



## Welcome!

Accreditation Quality Improvement Support (AQIS) offers many opportunities to engage in professional learning **centered on NAEYC Accreditation and ongoing quality improvement**. AQIS is **funded through the Office of Early Childhood (OEC)**, in partnership with the Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CTAEYC) and the RESC Alliance.

You'll find the following **free professional development** in this listing for January 2022 - March 2022:

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As you consider registering for sessions, please consider the following:

These virtual sessions are live and interactive. Your **active participation** is valuable to the success of the session. Please be prepared to:

- **Share your thoughts and ideas when prompted**
- **Engage in conversation with other participants both in the larger group and in breakout rooms**
- **Ensure that you can devote your undivided attention to the session**

**Please avoid registering for sessions during work when you are responsible for the supervision of children.**

Also, you need to be able to do the following on the device you use:

- **mute/unmute yourself**
- **find the chat box and enter text**
- **open documents shared by the presenter**

**If you find you are unable to join, please contact the presenter** (email address is in the schedule) to let them know, so we can invite participants from the waiting list in your place. Most sessions have capacity limits and are not recorded. You will not have access to a recording by registering and not attending.



### Regional Study Groups

Join your regional AQIS facilitators and community peers to discuss the teaching and leadership practices that define quality in the field of early childhood education. These sessions (either single sessions or multi-part series) will provide engaging opportunities for you to reflect upon current practices in your program, determine your strengths, and identify next steps for improvement. We will model a team approach for exploring different components of quality. This model can be replicated with others from your program who are not able to attend the session(s). Study groups are open to administrators and teachers from **any** program (NAEYC Accredited or not) and we will be using the [NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items](#) document as the tool to guide our conversations. Sessions will be held **virtually**, and at no cost. Once you register in your region (see this [map](#) to find your program’s region), you will be sent a confirmation email with information about the Zoom link and related materials. We hope to “see” you soon!

<b>CES</b>	<b>Christina Lye (<a href="mailto:lyec@cestrumbull.org">lyec@cestrumbull.org</a>)</b> <b>Liz Parmelee (<a href="mailto:parmelee@cestrumbull.org">parmelee@cestrumbull.org</a>)</b>	
<b>Offering</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Register</b>
<p><b>General Monthly Study Group: NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Assessment Items</b>  <b>Standard 2: Curriculum</b>  <b>February:</b> Topic Area 2A: Essential Characteristics  <b>March:</b> Topic Area 2D: Language Development  <b>April:</b> Topic Area 2J: Creative Expression for the Arts</p> <p>Each session will focus on a standard by discussing the “big ideas” conveyed in these documents. Discussion will center on the analysis of best practices and what it looks like in practice. The study group process will model a team approach for exploring the Standards and will provide participants with strategies to extend discussions to their own settings.</p> <p><i>Intended audience: Teachers and Program Administrators</i></p>	<p><u>February 1, 2022</u>            4:00 - 6:00 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>March 1, 2022</u>            4:00 - 6:00 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>April 5, 2022</u>            4:00 - 6:00 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register for the February 1 Study Group.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register for the March 1 Study Group.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register for the April 5 Study Group.</p>



<b>CTAIEYC</b>	<b>Lori Blake (<a href="mailto:lblake@ctaieyc.org">lblake@ctaieyc.org</a>)</b>	
<b>Offering</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Register</b>
<p><b>General Monthly Study Group: NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Assessment Items</b></p> <p><b>NAEYC Accreditation: A Leadership Approach</b>            Over the course of this <i>3-session study group series</i>, we will plan to review and discuss NAEYC Standards 6 (Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support) and 10 (Leadership and Management). We will examine various leadership perspectives and work to determine your leadership style. We will also discuss how your practices connected to standards 6 and 10, and your knowledge in all 10 NAEYC standards, can help support your staff and elevate the professionalism in your programs.</p> <p><b>January-</b> Standard 6- components &amp; goal setting  <b>March-</b> Standard 10- components &amp; goal setting  <b>May-</b> leadership practices and perspectives as they relate to moving accreditation forward and for overall quality improvements</p> <p>Participants who attend ALL the sessions will receive a copy of <i>Blueprint for Action &amp; Pulling Together: 10 Rules for High-performance Teamwork</i></p> <p>Please bring a copy of the <a href="#">NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards &amp; Assessment Items</a> to each session.</p> <p><i>Intended audience: Program Administrators</i></p>	<p><u>January 28, 2022</u>            1:00-3:00 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>March 25, 2022</u>            1:00-3:00 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>May 20, 2022</u>            1:00-3:00 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register by: 1/25/2022            Space is limited to 20.</p>



