

Communities of Practice

2024 - 2025



Creating Connections, a Spanish language Community of Practice

A unique learning experience focused on supporting infants and toddlers in group care and honoring their extraordinary journey of development in the first three years of life.

Coordinator Contact: Amber Jones and Connie Espinoza
ajones.earlychildhoodpd@gmail.com
Connie.espinoza@outlook.com



Building Early
Childhood Foundations

Building Early Childhood Foundations

Supports early childhood educators in the development of the whole child from a culturally responsive perspective, as well as using approaches that are Developmentally Appropriate Practices.

Coordinator Contact: Maggie McKiernan
Mggqt.2010@gmail.com



Empoderando a Educadores Consientes, a Spanish language Community of Practice

Increasing family childcare providers' knowledge of the importance of social-emotional development as the foundation for learning. For home childcare providers.

Coordinator Contact: Denisse Hernandez de Ortiz
dhernandez@unitedwaytucson.org



Enhancing Early Childhood Executive Function Skills

Promoting Head Start teachers' understandings of the 7 essential skills in *Mind in the Making*, their relationship to the development of executive functions in children and improving their development. Must be Child Parent Centers employee to participate.

Coordinator Contact: Christine Vega and Beatriz Lugo
cvega@childparentcenters.org
blugo@childparentcenters.org

Exploring STEAM Through Literacy for Ages Birth - Five

Providing developmentally appropriate practice for engaging our youngest learners, using science, technology, engineering, art, and math. There is an English and Spanish cohort.

Coordinator Contact: Amanda McPherson
amanda.mcpherson@pima.gov



College
of
Education

Great Expectations for Resilience

A focus on teaching practices around trauma-informed social-emotional development. Enrollment at University of Arizona required for participation.

Coordinator Contact: Dr. Rebecca Lopez
beckalopez@arizona.edu

Inspire Inclusion

Supporting high quality inclusion for young children.

Coordinator Contact: Erin Aguilar
eaguilar@blake.easterseals.com

Las Familias: Whole Teacher, Whole Child

Developing childcare center teachers' skills about a) how the whole child develops, b) development of language and literacy and c) how to implement Developmentally Appropriate Practice.

Coordinator Contact: Sarah Woodworth and Julia Butler
sarahwoodworth1@gmail.com

Nurture through Nature

The 'hows' of authentically connecting children to nature often seem complicated; they don't have to be! From the 'Ick, what's that bug?' to the "Why is this happening?", opening children's hearts, minds, and senses to the wonder of the natural world inside, outside, and beyond is made easy. Practitioners will experience the joys of exploration with the children in their life.

Coordinator Contact: Catherine Kelly and Paul Ohm
kaiblue7@gmail.com
Paul.ohm@prescott.edu

Project Best

Build high quality infant and toddler care and education, utilizing the Program for Infant Toddler Care curriculum.

Coordinator Contact: Marjorie Mullins
mmullins@cfraz.org

Raising Resilience

Recognizing the signs and symptoms of trauma to support young children in need of on-going and additional social-emotional support.

Coordinator Contact: Ashley Curtis-King
acurtis-king@blake.easterseals.com



sazaeyc

Southern Arizona Association for
the Education of Young Children





The Story Project: Cuéntame, a Spanish language Community of Practice

Building early childhood family childcare educators' knowledge and skills related to how the whole child develops by promoting language and emergent early literacy. This CoP is in Spanish for home childcare providers.

Coordinator Contact: Rosa Lira
Rosa@makewayforbooks.org



Vail School District - ECE Community of Practice

Fostering collaboration among Early Childhood Education (ECE) specialists by facilitating monthly professional development for ECE specialists on preschool essentials. Identifying best practices and areas for improvement, ensuring innovative and effective educational approaches. Must be an employee of the VUSD.

Coordinator Contact: Francesca LoMonaco
lomonacof@vailschooldistrict.org



Please email GETCFC@unitedwaytucson.org
for additional information