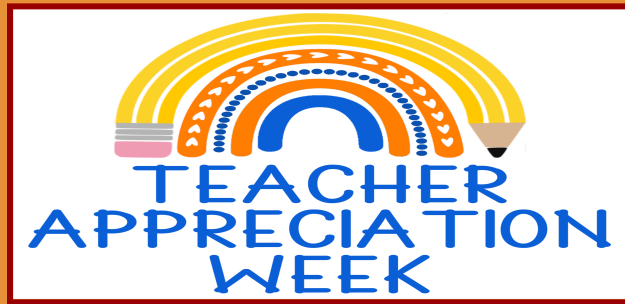


## River Valley Early Childhood Association



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**May 6th-10th, 2024**

**Early Childhood Center:** Harvest Time Academy

**Director:** Bryean Castanon

**Words that describe my teachers:**

Dedicated, Highly Favored, A Blessing, Aspiring, Caring, Passionate, and Valuable!

**How do your teachers make everyday special for their students?**

They go above and beyond everyday to make a connection with every student. They make time for their students to make sure they feel seen and validated. They learn their individual interests to ensure those connections.

**My teachers shine the brightest when:**

They are in their classrooms doing what they love. I can tell by the look on their faces, as they are teaching, that they truly love what they do.

---

**Early Childhood Center:** UAFS Little Lions Child Development Center

**Director:** LaKeisha Stinyard

**Words that describe my teachers:**

My teachers are dependable, motivators, crafty, blessed, compassionate, and hard-working.

**How do your teachers make everyday special for their students?**

My teachers make every day special for their students by providing a loving and caring environment that fosters the needs of each individualized child.

**My teachers shine the brightest when:**

Their students are excelling by accomplishing developmental milestones.

---

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**Early Childhood Center:** Ozark Kindergarten Center ABC pk- program

**Director:** Jennifer King

**Words that describe my teachers:**

Student-centered and willing to do whatever it takes!

**How do your teachers make everyday special for their students?**

Making sure they meet the individual needs of each student.

**My teachers shine the brightest when**

They watch the students learn and grow.

## May 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](mailto: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!

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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

Made with PosterMyWall.com





## 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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REGISTER NOW!

**2ND ANNUAL**

**Preschool Naturally:  
An outdoor & nature-based  
learning campference**

 JUNE 5-7, 2024

 FERNCLIFF CAMP &  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Hosted by:



**Conscious Discipline Academy** (40 Hours of PDR)

Jonesboro

June 10 – 14, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information contact Melissa Sutton,  
[MSutton@AState.edu](mailto:MSutton@AState.edu) or Debi Dunning,  
[DDunning@AState.edu](mailto:DDunning@AState.edu)



## 2024 Infant and Toddler Extravaganza!

**Batesville**

***Saturday, June 8th!***

This vibrant day of professional development is designed especially for educators and administrators working with very young children.



This year's theme is "Enjoy the Journey", and we'll focus on preparing and sharing joyful, meaningful

experiences with very young children. Participants will enjoy a morning general session facilitated by Marcy White, followed by a playful, hands-on afternoon loaded with ideas to take back to your program!

A \$30 registration fee includes a box lunch.

**[Click here](#)** to register or find out more.

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## TRAININGS

### Administrator Trainings

**Southwest Arkansas Director's Roundtable**

May 14, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/rtjbxq6>

For more information contact Geania Dickey, [GDickey@AState.edu](mailto:GDickey@AState.edu)

### Teacher Trainings

**Using Books to Promote Healthy Eating** (2 hours of PDR credit)

January 1 - June 30

PDR Course # 62794

For more information contact Nicole Holderby at [NHolderby@AState.edu](mailto:NHolderby@AState.edu)

**Going Outdoors with Infants and Toddlers** (2 hours of PDR credit)

January 1 - June 30

PDR Course # 62793

For more information contact Nicole Holderby at [NHolderby@AState.edu](mailto:NHolderby@AState.edu)

**Explorers Preschool Curriculum:**

**Recognizing High-Value Learning Experiences** (2 hours of PDR credit)

May 1, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PDR Course # 65402

For more information contact Marcy White, [MWhite@AState.edu](mailto:MWhite@AState.edu)



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### Explorers Preschool Curriculum: The Power of Play (2 hours of PDR credit)

May 6, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

PDR Course # 65403

For more information contact Marcy White, [MWhite@AState.edu](mailto:MWhite@AState.edu)

May 8, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PDR Course # 65404

For more information contact Marcy White, [MWhite@AState.edu](mailto:MWhite@AState.edu)

### Intro to Explorers Curriculum for Toddlers and Twos (2 hours of PDR credit)

May 13, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

PDR Course # 65543

For more information contact Marcy White, [MWhite@AState.edu](mailto:MWhite@AState.edu)

May 15, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PDR Course # 65544

For more information contact Marcy White, [MWhite@AState.edu](mailto:MWhite@AState.edu)

### Explorers Toddlers and Twos: Fostering Physical and Cognitive Development

(2 hours of PDR credit)

May 20, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

PDR Course # 65545

For more information contact Marcy White, [MWhite@AState.edu](mailto:MWhite@AState.edu)

May 22

PDR Course # 65546

For more information contact Marcy White, [MWhite@AState.edu](mailto:MWhite@AState.edu)

### Explorers Toddlers and Twos: Encouraging Identity (2 hours of PDR credit)

May 29, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PDR Course # 65547

For more information contact Marcy White, [MWhite@AState.edu](mailto:MWhite@AState.edu)

### 2024 Infant- Toddler Extravaganza

Batesville

June 8

[Click here](#) to register or find out more information.

### 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](mailto: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 8 and 9

Registration information coming soon!

### Conscious Discipline Pre-School Series (36 hours pf 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](mailto: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](mailto:MSutton@AState.edu) or Debi Dunning,  
[DDunning@AState.edu](mailto:DDunning@AState.edu)

## River Valley Early Childhood Association



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## 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.

## River Valley Early Childhood Association



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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](https://ArkansasEarlyChildhood.org)



Make sure to choose

**RV-ECA** as your affiliate!



# River Valley Early Childhood Association



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## 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](http://www.arkansasearlychildhood.org)





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**ARKANSAS**

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