

## Early Learning Services Directory By Topic

### Child Care Regulations, Forms and Administration of Medication Training

- <https://kids.delaware.gov/occl/providers.shtml>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families' (DSCYF) Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)
- Contact: Kent & Sussex Counties – 302-739-5487; New Castle County – 302-829-5800; E-mail – [OCCL.DSCYF@state.de.us](mailto:OCCL.DSCYF@state.de.us)

**Child Care WAGES® (otherwise known as WAGES®)** - Provides education-based salary supplements to underpaid teachers, directors, administrators and family child care providers, working with children birth-5 years. Participants must be working in a regulated (STARS) early care and education setting and the program must be a STAR 3 or higher. The initiative is designed to increase workforce retention, education and compensation. The WAGES® participant receives a supplement every six (6) months tied to the level of education and retention in their program.

- <http://deaeyc.org/>
- Administered through
- Contact DEAEYC at 302-764-1500

**Child Development Watch – Early Intervention Program (Ages Birth-3)** – CDW is the statewide early intervention program for children ages birth to 3. The program's mission is to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays and to enhance the capacity of their families to meet the needs of their young children.

- <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/chs/chscdw.html>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Education's Office of Early Learning and Division of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health
- Contact: Fiona Vivar – Liaison to Child Development Watch (early intervention program for children ages birth to 3) – New Castle County – 302-283-7240 or [Fiona.Vivar@state.de.us](mailto:Fiona.Vivar@state.de.us)
- Contact: Jeannette Short – Liaison to Child Development Watch – Kent & Sussex Counties – 302-424-7300 or [Jeannette.Short@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Jeannette.Short@doe.k12.de.us)

**Delaware Early Childhood Council (DECC)** – The mission of the Delaware Early Childhood Council (ECC) is to promote the development of a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system, birth to eight, which provides the highest quality services and environment for Delaware's children and their families. The Delaware ECC was codified in 2007 in Title 14, Chapter 30 of the Delaware Code. It was amended June 2010 in HR 470 (Section 1 Amendment 1703(n) Title 14. [Delaware ECC By-Laws](#)

- <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3760>
- Administrative support provided by the Department of Education's Office of Early Learning
- Contact: Tina Shockley [Tina.Shockley@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Tina.Shockley@doe.k12.de.us) or at 302-735-4105

**Delaware Early Learner Survey (DE-ELS)** - An observational tool through which kindergarten teachers observe and record children's knowledge and skills that lead to success in kindergarten and through life. All

kindergarten students participate in the survey. DE-ELS results allow teachers, districts and state leaders to identify:

- Resources to customize instruction to children's needs in all developmental domains
- How to best support young children's progress before, during and after kindergarten
- Ways to support early learning and kindergarten teachers and administrators
- <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3029>
- Administered through the Office of Early Learning
- Contact: Caitlin Gleason at 302-735-4295 or [Caitlin.gleason@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Caitlin.gleason@doe.k12.de.us)

**Delaware First Professional Development for Early Childhood (also known as Delaware First)** - Commonly referred to as **Delaware First**, this program supports early learning professionals by certifying them to become employed by an early childcare or school-age care center once they meet specific requirements related to age, work experience and education. This is for those:

- Interested in entering the career field of early childhood
- Wishing to find out what you need to become a certified early childhood or school-aged educator
- Need to know what college courses to take or have your current courses evaluated
- Seeking information on TECE 1 & 2 (training for early care and education)
- Unable to access an employee in the Star's database
- Already certified, but wishing to find out how to earn specialty credentials
- Seeking certificate copies
- Includes career advisement, which is guidance offered to high school graduates, early learning professionals, and individuals changing careers who are seeking certification qualification through the Delaware First certification process. Also provides evaluation of current qualifications and options for advancement and planning to reach short- and long-term career goals.
- <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3622>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Education's Office of Early Learning
- Contact: Delaware First Office at 302-735-4236; Email: [DelawareFirst@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:DelawareFirst@doe.k12.de.us)

**Delaware Stars for Early Success (see also STARS)** - Delaware's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) administered by the Delaware Department of Education. A QRIS is a method to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education and school-age settings. The goal of Delaware Stars is to invest in participating programs to increase access to high quality care for all of Delaware's children.

