



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Professional Development and Technical Assistance

The following professional services offer training, coaching, and technical assistance in virtual and in-person settings.



Arkansas Children's Hospital

Manages coordination, training, and on-site technical assistance for HIPPY and PAT home visiting programs to enhance child development and improve school readiness.

Topics

- Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- Home visiting

Contact

Tyra Greenwood | AR Home Visiting Network
greenwoodtm@archildrens.org | <https://www.arhomevisiting.org>



Arkansas State University Childhood Services

Offers a variety of statewide support in program quality, child assessment, and behavioral support.

Topics

- New staff orientation
- Director orientation
- Program and business administration scales
- Teacher-child interactions
- Learning environments
- Environment Rating Scales (ERS)
- Business practices
- Better Beginnings (Quality Improvement Rating System)
- Program Quality Assessment
- Work Sampling (Child Assessment for 3s and 4s)
- The Ounce Scale (Child Assessment for infant and toddlers)
- Conscious discipline
- Executive functioning
- Behavioral support
- Reduction in suspensions/expulsions

Contact

JoAnn Nalley | Childhood Services
jnalley@astate.edu | <https://www.astate.edu/a/childhood-services>



Child Care Aware of America State Network

A statewide network of Resource and Referral Agencies including: ASU Childhood Services, Northwest Arkansas Child Care Resource and Referral, Early Education and Care Connections, Inc., White River Planning and Development, National Park College.

Topics

- Resource Lending Libraries
- Pre-licensing
- Health and nutrition
- Infant/toddler specialist support
- Emergency and disaster preparedness
- Business management
- Family engagement

Find your Child Care Aware and contact information by county [HERE](#)



University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Offers foundation-level, research-based professional development in child growth, family involvement, health and safety, and stress management.

Topics

- Foundations of early childhood
- Child growth and development
- Family and community involvement
- Health and safety
- Stress management

Contact

Rebecca Simon | Childhood Services
rsimon@uada.edu | <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/life-skills-wellness/child-care-providers/default.aspx>





University of Arkansas: Teaming for Early Childhood Supports

Builds capacity within early childhood education for children with developmental delays to receive effective supports and services; works in partnership with ADE special education.

Topics

- Children with developmental delays
- Sensory processing
- Positive behavior support
- Building positive relationships

Contact

Karan Burnette | U of A Partners

kbburnet@uark.edu | <https://uofapartners.uark.edu/projects/teci>



University of Arkansas: Welcome the Children

Provides training, coaching, and resources for supporting all children in early childhood settings, especially those who have developmental delays; ADE special education partner.

Topics

- Children with developmental or suspected delays
- Family communication
- Arkansas Interpreter Credential in Education course

Contact

Brenda Reynolds | U of A Partners

bkreynol@uark.edu | <https://uofapartners.uark.edu/projects/welcome-the-children>



University of Arkansas: Early Care and Education Projects

Manages a statewide professional development delivery system through two- and four-year colleges; administers the state's family child care network to support those interested in opening a child care home business.

Topics - Professional Development Delivery

- Child development
- Early learning standards
- Pre-K math and science
- Pre-K early literacy
- Pre-K social emotional learning

Topics - Family Child Care

- Family child care network
- Opening a family child care home business

Contact

Kathy Pillow-Price | Early Care & Education Projects

kathyp@uark.edu | <https://ecep.uark.edu>





UAMS Family and Preventive Medicine

Teaches early childhood providers how to establish successful strategies to engage families; runs Project Play, which focuses on supporting young children who have experienced trauma.

Topics

- Trauma-informed care
- Reducing suspensions/expulsions of young children
- Social emotional development
- Building skills of ECE staff and family
- Family engagement

Contact

Nicola Edge | UAMS

naedge@uams.edu | <https://medicine.uams.edu/familymedicine/research/red/ecpd>



University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

Supports early childhood educators in using materials to increase learning in the classroom.

Topics

- Curriculum
- Classroom setup
- Child portfolios

Contact

Shelli Henehan | Early Childhood Education

shelli.henehan@uafs.edu | <https://uafs.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/chehs/school-of-ed/departments/ece.php>



Zero to Three

Manages Arkansas Safe Babies Court Team designed to help infants and toddlers in foster care reach stable, safe, permanent homes.

Topics

- Foster care
- Reducing child maltreatment

Contact

Audrey Freshwater Merritt | Zero to Three

afreshwatermerritt@zerotothree.org | <https://www.zerotothree.org/our-work/safebabies>



Other Supports for the Field



Arkansas Early Childhood Association

Administers TEACH Early Childhood Arkansas Scholarship Program, supporting early childhood staff credentialing. Covers 90% of tuition and books.

Contact: Paul Lazenby | paul@arkansasearlychildhood.org
<https://arkansasearlychildhood.org/teach>



Arkansas Imagination Library

Provides books to children from birth through 5 years old through the Dollywood Foundation, along with parent literacy resources.

Contact: Charlotte Rainey Parham | cgreen@arimaginationlibrary.org
<https://arkansasimaginationlibrary.org/directory>

Other ECE Contracts



Professional Development Registry | ASU Childhood Services

Administers the Arkansas Professional Development Registry (PD Registry) for early childhood educators.

Contact: JoAnn Nalley | jnalley@astate.edu
<https://pdr.ade.arkansas.gov>



Early Development Instrument (EDI) | UCA Arkansas Research Center

Implements the EDI in partnership with UCLA's Center for Healthier Children to assess how kindergarteners are progressing across five domains; data help guide community efforts to inform systems so children reach school healthy and ready to learn.

Longitudinal Study | UCA Arkansas Research Center

Conducts the Arkansas Better Chance Longitudinal Study, considering the outcomes for multiple ABC cohorts through their latest K-12 grade.

Contact: Sarah Argue | sarah.argue@arkansas.gov
<https://arc.arkansas.gov/arcweb>

