

River Valley Early Childhood Association



Newsletter

April 2024 Issue 29



Arkansas Children's Week

April 6-12, 2024

Theme: Sharing Key Experiences

Arkansas Children's Week (ACW) has been a statewide tradition for more than 30 years! ACW celebrates children of all ages and their educators and families. Through ACW, early educators and youth development professionals highlight the needs of children and families and the accomplishments of the adults who work with them.

We consider ways to support learning and development through 5 key experiences.

- **Constructive Experiences**, when children design and build.
- **Imaginative Play**, when children pretend.
- **Creative Expression**, when children communicate through art, music, and more.
- **Exploratory and Investigative Experiences**, when children discover the world around them.
- **Active, Physical Play**, when children experience movement and motion through vigorous play.

Communities and individual programs celebrate Arkansas Children's Week in many different ways. Events in recent years have included open house events, children's concerts, fun fairs, story walks, and more.

The [Arkansas Children's Week Planning Toolkit](#) is loaded with ideas and tips for ACW events.



Share the fun! Send your ACW pictures to rveca50@gmail.com to be included in April's newsletter.



April 8th, 2024 Solar Eclipse



A-State is excited to introduce a new supplemental Explorers Curriculum packet to support programs serving preschoolers and younger schoolagers; as they experience the upcoming solar eclipse.

Click [here](#) to open the April Eclipse 2024 Special, which includes safety considerations, children's books, small group and individual learning experiences, and materials for your learning centers.



April Activities



Click on images for links to articles!





Attention Preschool Teachers!!



Do you need help with lesson planning or themes? Did you know UAFS has a collection of theme boxes and additional teaching materials that are **FREE** to check out and use in your classrooms?

Email Amanda Fuentes at amanda.fuentes@uafs.edu

or call 479-788-7249 if you are interested.

Need more resources or inspiration? Check out the [RV-ECA pinterest](#) page!



UPCOMING RVECA MEETING

When: Tuesday, April, 9th
6:00-8:00pm

Business meeting 5:45-6:00

Where: ECHOLS building
@UAFS

Trainer: LaKeisha Stinyard

PDR Course# 62259



Chance to Win!



How to: Enrich your Indoor/Outdoor Preschool Environment with Prop Boxes (2hr)

This training focuses on how to create and utilize prop boxes to promote children's development and learning. Tips will be given for organizing and storing prop boxes that enrich the indoor and outdoor preschool environment.

*Training challenge:
Attend 3 of our trainings and you will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card!*

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River Valley Early Childhood Association
an affiliate of the
 **arkansas**
early childhood
association

Meetings 2024

~~Tues. Jan. 9th~~
How to: Involve Preschool Children in Whole Group Activities

*Planning Whole Group Time
* Conducting Whole Group Time

PDR#62251 6pm-8pm
Business Meeting
5:45-6pm
Echols @ UAFS

Tues. Apr. 9th
How To: Enrich your Indoor/Outdoor Preschool Environment with Prop Boxes

*Importance of Prop Boxes
* How to Build Prop Boxes

PDR#62259 6pm-8pm
Business Meeting
5:45-6pm
Echols @ UAFS

Tues. Sept. 10th
How to: Include Preschool Children in Small Group Activities

*Planning Small Group Time
*Conducting Small Group Time

6pm-8pm
Business Meeting
5:45-6pm
Echols @ UAFS

Tues. Nov. 12th
How to: Include Sensory Materials and Activities in the Environment

*What Is Sensory Play?
*Sensory Play Activities

6pm-8pm
Business Meeting
5:45-6pm
Echols @ UAFS

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2024 RV-ECA Training Challenge

Attend 3 trainings and you are entered to win a \$50 Amazon gift card!



~~January 9th~~

~~How To: Involve
Preschool
Children in Whole
Group Activities~~

~~PDR#62251~~

~~.....
ECHOLS@ UAFS~~

April 9th

How To: Enrich
your Indoor/Outdoor
Preschool
Environment with
Prop Boxes

PDR#62259

.....
ECHOLS@ UAFS

Drawing will
be held on
November
12th!

September 10th

How To: Involve
Preschool Children
in Small Group
Activities

.....
ECHOLS@ UAFS

November 12th

How To: Include
Sensory Materials
and Activities in
the Environment

.....
ECHOLS@ UAFS

2 HOURS OF
PDR CREDIT

Trainings 6:00-8:00pm
Business meetings 5:45-6:00pm

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Early Childhood Education Conference

There will be 6 hours of PDR training available!

[Click here to register!](#)

April 13, 2024

**UAFS Echols Building
Fort Smith, AR 72904**

For more information contact Amanda Fuentes,

Amanda.Fuentes@uafs.edu

April 27th- Adventures in Learning at Echols from 9am-12pm (3hrs)

[PDR Course #62257](#)

April 27th-Connecting with Infants at Echols from 1pm-4pm (3hrs)

[PDR Course #62258](#)

**UAFS Echols Building
Fort Smith, AR 72904**



We are Early Childhood

Join early childhood practitioners from dozens of programs to share ideas, make connections, learn, laugh, and enjoy a conference designed just for you!

