

Title of Training: Exploring the Arkansas CDELS with Mixed Ages

12/14/21

NWAECA Board Members:

Jennifer Bowman – President, Rebecca Dunahoo – President Elect, Natasha Kile – Treasurer, Emma Tempest – VP Communication, Terri Teters – Interim Secretary/Ex-Officio, Nicole Bedard – Benton County Member-at-Large, Anna Cannon – Washington Count Member-at-Large, Debbie Mays – Advisory Board, Elizabeth Scudder – Advisory Board, Susan Edwards – Advisor

Number Present: 39

Call to Order/Greetings

President

Jennifer Bowman, President called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Approval of November 9, 2021 minutes

Secretary

The November meeting minutes have been posted in the [NWAECA Facebook group](#) as well as on the [AECA website](#). A motion was made by Summer Reilly to accept the minutes as written and seconded by Charissa Outlaw.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer

Natasha Kile shared the Treasurer Report. The current NWAECA affiliate balance is \$637.59 with no outstanding charges.

OLD BUSINESS: No “Old Business” was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

President

- Jennifer shared a donor made a donation for two NWAECA memberships.
- Jennifer shared information about the Google form link for participants to fill out to receive PDR credit and for the first 25 to register (who live in NWA) to get a goodie bag.
- Jennifer announced winners of election for NWAECA new board members. Amy Eddy – President Elect, Emmarose Gupton – Secretary, Alicia Mooney & Rebecca Evans – Benton County Members-at-Large. She encouraged others to join us in the important work we do and participate by volunteering to serve on a committee.
- Jennifer introduced our new NWAECA President, Rebecca Dunahoo who will be assuming the role in January. Rebecca thanked everyone for joining, let them know she is excited about serving, and she is looking forward to 2022.
- Jennifer shared that the Amazeum Educator's Night Out is January 27th.

Well-Being Check-In

Emma Tempest

Emma reminded us about the opportunity to share our wins on the NWAECA Facebook group page each Friday. She asked participants to enter a gratitude in the chat box and encouraged us to shift or change something that generates positivity and support for others.

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Upcoming trainings/conferences/early childhood events

Open Share

1. Anna Goff shared about an [upcoming training with the UofA Division of Agriculture](#). Deadline tomorrow (12/15/21) - \$25 ServSafe (instead of \$140) – Class and test is this Friday.
2. Terri Teters shared upcoming opportunities for Administrators and EC Leaders offered through A-State Childhood Services.

PAS Level 3 Cohort:

#41151 PAS Items 1, 2, 3 - January 12th 11:30-1:30

#41155 PAS Items 4, 5, 6 - January 26th 11:30-1:30

#41152 PAS Items 7, 8, 9 - February 9th 11:30-1:30

NWA Director's Roundtable

#37949 Ethics 2.0: Smartphones & Social Media in the Early Childhood Classroom with Guest Speaker Michelle Pounds - January 13th 12:00-2:00

3. Jennifer Bowman shared link for [ECEP training opportunities](#).

If you need child development courses/training ECEP offers three different Child Development courses (Child Development Birth-3, Child Development 3-5, Child Development 5-8) available in a self-paced format online! To register click on Enroll Now> Self-Paced Format via the link above.

Presentation: Arkansas CDELS with Mixed Age Groups & the Family Child Care Network

Jennifer introduced Elizabeth Scudder, Early Care and Education Projects (ECEP) who shared what ECEP does for the early childhood educators and the supports and services they provide. She had us reframe our minds to see that almost every one of us, whether in a family child care home setting or a center-based program work with mixed ages. Elizabeth shared the importance of us meeting their developmental needs of where they are and to modify our expectations. However, we must first have an understanding of child development and how important it is for the work we do with our littles. We explored the Arkansas CDELS with Mixed Age Groups and how you can incorporate fun and engaging activities with Mixed Age groups while fostering learning goals. The key is the tool is on a continuum that builds on skills and development and overlaps age groupings. You can get a big picture at a glance of where any child in your classroom is at that time so you can meet their developmental needs regardless of the age group they fall in based on their chronological age. Even if you do not work with this age group, you may have children who are developmentally at this level or are in need of a little extra support and will gain valuable information to support all children's developmental needs. We can see the skills are stair stepped to ensure that we do not miss crucial steps/skills so we ensure children have a solid foundation to build upon.

Elizabeth stressed the importance of looking at the terms and definitions so we have a clear understanding of what the domain is asking for. Social Emotional Development is

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the foundation that needs to be addressed first and then the academia will follow. Elizabeth also reviewed the Developmental Rating Scale Birth through 36 months. It is free and a printed version and/or electronic copy is available. The tool allows you to complete and document 3 observations a year on each child and enter individualized notes.

She asked participants to share and talk about the “perfect toy”...a ball. Elizabeth shared how to build on developing the skill of playing with a ball by starting with scarfs for infants and soft balls with toddlers before introducing actual balls. She shared this way you can do the same skills and build their comfort level before tossing something to them. Elizabeth recommended the YAC - Young Athletes Curriculum training that meets the physical activity requirements for Better Beginnings. Here is the link and a description about [YAC training](#). Here is the link to [request a YAC training for your center](#).

Strategies & Activities is another helpful tool that supports the learning domains of the CDELS. Elizabeth shared that gaining knowledge and tools are crucial when working with mixed age groups. Utilize the resources so you can be successful in working with mixed age groups. The main thing is to keep all ages of children safe, meeting the developmental needs for all children while still engaging older children.

[The Explorers Curriculum has a lesson on Trees](#). The Book Leaf Man is mentioned with activities. The lesson and book will also be in the bag for those pre-registered and some will win as a door prize!

Jennifer held up all the goodies participants will receive in their bags for registering and attending tonight. You can contact Jennifer Bowman at jbowman@uark.edu or Elizabeth Scudder at escudder@uark.edu if you want any resources that were discussed tonight.

Until We Meet Again

Emma Tempest

Emma reminded us to look for the Well Being connection post in the [Facebook group](#).

Next Meeting

Join us on February 8th at 6:30 pm as our guest speaker, Rebecca Evans helps us explore the Arkansas CDELS with Preschoolers (PDR #38207). Remember the first 25 to register will receive a goodie bag!

Adjourn

President

Jennifer adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.