



We are so excited to see the impact of the Fun Family Activity mini-grants that we had to share this quote from Patty Carbone of the Sandpipers Early Learning Center in Middletown:

“This program connects families to one another and to resources in the community to better support their child’s positive growth and development. This program empowers families to gain a new knowledge and understanding of the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards and how they as parents can use the RIELDS to further support their child’s educational experience from the earliest years. Providing the Fun Family Activities is a natural extension of the work we do as an agency and as a high-quality early care and education center in the state. We engage families in the work we do and share the knowledge and strategies they can employ at home to ensure their children are ready to learn upon entrance into the formal school years. Engaging with families in purposeful and intentional ways within our own agency as well as the community is a critical part of our strategic planning.”



Save The Date

March 30: Spanish/ English quality improvement grant [support session](#)

March 31: [ECEDS registration session](#), 4-6pm, Knight Memorial Library

April 4: [ECEDS registration session](#), 12-2pm, Knight Memorial Library

April 6: Application deadline for wave 7 quality improvement grants

Workforce Knowledge and Competency for Administrators and Education Leads

The development team for the Workforce Knowledge and Competency (WKC) for Administrators and Education Coordinators is well on their way to creating a first draft. These WKC represent the last framework in the set of five frameworks that were developed. Thus far, the team has identified domains and subdomains and is beginning to place indicators in each subdomain. The team has identified nine preliminary domains: development and learning, curriculum, child assessment, leadership, family engagement, systems of staff support, program administration and management, community partnerships, and continuous program improvement. The team chose these domains based on a variety of resources – e.g., other administrator competencies, literature on leadership in early childhood education, the current R.I. WKC documents. Each development team member has been putting in extensive work to identify indicators for the draft, which involves combing through numerous resources and picking out what’s most important for folks in these leadership roles to know and be able to do.

The team will complete the draft in May and send it to experts around the country to refine the first draft. After this expert comment period the draft will be sent to various stakeholders across the state for public comment (anticipated early fall 2015).

Thank you to the following team members developing these WKC: Carmen Diaz-Jusino, Christine Chiacu-Forsythe, Cindy Giroux, Deb Bankauskas, Deb Morelle, Kristen Greene, Melissa Emidy, Sara Mickelson, Michele Palermo, Karen Pucciarelli, Patty Carbone, Sherry Bowry, and Susan Zoll.



Learn the Signs. Act Early.

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Parents are often very aware of their child’s physical development, closely tracking their child’s height and weight. But there are other important milestones parents should watch for: how their child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves. Smiling for the first time, making eye contact, and pointing are a few of these developmental milestones.

If a child with a developmental delay is identified and connected with services and supports early on, he or she has a better chance to achieve his or her full potential. But as many as half of the children with developmental disorders are not diagnosed until school age.

Tracking developmental milestones and talking with the child's doctor about them at every check-up helps parents understand their child's overall development.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign offers free information and resources to help parents track their child's development. Parents can find milestone lists, fact sheets, parenting tips, and other free resources and information on the [CDC website](#).

Registering on the ECEDS

The Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS) has been released. The ECEDS is an electronic tool that will allow providers to:

- **Complete DCYF licensing renewal paperwork;**
- **Apply to BrightStars and RIDE's Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Approval; and**
- **Make it easy for families to find a program through an online search.**

Administrators, public school education leads, and family child care providers should have received login information by USPS and email. Providers can access registration in the ECEDS system through the Exceed [website](#). By registering, programs will be completing a profile of their program that provides useful information to families looking for early education programs. This information will be made available to the public through the Early Learning Program Search, to be launched soon on the Exceed website.

Need help registering? Stop by a registration session on **March 31 (4-6pm)** or **April 4 (12-2pm)** at the **Knight Memorial Library**.

Participate in the #ExceedExpectations campaign

Follow Exceed RI on [Facebook](#). We are looking for high resolution photos! Show us how your child's play today is preparing them for their future. Exceed will select six photos of children under the age of five for our annual report due out in early May. Upload your photos between March 30 and April 3 on [Exceed RI's Facebook](#) page.

Check out the [Exceed RI](#) Facebook page for an example!

