

Division of Early Childhood Education 2019-20

Professional Learning Opportunities

In the 2019-20 school year, early childhood programs can participate in the following professional learning opportunities.

Professional Learning Goals

During the 2019-20 school year, DECE professional learning will...

- Continue to 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 \(ELOF\)](#) and the [Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core \(PKFCC\)](#).
- Build on the successes of professional learning in 2018-19 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.

Professional Learning Details

- Lead teachers, assistant teachers, and paraprofessionals in eligible infants, toddlers, 3s and 4s classrooms* will attend professional learning sessions, which will take place on non-attendance days.
- Professional learning series (Create, Explore, Thrive and Teaching Team Learning Communities) will serve classrooms of different age ranges, all outlined below.
- Early Childhood leaders are encouraged to attend professional learning sessions.
- Non-attendance days will be emailed directly to leaders in late spring, and will not be listed on the 2019-20 NYC Department of Education (DOE) school calendar.
- Professional learning sessions will take place in multiple locations across the five boroughs. Travel between boroughs to sessions may be required.

* For NYCEECs, this includes classrooms under contracts managed by the DOE. For district schools and Pre-K Centers, this includes 3-K for All and Pre-K for All classrooms.

Series Placement

Early Childhood leaders will be able to express preference for professional learning series through a survey shared in late February. Programs will be notified of their series placement in late spring. **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

Other professional learning opportunities will be available during the 2019/20 school year. These include trainings in CLASS and ECERS-R, and the Early Childhood Conference among other opportunities. These will be announced through P-Weekly and the Bulletin.

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

Create

Classroom age ranges: infants – 4s

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 domains and [Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts](#) strands. Sessions for 3s and 4s 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 PL session and be followed by a coaching residency, in which expert teaching artists will directly coach and mentor teaching teams in the arts. **Create programs must provide time for teaching artists to debrief with teaching teams during the on-site coaching residencies.**

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 around high quality practices in the arts.

Participating programs will receive a toolkit of resources that will also be used in the actual workshop training. Age appropriate and ELOF/PKFCC-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 and Structure: Create is a two-year commitment for programs that start in fall 2019 with in-person PL sessions followed by coaching residencies in all four art forms.

Explore

Classroom age ranges: 3s – 4s

Focus: Provide leaders and teaching teams with strategies to increase children’s critical thinking and problem solving skills through a comprehensive interdisciplinary learning experience.

Overview: Leaders and teaching teams will learn how to teach concept development and problem solving as well as how to support students in developing inquiry, language, and higher order thinking skills through strategies such as open-ended questioning, reflection, vocabulary development, and purposeful play. 4s teaching teams in participating programs will use the evidence-based Building Blocks math curriculum with the research-based Pre-K for All Interdisciplinary Units of Study. 3s teaching teams in participating programs will use Building Blocks Learning Trajectories with the research-based Explorations curriculum. These curricula are designed to work together and are aligned to the ELOF/PKFCC and the three DOE-approved Authentic Assessment Systems.

Participating programs will receive materials needed to implement Building Blocks or Building Blocks Learning Trajectories in their classrooms, as well as professional learning sessions and onsite coaching provided by experts in the field to support with implementation. **Programs in the Explore series must use only the Pre-K for All Interdisciplinary Units of Study and Building Blocks for their 4s curricula and Building Blocks Learning Trajectories and Explorations as their 3s curricula during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.**

Series Duration and Structure: Explore is a two-year series for programs that start in fall 2019. DECE will hold a two-day Summer Institute in late August for all leaders and teaching teams in Explore.

Thrive

Classroom age ranges: 3s – 4s

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

Overview: Leaders and teaching teams will learn concrete strategies to promote safe, nurturing, and predictable environments at school and at home, and ultimately to 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 for use in the classroom and at home. Sessions will include interactive, experiential learning activities that support participants in exploring the connections between family engagement and social emotional development. Sessions for teaching teams will provide many opportunities for practicing strategies, including building relationships and navigating difficult conversations with families, developing social emotional skills in the classroom, and understanding and responding to challenging behavior with proactive, reinforcement, and responsive strategies. Sessions for leaders will focus on self reflection, developing leadership skills, and creating safe, nurturing, and predictable environments at the program level. To foster a sense of community among participants, teachers and leaders will stay in the same “learning pods” for each professional learning session throughout the school year.

Thrive is part of ThriveNYC, a citywide, mayoral initiative to support the mental health of all New Yorkers, including 3s and 4s children. Professional learning is supported by the Center for Early Childhood Health and Development at the NYU Langone Health.

Series Duration and Structure: For programs that start in fall 2019, Thrive is a one-year commitment to a series of in-person professional learning for leaders and teaching teams.

Teaching Team Learning Communities

Classroom age ranges: infants – 4s

Focus: Provide leaders and teaching teams with strategies that incorporate responsive and developmentally appropriate instruction and family engagement practices. All content will be aligned to the New York City Department of Education’s [Early Childhood Framework for Quality \(EFQ\)](#), and support children in gaining the knowledge and skills outlined in the [Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core \(PKFCC\)](#) and the [Early Learning Outcomes Framework \(ELOF\)](#).

Overview: Leaders and teaching teams will learn practical strategies to continually deepen and improve their practice

in multiple content areas, such as classroom environment, authentic assessment, classroom management, critical thinking, and language development. Teaching teams will participate in learning communities alongside other early childhood programs in their geographical area. Sessions will include interactive opportunities for learning, including in-person professional learning sessions as well as opportunities to participate in intervisitation and collaborative learning. Participating programs will also receive a toolkit of resources and activities that will deepen learning for teaching teams beyond the in-person professional learning sessions provided.

Series Duration and Structure: Teaching Team Learning Communities are a one-year commitment for programs that start in fall 2019.