CREC & ACES	Jean Barresi ( <a href="mailto:jbarresi@crec.org">jbarresi@crec.org</a> ) Natasha Robinson ( <a href="mailto:nrobinsons@crec.org">nrobinsons@crec.org</a> ) Mary Stone ( <a href="mailto:mstone@aces.org">mstone@aces.org</a> )	
Offering	Dates	Register
<p><b>General Monthly Study Group: NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Assessment Items</b></p> <p><b>January:</b> Standard 2: Language &amp; Literacy  <b>February:</b> Standard 6C: Qualifications of Teaching and Administrative Staff, Guest Panel of Representatives from Local Colleges  <b>March:</b> Standard 2: Topic Area B Social Emotional Standard 1: Relationships; Standard 3: Topic Area B Creating Caring Communities for Learning  <b>May:</b> Standard 3: Topic E, F, G</p> <p>Each session will focus on a standard(s) by discussing the “big ideas” conveyed in these new documents. Discussion will center on the analysis of best practices and what it looks like in practice. The study group process will model a team approach for exploring the Standards and will provide participants with strategies to extend discussions to their own settings.</p> <p>Please bring a copy of the <a href="#">NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards &amp; Assessment Items</a> to each session.</p>	<p><u>January 13, 2022</u>            1:30 - 3:30 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>February 10, 2022</u>            1:30 - 3:30 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>March 10, 2022</u>            1:30 - 3:30 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>May 12, 2022</u>            1:30 - 3:30 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance for the January Study Group.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance for the February Study Group.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance for the March Study Group.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance for the May Study Group.</p>



<b>EASTCONN</b>	Sheri Lambert ( <a href="mailto:slambert@eastconn.org">slambert@eastconn.org</a> ) Cheryl LaMothe ( <a href="mailto:clamothe@eastconn.org">clamothe@eastconn.org</a> )	
<b>Offering</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Register</b>
<p><b>General Monthly Study Group: NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Assessment Items</b></p> <p>This series is a facilitated discussion based on the NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items. Each session will focus on a standard by discussing the “big ideas” conveyed in these documents. Discussion will center on the analysis of best practices and what it looks like in practice. The study group process will model a team approach for exploring the Standards and will provide participants with strategies to extend discussions to their own settings.</p> <p><i>Intended audience: Teachers and Program Administrators</i></p>	<p><u>January 19, 2022</u> 1:00-2:30 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>March 16, 2022</u> 1:00-2:30 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>May 18, 2022</u> From 1:00-2:30 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance for the January 19 Study Group.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance to for the March 16 Study Group.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance for the May 18 Study Group.</p>

<b>LEARN</b>	Alison Zanardi ( <a href="mailto:azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us">azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us</a> ) Lynn DePina ( <a href="mailto:ldepina@learnct.us">ldepina@learnct.us</a> )	
<b>Offering</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Register</b>
<p><b>General Monthly Study Group: NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Assessment Items</b></p> <p>This monthly series is a facilitated discussion based on the NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items. Each session will focus on a standard by discussing the “big ideas” conveyed in these new documents. Discussion will center on the analysis of best practices and what it looks like in practice. The study group process will model a team approach for exploring the Standards and will provide participants with strategies to extend discussions to their own settings.</p>	<p><u>February 16th, 2022</u> 1-2:30pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>April 20th, 2022</u> 1-2:30 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>June 15th, 2022</u> 1-2:30pm Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p>Please contact Ali Zanardi at: <a href="mailto:azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us">azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us</a> to register.</p> <p>Include your name, program name, town where program is located, OEC registry ID number</p>



### Statewide Professional Learning Opportunities

Join colleagues and AQIS facilitators from across the state to engage in professional learning connected to NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Assessment Items. These opportunities will follow a set agenda, with defined goals and outcomes. Each session (or series) is open to any early childhood professional in any region who is interested in exploring high quality practices that support children, families and communities.

January 2022			
Topic	Dates	Presenter(s)	Registration Info
<p><b>Issues of Equity in Early Childhood</b> This <b>3-part series</b> will support participants in increasing their cultural competence, help them identify ways to reduce implicit bias, and consider strategies for affirming diversity in early childhood classrooms. NAEYC’s Position Statement Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education will serve as the foundation for this professional learning.</p> <p><i>NAEYC Standard 6: Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support</i> <i>Intended audience: Teachers and Program Administrators</i></p>	<p><u>January 24, 2022</u> 1:00-3:00 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>February 28, 2022</u> 1:00-3:00 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>March 28, 2022</u> 1:00-3:00 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p>Jean Barresi (CREC) Christina Lye (CES) Lori Blake (CTAEYC)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here to register for this 3-part series.</a> Please be sure you are able to attend all three sessions.</p>
<p><b>Won’t You Be My Neighbor?: Designing Diversity-Rich Environments That Go Beyond The Walls of the Center</b> Designing quality diversity-rich environments involves so much more than just physical space. Learning materials and how they get used, interactions, decorations, and connections with our communities are just the tip of the iceberg as we work to create inclusive spaces that send the message: “You belong here!” <b>Join us in this 2-part workshop</b> as we discuss the powerful connections and messages our environments &amp; community relations send to children, families, and staff. Join us as we</p>	<p><u>January 12, 2022</u> 6:00-8:00 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p>AND</p> <p><u>February 16, 2022</u> 6:00-8:00PM Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p>Lori Blake (CTAEYC) Sheri Lambert (EASTCONN)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register by: 1/25/2022 Space is limited to 20.</p>

