

Arizona Early Education Support Showcase

February 3rd 2026, 5:30-7:30 pm via Zoom. [Enroll through the Registry](#)

Plan Your Evening: Make the Most of the Virtual Showcase

Welcome to our online Early Childhood Support Showcase! This is your opportunity to discover free resources, programs and services to strengthen your classroom, program or work with families.

The evening features short breakout sessions, where presenters provide quick overviews of what's available and how to access it. To get the most out of the event, we encourage you to review the session tracks in advance and choose the ones most relevant to your interests or role. **Choose one breakout session per round.**

Topic Tracks:

Health, Safety & Nutrition (HEALTH)

Focuses on supporting children's physical health and well-being in early care and education settings. Sessions cover nutrition, physical activity, and programs that help you create healthy, safe environments for young children.

Social Emotional Support Services (SOC)

Explores strategies and programs that promote children's social-emotional development and help you prevent challenging behaviors. Learn about consultation, practices and resources to support mental health and positive relationships.

Developmental Needs & Learning Supports (DEV)

Highlights services and resources for families and children with developmental delays or disabilities, as well as professional development opportunities that strengthen educators' ability to support learning and development for all children.

Early Childhood Business Supports (BUS)

Covers tools, coaching, and resources to help support early childhood programs to strengthen and sustain their businesses.

Family Engagement (FAM)

Focuses on supporting families as partners in children's learning and development. Includes resources, community programs, and strategies to connect families to information and services that strengthen family well-being.

Early Childhood Supportive Services (SUPP)

Provides an overview of statewide programs and resources that support early care and education providers and school-age programs.

Sessions Offered in Spanish (Español)

A selection of sessions will be offered in Spanish. Se ofrecerá una selección de sesiones en español.

Round 1- Breakout Session Options

Empower Program and Go NAPSACC (HEALTH)

Presenter: Adri Koslan

The Empower program helps support licensed ECE programs' efforts to empower young children to grow up healthy through a series of nutrition, health, and physical activity standards. Go NAPSACC offers providers a robust, customizable tool to assess and plan improvements aligned with Empower goals in child nutrition, breastfeeding, and physical activity.

Smart Support (SOC)

Presenter: Jeanette Manley

Smart Support is an evidence-based intervention that partners mental health professionals with early care and education providers, home visitors, and other staff as well as families, programs, and systems to build their capacity to support young children's social and emotional development and prevent or address behavioral and mental health challenges. It is a collaborative problem-solving approach that is both effective and efficient because it allows consultants to influence consultees' knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices that affect multiple children and families. This is a free service available to most early care and education programs in Arizona.

 **The Arizona Early Intervention Program (DEV)**

Presenter: Lisa Vallee

The Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) is Arizona's statewide interagency system of services and supports for families of infants and toddlers, birth through two years of age, with disabilities or delays. AzEIP is established by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which provides eligible children and their families access to services to enhance the capacity of families and caregivers to support the child's development. The AzEIP service-providing agencies provide services with no out-of-pocket cost for families. Anyone can make a referral to apply for the program if a child under age 3 is suspected of having a significant developmental delay or disability.

 **Early Childhood Business Solutions (BUS)**

Presenters: Laura Campbell and Megan Baciao

This session will explain how Early Childhood Business Solutions (ECBS) supports providers through coaching, training and resources like AZToolkit and child care management systems. We'll share how these services improve sustainability and compliance, followed by an interactive Q&A to answer your questions. Providers should join us to learn how ECBS can help their businesses thrive and better serve children and families across Arizona.

 **Birth to Five Helpline (FAM)**

Presenter: Maria Lopez and Barb Gordon

Learn about Southwest Human Development's Birth to Five Helpline, a free resource for anyone who has questions or concerns about young children including parents, grandparents, caregivers and early childhood professionals. We will offer an overview of the program and discuss ways we can collaborate on behalf of families and in support of each other as professionals.

 **Quality First (SUPP)**

Presenter: Madison Anderson and Velma Gesimba

This session will provide an overview of Quality First. Participants will learn how Quality First helps providers improve the quality of their programs through assessment, rating and a free system of support. Participants will learn about the Rating Only pathway to participation and the benefits of earning a rating.