- <https://www.dieecpd.org>
- Administered through the De Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) under contract with Department of Education's Office of Early Learning
- Contact: 302-831-3239

**Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP)** - A state-funded, comprehensive child development program for income-eligible families with preschool age children. The Office of Early Learning (OEL) contracts and partners with public and private early learning programs to deliver ECAP services to three-year-old and four-year-old children statewide.

- <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3640>

- Administered through the Office of Early Learning
- Contact: Caitlin Gleason at 302-735-4295 or [Caitlin.gleason@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Caitlin.gleason@doe.k12.de.us)

**Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants** - An effective strategy in supporting young children’s social and emotional development in early care and education settings. The Division of Prevention and Behavioral Services offers early childhood mental health consultation as a free service and partnership with Delaware early childhood education programs-with a focus on children ages 2-5 years and on programs with a significant proportion of children who are assisted by the Purchase of Care program. All consultants are licensed mental health professionals with experience in early care and education settings.

- <https://kids.delaware.gov/pbhs/pdfs/pbh-brochure-ecmhc.pdf>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health’s Prevention and Behavioral Services Office OR Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants - For more information contact DSCYF at 302-633-2600

**Early Childhood Special Education (Part B/ 619 Programs)** – The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Section 619 helps states ensure that all preschool-aged children (3-5 years of age) with disabilities receive special education and related services. State education agencies (SEAs) receive this funding, and through them, local education agencies (LEAs) and educational service agencies are eligible for grants under this program. Part B Section 619 programs, also known as Early Childhood Special Education programs, are responsible for providing Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for children 3 to 5 years of age, except for those children identified with Birth Mandate classifications. In Delaware, children identified under Birth Mandate classifications include Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment including Blindness, are eligible for Section 619 programs beginning at birth. Includes: Ages and Stages Questionnaire, which is a developmental screening tool used in some Local Education Agencies, all Delaware Stars programs and some licensed child care facilities. Provides an accurate, family-friendly way to screen children for developmental delays between one month and 5½ years.

- <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3641>
- Administered through the Department of Education’s Office of Early Learning and Exceptional Children Resources
- Contact: Cindy Brown 302-735-4295; Email: [Cindy.Brown@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Cindy.Brown@doe.k12.de.us) or Jennifer Marsh at 302-735-4295 or [Jennifer.Marsh@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Jennifer.Marsh@doe.k12.de.us)

**Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP)** – Combines the best of Early Head Start and childcare through layering of funding to provide comprehensive and continuous services to low-income infants, toddlers, and their families. EHS-CCP enhances developmental services and supports for low-income infants and toddlers, and their families, by providing strong relationship-based experiences and preparing them for the transition into Head Start and preschool.

- <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3633>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Education’s Office of Early Learning  
Contact: Carmen Gallagher at [carmen.gallagher@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:carmen.gallagher@doe.k12.de.us) or John Fisher-Klein at [John.Fisher-Klein@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:John.Fisher-Klein@doe.k12.de.us) or Jamie Bilbrough at [Jamie.Bilbrough@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Jamie.Bilbrough@doe.k12.de.us) or via telephone at 302-735-4295

#### **Finding Child Care in Your Area**

- <https://kids.delaware.gov/occl/search-for-child-care.shtml>

- Administered through Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families' (DSCYF) Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)
- Contact: Kent & Sussex Counties – 302-739-5487; New Castle County – 302-829-5800; E-mail – [OCCL.DSCYF@state.de.us](mailto:OCCL.DSCYF@state.de.us)

**Head Start Collaboration Office of Delaware** - The Administration of Children and Families (ACF) has awarded Head Start collaboration grants to support the development of multi-agency and public and private partnerships at the state and national levels. These partnerships are intended to:

- Assist in building early childhood systems
- Provide access to comprehensive services and support for all low-income children
- Encourage widespread collaboration between Head Start and other appropriate programs, services, and initiatives
- Augment Head Start's capacity to be a partner in state initiatives on behalf of children and their families
- Facilitate the involvement of Head Start in state policies, plans, processes, and decisions affecting target populations and other low-income families
- The Office of Head Start has established national and regional priorities that guide the Head Start Collaboration Office's work plans
- <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3642>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Education's Office of Early Learning
- Contact: Angela Connor 302-735-4295; E-mail – [angela.connor@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:angela.connor@doe.k12.de.us)

