



**deaeyc**

Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

DECEMBER 2021, ISSUE NO. 2

# ECE Matters

## State Budget Planning Begins for FY23

The state of Delaware is moving into the budget planning for fiscal year 2023. Recently, Jamie Schneider, deaeyc's Board President and owner of the Early Enrichment Center, in Wilmington, DE, presented to the Office of Management and Budget urging for increased funding to the early childhood field:

"Funding to the POC program must be increased to the federal recommendation. The current market rate only covers a fraction of the actual cost of care and does not consider the 30-40% increase in provider costs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, nor does it consider the impact of the much-needed minimum wage increase. Those factors, paired with an already broken system of determining the reimbursement rate, make this the critical time to prioritize equity, opportunity, and access for children and families."

The full statement has been posted to the deaeyc's website. For more information on the budget cycle for Delaware, please visit: <https://budget.delaware.gov/>

### Advocacy

#### National

.....  
ADVOCACY TOOLS

NAEYC:  
BUILD YOUR ADVOCACY SKILLS

POWER TO THE PROFESSION

#### State

.....  
CHILDCARE  
CHANGEMAKERS

DELAWARE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
COUNCIL

CFF, DEAEYC, FIRST  
STATE PRE-K, & RODEL,  
ACTION CENTER

## Community Highlight

This issue's highlight has been contributed by an employee from the Brandywine Child Care & Preschool who has nominated the Director of Operations, Mica Jackson. Ms. Jackson has worked for their organization for over 15 years, and "always goes above and beyond to help members of our community. She is a fabulous asset to our program and to the ECE field in general. She is truly an inspiration!" Thank you, Mica Jackson, for the work you do every day for your community and the early childhood field!

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."

JOHN F. KENNEDY



Mica Jackson



THANK YOU



## Program Highlight

Shell's Early Learning Centers is family-owned, educating and caring for the community's children for over 20 years in four different locations (Milton, Harrington, Dover, and Camden). In a recent update provided by Executive Director, Angela Malabet, all center locations have been remodeled with new flooring, equipment, and toys to create safer environments for the children and teachers.

In November, the Shell's Camden location hosted a site visit for a local legislator, and in December, teachers from both the Milton and Harrington centers participated in the Milton Christmas parade. These connections with the community and state leaders are essential in continued advocacy efforts toward educating the masses about the importance of early learning.

"The better educated the teachers, the better educated the child."

**-Angela Malabet**

Teachers working for Shell's are dedicated to continuing their education and training. Currently, nine (9) staff members, across all four centers, are working to complete their CDA, and several others have continued on to the associate and bachelorette level (see right column).



## Teacher Spotlights!

### Shell's Camden

**Ms. Tanya**

- Ms. Tanya is working toward her Bachelor's degree through Southern New Hampshire University

### Shell's Harrington

**Mrs. Tionyell**

- Mrs. Tionyell completed her associate's degree from Delaware Technical Community College

### Shell's Milton

**Mr. Adam**

**Mr. Allen**  
**Mr. Cameron**  
**Mr. Nate**

- Mr. Adam finished the Nutrition/Safety course at Delaware Tech
- Mr. Allen, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. Nate have just completed their first semester at Delaware State

## Early Childhood Interim Scholarship Program

# ATTENTION TEACHERS!

Wilmington Early Care and Education Council  
(WECEC)

Professional Development Resource Center (PDRC)  
Stubbs Early Education Center, Room 203  
1100 North Pine Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Email: [wececresourcecenter@gmail.com](mailto:wececresourcecenter@gmail.com)

## FREE NAEYC RESOURCES

NAEYC'S BLOG

FOSTERING ENGAGEMENT WITHIN  
INCLUSIVE SETTINGS

GOOD TOYS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN BY AGE  
& STAGE

The mission of WECEC is that all children in the City of Wilmington will have access to an integrated early childhood system which fosters collaboration among existing programs. As a Council, we identify gaps in services and strive to create supportive bridges.