Child Care Resource & Referral (Español)

Presentadora: Kassandra Bustos

Esta sesión presentará a las familias, proveedores y socios comunitarios los servicios de Recursos e Información para el Cuidado Infantil (CCR&R). Los participantes aprenderán cómo CCR&R apoya a las familias en la búsqueda de cuidado infantil de calidad, la comprensión de las opciones de cuidado infantil y el acceso a asistencia financiera y recursos comunitarios. La sesión también destacará cómo los proveedores y socios pueden conectarse con CCR&R para obtener referencias, desarrollo profesional y apoyo continuo. Los asistentes saldrán con una comprensión clara de los recursos disponibles y cómo acceder a ellos.

Family Child Care Network of Arizona (Español)

Presentadora: Liz Rabago

Descripción de la sesión: Esta sesión ofrecerá una descripción general del nuevo programa de apoyo para negocios y certificación, así como una oportunidad de obtener una pequeña subvención.

Este programa está dirigido exclusivamente a proveedores de cuidado infantil en el hogar.

Round 2- Breakout Session Options

Child and Adult Care Food Program (HEALTH)

Presenters: Paige Bethke and Melissa Rose

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) will provide an overview of the Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP) administered by Health and Nutrition Services. The session will cover CACFP basics including program benefits, eligible settings, and how participation supports early care and education environments. We will also highlight ADE resources and technical assistance available to help ECE providers get started.

AZSTEPS Expulsion Prevention Program (SOC)

Presenters: Anna Marie Sepulveda, Cindy Matcha

This session will highlight the negative impact of suspension and expulsion on young children's social-emotional development, relationships, and long-term school success. Participants will receive an overview of the AZSTEPS Expulsion Prevention Program, which supports child care providers and families serving children from birth to age 12. The session explains how to request free support, including consultation, classroom strategies, training, and technical assistance. Attendees will also learn how to access professional development opportunities and on-site classroom support to promote inclusion and prevent expulsion in early learning settings.

DES Department of Developmental Disabilities (DEV)

Presenter: Micky Barnhart

DDD is the state agency providing supports and services to individuals with autism, Down Syndrome, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and intellectual/cognitive disabilities. This session will review eligibility, the application process, and services provided.

AZ Toolkit (BUS)

Presenters: Dr. Felicia Durden and Darcy Heath

This session introduces AZToolkit, an online resource that supports Arizona's early childhood workforce with tools, guidance, and connections to quality improvement and professional development supports. Participants will learn how AZToolkit helps programs navigate quality systems, strengthen practice, and access technical assistance. The session will clarify eligibility, including free access for DES-contracted providers and programs participating in Southwest Human Development's Early Childhood Business Solutions. Attendees will explore key toolkit sections, practical use examples, and have time for questions and direct support.

Family Resource Centers (FAM)

Presenter: Mollie Bailey

This session will provide an introduction to Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and demonstrate how these free, community-based programs can strengthen the support systems available to children and families. Participants will learn what FRCs offer, including parent education, developmental resources, basic-needs supports, and family engagement opportunities, as well as how educators can easily connect families to these services. The session will include a brief overview of statewide FRC

models, practical examples of how educators have partnered with FRCs, and website tools for sharing FRC information with families. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how FRCs can enhance family well-being and complement the work happening in early learning environments.

Family Resource Centers are currently available in the following FTF regions:

Maricopa regions, Pima South, San Carlos Apache Tribe and Santa Cruz.



Child Care Resource & Referral (SUPP)

Presenter: Kassandra Bustos

This session will introduce families, providers, and community partners to Child Care Resource & Referral services. Participants will learn how CCR&R supports families in finding quality child care, understanding child care options, and accessing financial assistance and community resources. The session will also highlight how providers and partners can connect with CCR&R for referrals, professional development, and ongoing support. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of available resources and how to access them.



