

Division of Early Childhood Education 2021-22 Professional Learning Opportunities

Professional Learning Goals

During the 2021-22 school year, DECE professional learning will...

- Support programs in achieving high quality as outlined in the [Early Childhood Framework for Quality \(EFQ\)](#)
- Advance student learning based on the [Early Learning Outcomes Framework \(ELOF\)](#), the [Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core \(PKFCC\)](#), and the [New York State Prekindergarten Learning Standards](#)
- Build on the learnings of professional learning in 2020-21 while incorporating teacher and leader feedback.
- Build capacity at the classroom and program level by continuing to support leaders and teachers.
- Meet the needs of teachers, leaders, families, and children from all backgrounds.
- Build the capacity of practitioners throughout the system around trauma awareness and culturally responsive education.

Professional Learning Details

- Teaching teams (including lead teachers, assistant teachers, and paraprofessionals) in EarlyLearn, 3-K, and pre-K classrooms have the opportunity to attend multiple professional learning sessions taking place during non-attendance days and at other times throughout the year. These sessions may be a part of DECE professional learning series or alternative professional learning opportunities.
- Early childhood leaders are encouraged to attend professional learning sessions.
- Details about the DECE professional learning series (Create, Explore, Thrive and Teaching Team Learning Communities) are outlined below, including the different age ranges they serve.
- Non-attendance days are listed in the 2021-22 NYC Department of Education (DOE) school calendar. Additional PL days will be emailed directly to leaders, as assigned by each professional learning series.
- Professional learning sessions will take place virtually, in a self-paced (asynchronous) or live (synchronous) format.

Series Placement

Early childhood leaders will be able to express preference for professional learning series through a survey shared in late May. Programs will be notified of their series placement before the start of the

FY22 school year. **Please note that series placement will be determined based on a variety of factors, such as site preference, need, and research. Available slots in each series are limited, and dependent on funding and capacity.** The Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE) will do its best to accommodate preferences.

Other Professional Learning Opportunities

Additional universal, asynchronous and synchronous professional learning opportunities will be available during the 2021-22 school year. These will be announced through PrincipalsDigest and the Early Childhood Bulletin.

Please email DECEPL@schools.nyc.gov with any questions.

In the 2021-22 school year, early childhood programs can participate in the following professional learning series:

Create

Classroom age ranges: EarlyLearn – pre-K

Focus: Provide leaders and teaching teams with strategies to incorporate dance, music, theater, and visual art into instruction and the learning environment to provide opportunities for children to explore new concepts, express themselves, and make connections across learning domains.

Overview: Leaders and teaching teams will learn how to incorporate dance, music, theater, and visual art into their classrooms to promote student learning in multiple ELOF/PKFCC/NYSPLS domains and [Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts](#) strands. Sessions for 3-K and pre-K teaching teams will include experiential learning from experts in the field along with opportunities for peer exchange, and time to consider how to integrate the content into their programs. Over the course of two years, programs will spend one semester on each art form. Each semester will begin with a professional learning session and be followed by a coaching residency, in which expert teaching artists will directly coach and mentor teaching teams in the arts. **Programs participating in Create must provide time for coaching residencies.** The semester will culminate in a second professional learning session or Share Fair.

Professional learning for infant/toddler teaching teams will include the opportunity to work with teaching artists to explore materials and engage in experiential learning centered on high quality practices in the arts.

Participating programs will receive a toolkit of resources. Age appropriate and ELOF/PKFCC/NYSPLS-aligned picture books, pedagogical resources, and art-specific resources such as musical instruments, visual art supplies, simple costume pieces, and CDs for movement activities are included.

Series Duration: Create is a two-year commitment for programs that starts in fall 2021.

Explore

Classroom age ranges: 3-K, pre-K

Focus: Provide leaders and teaching teams with strategies to increase children’s critical thinking and problem solving skills through the Learning Trajectories Approach.

Overview: Leaders and teaching teams will reflect on and develop strategies for teaching concept development and problem solving, supporting all children in developing inquiry, language, and higher order thinking skills by building and deepening their knowledge of the Learning Trajectories. The Learning Trajectories Approach is a way of observing children’s mathematical thinking and determining instructional practices that meet children where they are, and challenge them to extend their thinking.

Participating 3-K and pre-K programs will receive classroom materials that encourage hands-on and engaging learning experiences as well as professional learning sessions and onsite coaching.

Programs participating in Explore must use only the Pre-K for All Interdisciplinary Units of Study and Building Blocks for their pre-K curricula, or the Explore version of Explorations for 3-K curricula, during the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 school years.

Series Duration and Structure: Explore is a two-year series for programs that starts in fall 2021.

Thrive

Classroom age ranges: 3-K – pre-K

Focus: Provide leaders and teaching teams with evidence-based practices to strengthen family engagement and children’s social-emotional development with a trauma informed care approach.

Overview: Leaders and teaching teams will learn concrete strategies to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic from a trauma informed care lens and promote safe, nurturing, and predictable environments, to ultimately ensure that all children develop the social, emotional, and behavioral regulation skills that are foundational for learning.

Participating programs will receive innovative tools and resources to support the use of evidence-based practices in daily interactions with children and families. Sessions will include interactive activities and discussion that support participants in exploring the connections between family engagement, social emotional development, and trauma informed care. Sessions for teaching teams will provide many opportunities for practicing strategies, including building relationships and navigating difficult conversations with families, developing social and emotional skills in the classroom, and understanding and responding to challenging behavior with proactive, reinforcement, and responsive strategies. Participants will have the chance to engage in meaningful self-reflection, build community, and develop their culturally responsive practice. Sessions for leaders will focus on self-reflection, self-care, developing leadership skills, and creating safe, nurturing, and predictable environments at the program

level.

Thrive is part of ThriveNYC, a citywide, mayoral initiative to support the mental health of all New Yorkers, including our earliest learners. Professional learning is supported by the Center for Early Childhood Health and Development at the NYU Langone Health.

Series Duration and Structure: Thrive is a one-year series for programs that start in fall 2021. This series will include asynchronous courses followed by synchronous sessions for the opportunity for participants to engage in more in depth discussion.

Teaching Team Learning Communities

Classroom age ranges: infants – pre-K

Focus: Provide leaders and teaching teams with opportunities to engage in learning communities that collaboratively reflect on and strengthen early childhood practice. All content will be aligned to the New York City Department of Education’s [Early Childhood Framework for Quality \(EFQ\)](#), while also honoring developmentally appropriate practice as outlined in the [Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core \(PKFCC\)](#), the [New York State Prekindergarten Learning Standards](#), and the [Early Learning Outcomes Framework \(ELOF\)](#).

Overview: Leaders and teaching teams will learn practical strategies to continually deepen and improve their practice in various content areas, which could include classroom environment, authentic assessment, developing children’s critical thinking, building strong partnerships with families and caregivers, and much more! As part of a professional learning community, teaching teams will learn alongside other early childhood educators in sessions facilitated by Instructional Coordinators (ICs), building the connection between professional learning and coaching. Professional learning communities will also provide opportunities for differentiation, as learning communities can be shaped by the experiences, interests, and needs of educators within the community.

Series Duration and Structure: Teaching Team Learning Communities is a one-year series for programs that start in fall 2021.