The WECEC PDRC provides a variety of services and resources for early childhood education professionals living or working in the city of Wilmington. One of the resources WECEC provides is scholarships for the education required for an early childhood professional to obtain their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.

## Children & Families First

### Have you updated your information in our Child Care Provider database?

Your information is used by families searching for care across multiple websites and for statistical purposes. Keeping your information updated ensures the quality of the information being shared!

It's FREE (and easy)!



800-734-2388 or 302-479-1678



First call and request link & password to be emailed. Login, change password and make updates. Return anytime to make more updates.

<https://stage.worklifesystems.com/program/32>



Scholarship applications are currently being accepted for TECE 1, TECE 2, and Quality Assist Quorum! Applicants must live or work in the City of Wilmington; 19801, 19802, 19805, 19806. Please email Patti Lynch @ [wececscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:wececscholarship@gmail.com) if you are interested in pursuing this opportunity to take the next step in your career.

Registration is Open!



**OUR NAME is  
OUR PROMISE**



## Small Business Owner Must-Haves

Stay connected with grant opportunities and state or local events through the [Delaware Division of Small Business](#) website. There is a calendar of business-related [events](#), including "workshops, networking, seminars, special events and more that could be the key to your business's next big step."

Another important state site all program owners should have is [Grants.gov](#). Check in often, and see if there is a grant that applies to your program. Don't miss out!

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## Highlights from "Young Child" Winter 2021 Issue

- [But Can I Trust You? Embracing Different Perspectives \(Voices\)](#)
- [The Reading Chair: Winter 2021](#)
- [Viewpoint. Asking and Answering Ethical Questions with the Youngest Learners](#) (NAEYC Members only)
- [A Place for Wonder: School Gardens as Sites Ripe for Learning](#) (NAEYC Members only)



## NAEYC RESOURCES

[DAP 4TH EDITION](#)

[NAEYC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT](#)

[ROCKING AND ROLLING: PROMOTING INCLUSION IN INFANT AND TODDLER SETTINGS](#)

## MORE RESOURCES!

[RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVIDING STRENGTHS-BASED SERVICES TO BLACK FAMILIES AND CHILDREN](#)

[MAKING TOYS WORK FOR EACH AND EVERY CHILD](#)

[SELF-AWARENESS AS A KEY FIRST STEP IN SOCIAL JUSTICE](#)



# Parents' Corner

The following resources have been copied from the December issue of "Baby Talk," which is a free monthly newsletter to support anyone with infants and toddlers. (All or part of "BabyTalk" may be freely shared or copied.)

- [What Does Recent Research Say About a Good Bedtime Routine for Children?](#)
- [Baby Talk Isn't Just Cute — It's Critical for Vocabulary Development](#)
- [Limits for Little Ones](#)
- [Quick Clip: The Power of Imitation](#)

## More Resources!

[FAMILIES AS ADVOCATES & LEADERS](#)

[FOOD & NUTRITION: CHOP CHOP FAMILY](#)

[BEST TOYS FOR BABY](#)

[TIPS FOR CHOOSING TOYS FOR TODDLERS](#)

[TOO MANY TOYS?](#)

## Children & Families First



Looking for child care but don't know where to start?

**LET US HELP!**

Children & Families First provides **FREE REFERRALS** to child care programs in Delaware!



Use your phone's camera to start your search now!

**cffde.org**

**800-734-2388**



# Self Care


This time of year can be stressful, whether due to the holidays or due to the weather (or life in general). It's important to remember to take time for yourself. Doing so doesn't have to take a full day, several hours, or even an hour. It can take as little as 5 minutes to improve your mental wellness. Just as nurturing children requires consistency, so does nurturing mental health and wellness. Creating mindful habits can create consistent ways of dealing with anxiety, stress, and even depression, on a daily basis. Take care of yourself.

