

Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

FEBRUARY 2023, ISSUE NO. 9

ECE Matters

Week of the Young Child

April 1st - April 7th

April 1st - Kick-off Saturday

April 3rd - Music Monday

April 4th - Tasty Tuesday

April 5th - Work Together Wednesday

April 6th - Artsy Thursday

April 7th - Family Friday



What kinds of activities or events are you planning to honor young children? Share your ideas with deaeyc! We would love to hear what the community is doing during Week of the Young Child!

Stay tuned for more information and details for events and engagement deaeyc is working on with community partners.



We are looking forward to a week full of fun!

deaeyc

If you are interested in helping deaeyc achieve its goals in assisting the early childhood field, you can do so in many ways:

[BECOME A BOARD MEMBER](#)

[JOIN A DEAEYC COMMITTEE](#)

[BECOME AN ADVOCATE](#)

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Become a Member!



Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

What Does It All Mean?

Purchase of Care (POC): a state subsidy program for low income families to have access to child care. Not all centers offer POC, and those that do, receive funding that does not cover the full cost of care.

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POC Eligibility: Eligible families must earn up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) annually; for a family of four, that translates to \$51,338. Now eligibility could increase to 200% of the FPL, which equates to \$55,500, for a family of four, allowing more families to access POC.

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ECAP: The Early Childhood Assistance Program is a program for eligible families to access child care.

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Additional Questions: Don't hesitate to connect with deaeyc with any additional questions you may have.



BIG Legislative Wins in ECE!

Governor Carney announced his intentions for the upcoming State budget, which includes more funding for Early Childhood Education!

"The State will be taking the following actions to support, enhance, and expand child care quality and access this year:

- "Invest over \$10 million to increase Purchase of Care (POC) rates to 100% of the 75th percentile of the 2021 market rate, to better support programs and children in need.
- "Pursue a policy change to expand applicant eligibility for POC to 200% of the poverty level, to reach more children.
- "Double funding going to Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) to \$12.2 million, to serve more 3-and 4-year-olds, and provide programs with more resources.
- Allocate funding for House Bill 33, [which is written] to lower preschool special education student-teacher ratios."



These investments would not have been possible without state-wide efforts from multiple advocacy groups and organizations, as well as providers, educators, parents, and community members who contributed by writing or calling legislators, speaking at events, and joining the conversations.

A MILLION thanks to ALL of the advocates!

Continue here for the full article.



What's Next?



Now, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) is holding hearings to listen to presentations from all of the state-funded agencies. These hearings take place over the course of several weeks and are livestreamed for the public. Individuals can sign up to deliver a public comment and will be given up to 2 minutes to speak to the committee about state investments. Opportunities to provide public comment are available both virtual and in-person.



BONUS

Attention Early Educators!

The second round of the Child Care Bonus Program is about to open. Mark your calendars for March 1, 2023 when the application goes live. But don't wait because the application will only stay open until April 30, 2023. All educators will be required to follow the eligibility requirements and provide any updated information necessary.



Delaware
Department of Education

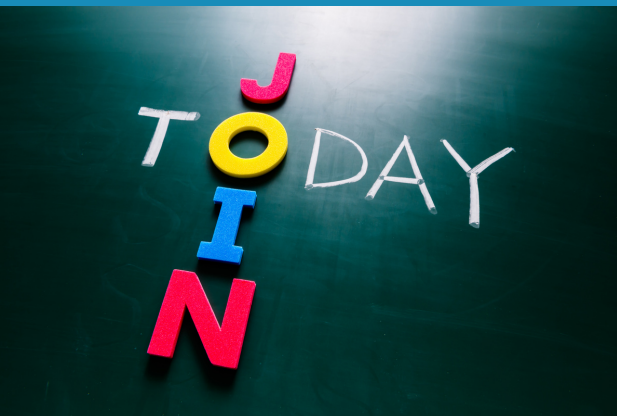
Did You Know?
Deaeyc added membership benefits!
Starting in January 2023, any new member (or member who renews) will receive hours toward professional development (in the form of a voucher) AND free access to our new resource center (coming soon!).

SAVE THE *date* **VIRTUAL**

deaeeyc
Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

2023 Early Childhood Education Conference

May 22, 23, 24 *Stay tuned!*
from
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Early Educator Resource



Helping Children with Sharing

"Learning to share with grace is a long process. This article shares examples of how to turn moments of struggle into rich opportunities to help children learn critical skills."

Early Childhood Town Halls

Invest in Early Education Today
for Delaware's Tomorrow



Community conversations led by
Senator Kyle Evans Gay

February 27

Delaware State
University

5:45-7:30pm

March 6

Route 9 Library &
Innovation Center

5:45-7:30pm

March 13

Western Sussex
Boys & Girls Club

5:45-7:30pm

March 27

Bear/Glasgow
YMCA

5:45-7:30pm

April 3

Georgetown Public
Library

5:45-7:30pm

Upcoming Community Events

Early Childhood Town Halls:
Community Conversations led by
Senator Kyle Evans Gay.



"The goal of these panels is to educate the community at large, business leaders, and other electeds on the impacts of child care on their communities. The panel will be made up of an elected representative, a parent, a provider, a school district, a business leader, and a community member. These are designed to engage discussion and to hear from those in attendance about how child care access and affordability is impacting them." Registration is Required.

Early Childhood Town Hall Series
Announcement

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 to be added to the mailing list.

Some of the resources shared in this newsletter are from "Baby Talk: Resources to Support the People Who Work with Infants and Toddlers" and "Natural Resources: Free Resources for Learning About and Using Trauma-informed practices," NAEYC, or other early education-based institutions. All content is free to be shared or copied.

Save the date Early Childhood Advocacy Day

May 2, 2023

Both In-Person & Virtual Opportunities

In-Person events will take place at the Dover Library & Legislative Hall

To be added to deaeyc's mailing list, please visit www.deaeyc.org

Would You Like to Contribute to this Newsletter?

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

- TEACHER HIGHLIGHTS
- CENTER/PROVIDER HIGHLIGHTS
- EVENTS/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
- NATIONAL & LOCAL ADVOCACY
- CHILD DEVELOPMENT/ECE RESOURCES

Send your contributions to Lisa Miller
lmiller@deaeyc.org

THANK YOU!

