



Early Childhood Education BULLETIN

MARCH 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

March 1

RFA for Creating Centers For Exemplary Practice in Infant/Toddler Care Deadline

March 8

D.C. State Athletic Association Girls Basketball Semi Finals

March 9

D.C. State Athletic Association Boys Basketball Semi Finals

March 11

ACF/ OCC Region III Meeting

D.C. State Athletic Association Basketball Championship Finals

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Early Learning Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education on February 20, 2013!



A MESSAGE FROM OSSE

Welcome to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education's (OSSE) Early Childhood Education Bulletin!

This monthly bulletin will provide our early childhood providers and community with information relative to the zero to five profession. In our bulletin you can find such things as upcoming events and important dates to mark on your calendar, what's going on in the early childhood community, grant updates, professional development opportunities, recent news from the OSSE and much more.

In the upcoming editions, we will also have a "Provider Spotlight," which will feature the wonderful things that you all are doing at your sites for District residents.

We would love to hear and share the positive stories that are being done within our zero to five network, and ask for submissions for future editions.

We hope that you find this bulletin both informative and useful. For more information or questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Brandee Reed at brandee.reed@dc.gov or via phone at 202-741-5937.

GRANTS

OSSE released the RFA for Creating Centers of Exemplary Practice in Infant/Toddler Care and Expanding Infant/Toddler Slots in the District of Columbia. The application submission deadline is March 1, 2013. OSSE seeks to fund twenty (20) awards at \$50,000 each.

The total amount of the Grant Award is \$1,000,000. For more information regarding this grant, please contact Walter Lundy at walter.lundy@dc.gov.

For the first time, instead of hand delivering your applications you have the ability to submit electronically! Be on the look out for electronic submission instructions with each application.

ONLINE SUBSIDY APPLICATION PORTAL

In an effort to minimize the use of paper and the labor intensive initial and renewal subsidy application process, the OSSE is planning to create a web-based portal for providers to submit their application online. This process will be more simple and user friendly. Stay tuned for updates on the subsidy application.



QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM

The purpose of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) is to rate early learning/childhood programs using statewide data to obtain a reasonable assurance of quality and to provide supports where needed most. In addition to the present accreditation standards, the QRIS will measure six quality standards (Program Management, Learning Environment, Classroom Supervision, Family Engagement, Staff Qualifications, and Licensing Compliance). The QRIS will be applied to all early learning programs in the District of Columbia. Representatives across the early childhood network have been apart of weekly working sessions since December 2012 to provide input and feedback on the QRIS tool to ensure that it will be used effectively and accurately.

It is anticipated that a final draft of the QRIS tool will be completed in the Spring of 2013. If you're interested in participating in the working sessions, please contact Eric Rosser at eric.rosser@dc.gov.

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

COMING SOON!

Has your site accepted a special award, received recognition, or reached a new goal?

Let us know so that you can be featured in the "Provider Spotlight"!

Submit information to brandee.reed@dc.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR MARCH

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 Moving Through Math 12pm–2:30pm	8 Subtle Impact 9am– 12pm	9 Subtle Impact 9am– 12pm
12 Issues in Child Maltreatment 9am– 5pm	13 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Awareness 12pm– 3pm Recognizing Early Signs of Emotional Disorders 12:30pm– 2:30pm	14 Moving Through Math 12pm– 2:30pm	15 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome 1pm– 3pm	16 Recognizing Early Signs of Emotional Disorders 9am– 12pm Principle of Child Growth and Development 10am– 12pm
19	20 Recognizing Early Signs of Emotional Disorders 12:30pm– 2:30pm	21 Ready to Learn 1pm-2:30pm	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic Training Level ■ Intermediate Training Level ■ Advanced Training Level 		28	29	30 Issues in Child Maltreatment 9am– 5pm

IN THE MEDIA

The President's and our Mayor's recent State of the Union and State of the District Address highlighted the importance of early childhood education in our nation and the District's education system. President Obama is working to make sure that high quality preschools are readily available across the country. President Obama also identified Georgia and Oklahoma as top states in focusing on early childhood education. The OSSE is currently conducting research on the services provided in those states to see how we can improve early education utilizing best practices here in the District of Columbia.

D.C. is "the first city in America where there are enough seats in publicly – supported early childhood education for all three- and four- year olds." Mayor Vincent C. Gray plans to continue to focus on expanding early childhood education across the city and the OSSE is committed to collaborating to execute the same mission with our providers.

For details about registration, costs, locations and other information, contact the Department of Early Learning at 202-727-1839.