## Five Minute Morning Habits to Bring Focus to Your Day

### 21 Mindful Habits You Can Adopt Today

Take a deep breath. Look around you and name:

**5** Things you can see 

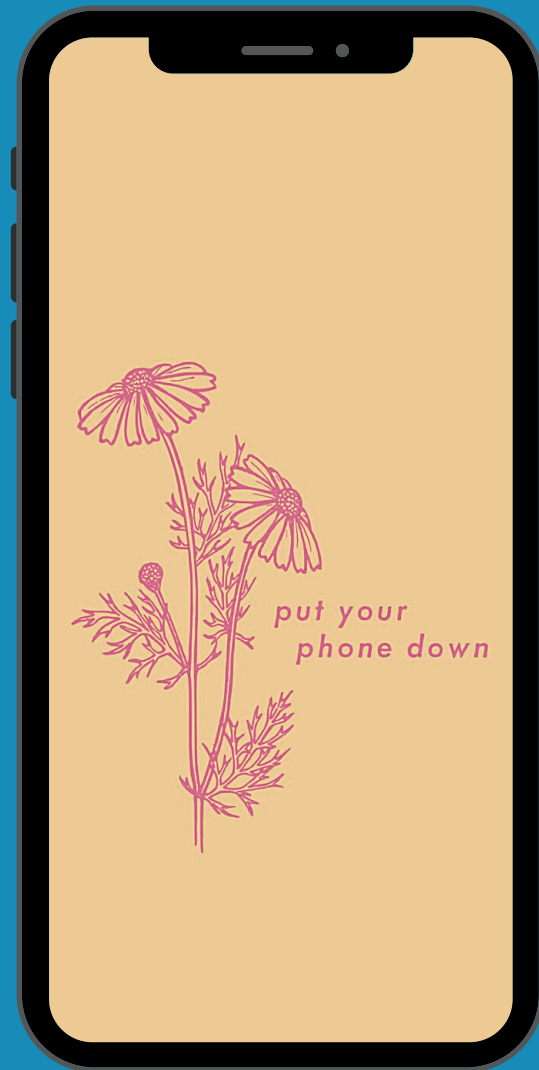
**3** Things you can hear 

Things you can feel **4** 

 **2** Things you can smell

**1** Thing you can taste 


## 5-4-3-2-1 TECHNIQUE



SUN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
DELAWARE:  
Mental Health Support

# Please Share!

Enter for a chance to win:  
**TWO TICKETS**  
 to see the touring cast of  
**Pretty Woman:  
 The Musical**  
 January 15, 2022  
 8:00 p.m.  
 Kimmel Center for the  
 Performing Arts  
 Academy of Music  
**Parking Included!**  
**1 raffle ticket for \$25**  
**5 raffle tickets for \$100**



**Become a Member!**



Delaware Association for the  
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*Please share any of the resources from this newsletter with your staff, colleagues, and families. If anyone is interested in receiving the newsletter, please have them contact Lisa Miller, [lmiller@deaeyc.org](mailto:lmiller@deaeyc.org) to be added to the mailing list.*



# deaeyc Upcoming Events

deaeyc's annual Administrator Forum will take place on Saturday, January 22, 2022, with a half-day training, including a Keynote presentation from Conscious Discipline, followed by two training options.



On Monday, January 24, 2022, in the evening, two additional training workshops will be offered.

Based on a survey distributed to providers, possible topics that are being considered include classroom management, mental health/stress relief for providers, leadership training, staff support, and updates on state and federal legislation/funding.

Registration will be available soon! Providers will be notified via the mailing list, and registration details will be posted to deaeyc's website and shared on social media.

## Would You Like to Contribute to this Newsletter?

We are looking for contributors for content in the following areas:

- TEACHER HIGHLIGHTS
- CENTER/PROVIDER HIGHLIGHTS
- PROGRAM EVENTS
- LOCAL ADVOCACY
- PARENTS' CORNER

Send your contributions to  
 Lisa Miller  
[lmiller@deaeyc.org](mailto:lmiller@deaeyc.org)

THANK YOU!