**Kindergarten Related Services** are varied and determined by each school district or charter school. Please reach out to your school district or charter school directly to inquire about their process and requirements. If you are unsure of your child's school district, please click on the link below for more information:

- <https://pubapps.doe.k12.de.us/SchoolLocator/FeederSchoolSearch.aspx>
- Administered through each school district
- Contact: Local School District or Caitlin Gleason at 302-735-4295

**Parents as Teachers Program (PAT)** - An evidence-based home visiting model that has been a part of Delaware for the last 30 years. PAT provides optimal early development, learning and health of young children by supporting and engaging their family through home visits. It is a statewide program serving children birth-5 years of age, focusing on school readiness. The goals for the program are to:

- Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices
- Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Increase children's school readiness and school success.
- <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3638>
- Administered through the Department of Education's Office of Early Learning
- Contact: Carmen Gallagher at [Carmen.Gallagher@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Carmen.Gallagher@doe.k12.de.us) or at 302-735-4295

**Purchase of Care (POC)** - POC is a program that helps low-income families pay for their child care. It is available for children from infancy through thirteen years of age. DSS determines eligibility based on the need for service and income. The income limit is currently set at 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). If your child is older than 13 and has a special need, you still may be eligible to receive child care.

- <https://assist.dhss.delaware.gov/>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Social Services
- Contact:
  - If you are a child care facility/provider interested in contracting with POC, please contact the DSS Child Care Monitor for your county:
    - Kent County
      - Gayle Green, POC Child Care Monitor - 302-857-5037
    - New Castle County
      - Eboni Anderson, POC Child Care Monitor – 302-255-9560
      - Danielle Hampton, POC Child Care Monitor – 302-255-9613
      - Yolanda Richards, POC Child Care Monitor – 302-255-9528
    - Sussex County
      - Catina McCray, POC Child Care Monitor - 302-515-3116
  - If you are a parent/caretaker interested in finding out if you are eligible to receive POC, please visit the Division of Social Services office near your home or you may go online to the ASSIST portal to apply for services; <https://assist.dhss.delaware.gov/>

**STARS** – Officially known as Delaware Stars for Early Success - Delaware's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) administered by the Delaware Department of Education. A QRIS is a method to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education and school-age settings. The goal of Delaware Stars is to invest in participating programs to increase access to high quality care for all of Delaware's children.

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- Contact: 302-831-3239

#### **Starting a Child Care Business**

- <https://kids.delaware.gov/occl/business.shtml>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families' (DSCYF) Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)
- Contact: Kent & Sussex Counties – 302-739-5487; New Castle County – 302-829-5800; E-mail – [OCCL.DSCYF@state.de.us](mailto:OCCL.DSCYF@state.de.us)

**T.E.A.C.H.® Early Childhood Delaware - scholarship program for early childhood educators** - T.E.A.C.H. is a research based comprehensive strategy to educate and retain early childhood practitioners, positively impacting outcomes for the children in their care. T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a proven effective strategy through its use of four key elements: scholarships, education, compensation and commitment.

- <http://deaeyc.org/>
- Administered through
- Contact DEAEYC at 302-764-1500

**Tiered Reimbursement Program** - Tiered Reimbursement is available to Delaware Stars level 3, 4, or 5 quality rated programs. The Tiered Reimbursement is paid monthly by the Delaware Department of Education and is separate from the Purchase of Care payment. Payments are electronically deposited into the programs account that is associated with the Division of Social Services Purchase of Care. The Reimbursement rate is determined by the program type, county, children's age, and Delaware Stars level of quality achieved or sustained.

- <http://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/tiered-reimbursement/>
- Administered through Delaware Department of Education's Office of Early Learning
- Contact: Carmen Gallagher, Exec. Dir of EHS-CCP at 302-735-4295; E-mail – [Early.Learning@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Early.Learning@doe.k12.de.us)
- Contact: Carmen Gallagher [Carmen.Gallagher@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Carmen.Gallagher@doe.k12.de.us) , 302-735-4295

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