AZSTEPS Expulsion Prevention Program (Español)

Presenter: Madeline Hernandez

Esta sesión destacará el impacto negativo de la suspensión y expulsión en el desarrollo socioemocional de los niños pequeños, sus relaciones interpersonales y su éxito escolar a largo plazo. Los participantes recibirán una descripción general del Programa de Prevención de Expulsiones AZSTEPS, el cual apoya a los proveedores de cuidado infantil y a las familias que atienden a niños desde el nacimiento hasta los 12 años. La sesión explicará cómo solicitar apoyo gratuito, que incluye asesoramiento, estrategias para el aula, capacitación y asistencia técnica. Los asistentes también aprenderán cómo acceder a oportunidades de desarrollo profesional y apoyo en el aula para promover la inclusión y prevenir la expulsión en entornos de educación infantil.



DES Division of Developmental Disabilities (Español)

Presentadora: Felecia Najera

DDD es la agencia estatal que brinda apoyo y servicios a personas con autismo, síndrome de Down, epilepsia, parálisis cerebral y discapacidades intelectuales o cognitivas. En esta sesión se revisarán los requisitos de elegibilidad, el proceso de solicitud y los servicios que se ofrecen.

Round 3- Breakout Session Options

Arizona's Pyramid Model (SOC)

Presenters: Patsy Rethore-Larson and Priscilla Sachs

The Pyramid Model is an evidence-based framework that helps early childhood educators promote social-emotional development and prevent challenging behaviors using a tiered approach. This session will offer a brief introduction to the Pyramid Model, including free statewide resources and available training.

iECHO Project Training (DEV)

Presenter: Bjorg Lesueur

Learn how the AZECE Professional Development Collaborative is partnering to expand professional learning opportunities for Arizona's early childhood workforce. Attendees will gain an overview of the free iECHO training opportunities designed to support early childhood professionals in essential areas such as social-emotional learning, science and math exploration, and language and literacy development and so much more. Participants will walk away with a clear understanding of how to access these professional development opportunities.

Family Child Care Network of Arizona (BUS)

Presenter: Cynthia Melde

This session will provide an overview of new business and certification support program as well as a mini grant opportunity.

This program is limited to home-based child care providers only.

How to Connect Parents to Resources (FAM)

Presenters: Haley Wagner and Julia Rodriguez

This session provides an overview of First Things First parenting content and tools you can use and share. We'll highlight the new AZ Parent Guide, recent parenting blog content and the Find Programs tool to help families connect with services in their community. We'll also explore available social media content for partners interested in sharing through their own channels, plus printable and downloadable resources, including Ages and Stages materials and the Quality Child Care checklist.



Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE)

Presenter: Jessica Flowers

Professionals working with ages 5–12—get ready for a lively, interactive crash course in how AzCASE can make your afterschool program smoother, calmer, and more joyful with tips, resources, training, and quality standards built just for school-age programs!



Early Childhood Business Solutions (Español)

Presentadoras: Tiffany Corona, Caterina Lefemine

Esta sesión explicará cómo Early Childhood Business Solutions (ECBS) apoya a los proveedores a través de asesoramiento, capacitación y recursos como AZToolkit y sistemas de gestión de cuidado infantil. Compartiremos cómo estos servicios mejoran la sostenibilidad y el cumplimiento, seguido de una sesión interactiva de preguntas y respuestas para atender sus dudas. Invitamos a los proveedores a unirse a nosotros para aprender cómo ECBS puede ayudar a que sus negocios prosperen y brinden un mejor servicio a los niños y las familias en todo Arizona.



Smart Support (Español)

Presentadora: Fritzie Enriquez

Smart Support es una intervención basada en evidencia que conecta a profesionales de la salud mental con proveedores de atención y educación infantil, visitadores domiciliarios y otros miembros del personal, así como con familias, programas y sistemas, para fortalecer su capacidad de apoyar el desarrollo socioemocional de los niños pequeños y prevenir o abordar los problemas de comportamiento y salud mental. Se trata de un enfoque colaborativo para la resolución de problemas que es eficaz y eficiente, ya que permite a los consultores influir en los conocimientos, actitudes, creencias y prácticas de quienes reciben la consulta, lo que beneficia a múltiples niños y familias. Este servicio es gratuito y está disponible para la mayoría de los programas de atención y educación infantil en Arizona.

