 with questions.

Resources for Families



"Free Fruit for Kids" Program Comes to Delaware

Shoprite introduced several years ago a program called "Free Fruit for Kids" that offers free fruit to kids under 12 that are shopping with their parent or guardian.

Now the program is coming to Delaware. Shoprite of Brandywine and Shoprite of Four Seasons have a free fruit stand with plans to have the program in all six Shoprite stores in the next couple of months.

Saturday, June 9th, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Registration is closed. This event has already been held.

"Coach's Corner" - New Blog Available

Don't forget to go on Facebook and join the "Coach's Corner" group. Meghan Pallante, a Stars TA, is blogging every other week about relevant topics for the child care community. The most recent is **"The Importance of Language in Early Childhood Programs."**

Don't miss out on this growing community of child care professionals. Join this Facebook group by going to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DIECCoachsCorner/about/>.

Children's Book Week 2018 is "In-the-Books"

Thank you to all those who participated in "Children's Book Week." This outreach is becoming one of our favorite weeks of the year. It gives our entire organization the opportunity to visit with you and experience firsthand the joy of seeing children "light up" when listening to a book read aloud.

Your feedback was positive as well. We heard:

***"The children at Rose's Child Care really enjoyed Laura coming and reading to them. They loved Pete the Cat and asked me to read it again after she left."
Rose from "Rose's Corner"***

***"The children really enjoyed your team stopping by to read to them. They love the books that you all left for them. Your feedback on the children and teachers means a lot to me. We look forward to seeing you guys next year."
Thelma from "Our Future Child Care Center"***

***"Thanks so much for coming to read Pete the Cat with the children. They are still talking about it!"
Jamie from "Pooh's Place"***

For more program details go to <https://newsroom.shoprite.com/shoprite/news/shoprite-expands-free-fruit-program-1-2.htm>.

Learn Basic Spanish for Free
The Newark Library is offering free Spanish instruction on Mondays in June and July.

For information on how to register see the flyer at the end of this publication.

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



Don't Forget to follow us on Social Media!



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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



Learn Basic Spanish



June 11 – July 24
Every Monday
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
For ages 16 and above

Introductory Spanish Workshop
Instructors: Andrea and Maria

Information and Registration
Newark Free Library
750 Library Ave, Newark, DE 19711
302.731.7550



County Executive Matthew Meyer
Department of Community Services
Division of Libraries