There will be 6 hours of PDR training available!

Save the Dates below for other Super Saturday events near you!

Forrest City Super Saturday

April 13, 2024

8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$30

[Click here to register!](#)

Dumas Super Saturday

April 20th, 2024

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$10

[Click here to register!](#)

For more information contact Brittany Harris,

BHarris@AState.edu



Administrator Trainings

Directors Orientation C (6 hours of PDR credit)

April 16, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

North Little Rock

PDR Course # 64202

Teacher Trainings

Trauma-Informed Foundation (3 hours of PDR credit)

Camden

April 3, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PDR Course # 61965

Little Rock

April 4, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

PDR Course # 61951

For more information contact Leslie Corbell, Lcorbell@AState.edu

Starting Well with Families of Infants and Toddlers (In Spanish)

(2 hours of PDR credit)

Available upon request

If interested, please contact Miriam Jackson, Mirjackson@AState.edu

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Conscious Discipline Infant/Toddler Series (24 hours of PDR credit)

Registration is a commitment to attend all four sessions of the training series.

Jonesboro

February 21 and 22

March 27 and 28

Register: <https://conta.cc/3taa1lr>

Hot Springs

April 10 and 11

May and 9

Registration information coming soon!

Conscious Discipline Pre-School Series (36 hours of PDR credit)

Registration is a commitment to attend all six sessions of the training series.

Jonesboro

February 6 and 7

March 13 and 14

April 17 and 18

Register: <https://conta.cc/3PEUMbV>

For more information about Conscious Discipline, contact Debi Dunning,
DDunning@AState.edu

Conscious Discipline Academy (40 Hours of PDR credit)

Jonesboro

June 10 – 14, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact Melissa Sutton, MSutton@AState.edu or Debi Dunning,
DDunning@AState.edu

Behavior Help Support

BehaviorHelp offers services to assist child care programs in managing challenging classroom behaviors, as well as the social and emotional well-being of your children, families, and staff. If administrators or staff would like support from a technical assistance provider or mental health consultant, please complete an online BehaviorHelp support request form.

[Behaviorhelponline.org](https://www.behaviorhelponline.org)



Stay connected with us!

Check our [affiliate page](#) to stay current on upcoming events.



Training Feedback Form:

What training(s) are you interested in? What training do you NEED? We want to hear from YOU!

Click on this [link](#) to fill out our Professional Training feedback form.

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Join AECA

Connect with like-minded professionals
who share a goal to make life better for children



Member Benefits

- ★ Membership in two associations for one price
- ★ Networking through local affiliations or chapters
- ★ Support from social media groups and message boards
- ★ Access to the latest information about child development
- ★ Verified training in the Professional Development Registry
- ★ Advocacy with policymakers on important early childhood issues
- ★ Home of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Arkansas Scholarship Program
- ★ Reduced rates to AECA and SECA conferences



Sign up now
ArkansasEarlyChildhood.org



Make sure to choose

RV-ECA as your affiliate!



Five reasons to become an Arkansas Early Childhood Association Member today!



Support

We help AECA members in their work with children and families as one team, providing support and recognition for the work involved in early childhood across the state of Arkansas, by building community to celebrate our successes and supporting each other when times are tough.



Standards

We work to improve the standards of care and quality of life for young children. We hold our members up as a professional community committed to high quality care and education of young children, shining a light on the work we do as highly essential to all communities.



Understanding

We further the development of knowledge and understanding of young children and the dissemination of such information. We provide our members with professional development opportunities that help them improve the lives of children and become confident advocates.



Contribution

We encourage the provision of education, developmental resources, and services for young children. By sharing the latest cutting edge information and quality research, our members are able to contribute to high quality care and education that children deserve every day.



Connections

We have community based affiliate groups across Arkansas where members can receive professional development, network and enjoy touring the settings of providers. We also has an annual conference where members get exclusive discounts. As an affiliate of the Southern Early Childhood Association, you are automatically a member of SECA and receive access to Dimensions of Early Childhood, the refereed journal that includes current articles on best practices in childcare and early childhood education policy.

Being a member of AECA means belonging to a group of like-minded professionals with a common goal to make life better for children.

Want more information? Visit our website and follow us on social media today

www.arkansasearlychildhood.org





T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood[®]

ARKANSAS

A Program of
Arkansas Early Childhood Association

Teacher

Education

And

Compensation

Helps

Are you an Early Childhood teacher, director or family child care provider?

Interested in a degree in Early Childhood Education, but in need of financial assistance?

Then **T.E.A.C.H.** is the program for you! Click the T.E.A.C.H. link above to learn more and apply for this great opportunity to further your education and careers!