<p>discover the parallels between our environment &amp; community connections with NAEYC’s Statement on Equitable Practices and; as we reflect on our current practices. Participants who attend BOTH sessions will receive: <i>Creating Diversity-Rich Environments for Young Children</i></p> <p><i>Please bring a copy of the NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards &amp; Assessment Items to each session.</i>  <a href="https://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/early-learning/tools">https://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/early-learning/tools</a></p> <p><i>NAEYC Standards 3A: Designing Enriched Learning Environments; 8: Community Relationships; 9: Physical Environment</i>  <i>Intended audience: Teachers and Program Administrators</i></p>			
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February 2022			
Topic	Dates	Presenters	Registration Info
<p><b>Warm Attitudes Towards Cold Play</b></p> <p>Outdoor play is a key component of a child’s early learning experience - <b>throughout</b> the year. Winter in New England is upon us, yet with the presence of COVID, outdoor play is more important than ever. Join us as we explore why increased time outdoors is healthy and beneficial, along with strategies to ensure that children, teaching staff and parents are on board. We’ll look at gear for both children and staff, materials and equipment found in the ‘outdoor classroom’, intentional teaching and learning, and the ELDS and OEC Licensing regulations as they relate to outdoor play. Come join us as we explore warm attitudes toward cold play!</p> <p>The first 15 registrants will receive a pair of warm mittens to support great winter outdoor play!</p> <p><i>NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum; Standard 9: Environments</i>  <i>Intended audience: Teachers and Program Administrators</i></p>	<p><u>February 8, 2022</u></p> <p>2:00 - 4:00 pm</p> <p>Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p>Donna Delohery (EdAdvance)</p> <p>Kristen Kennen (EdAdvance)</p>	<p>Please contact <a href="mailto:delohery@edadvance.org">delohery@edadvance.org</a> to register.</p> <p>Include your name, program name, town where program is located, and OEC Registry ID number.</p>
<p><b>Building Child Portfolios</b></p> <p>This workshop will support participants in their efforts to move toward a culture of documentation. We will explore how to implement the use of individual child portfolios as a means for systematically documenting children's progress in a comprehensive and holistic way.</p> <p><i>NAEYC Standard 4: Assessment</i>  <i>Intended audience: Teachers and Program Administrators</i></p>	<p><u>February 9, 2022</u></p> <p>6:00-8:00 pm</p> <p>Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p>Natasha Robinson (CREC)</p> <p>Jean Barresi (CREC)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance for this workshop.</p>



<p><b>Supporting Transition to Kindergarten</b> This workshop will focus on strategies for supporting transitions to Kindergarten that support the whole family.</p> <p><i>NAEYC Standard 1: Relationships Standard 7: Families</i> <i>Intended audience: Teachers and Program Administrators</i></p>	<p><u>February 22, 2022</u> 6:00-8:00 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p>Mary Stone (ACES) Jean Barresi (CREC)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register in advance for this workshop.</p>
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March 2022			
Topic	Dates	Presenters	Registration Info
<p><b>Get Your Oxygen Mask on First! Self-Care for Early Childhood Staff</b></p> <p>Early childhood teachers and administrators work in a field that is woefully underfunded and not well understood / valued by many in our society. Add a global health pandemic on top of it and it's quick to understand why we feel great amounts of stress. However, we know from neuroscience that young children need positive, warm, and loving relationships with family members and caregivers/teachers in order to thrive. Come spend an evening meeting with others and learning about ways we can take care of ourselves to help us be our best selves on any given day. Programs that participate in this session will receive resource materials related to this topic.</p> <p><i>NAEYC Standard 6, Topic Area A: Supportive Work Environment</i>  <i>Intended audience: Teachers and Program Administrators</i></p>	<p><u>March 16, 2021</u>            6:00 - 8:00 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p>Kristen Kennen            (EdAdvance)            Donna Delohery            (EdAdvance)</p>	<p>Please contact <a href="mailto:kennen@edadvance.org">kennen@edadvance.org</a> to register.</p> <p>Include your name, program name, town where program is located, and OEC Registry ID number.</p>
<p><b>Following Their Lead: Emergent Curriculum and the Cycle of Inquiry</b></p> <p>In this <i>three part series</i> we will explore the process of following children's' lead to develop an emergent curriculum that is engaging, enjoyable, and effective for both educators and children.</p> <p><i>NAEYC Standards 2: Curriculum and 3: Teaching</i>  <i>Intended audience: Teachers, Program Administrators and Education Managers</i></p>	<p><u>March, 23, 2022</u>            6:30-8:30 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>April 27, 2022</u>            6:30-8:30 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>May 25, 2022</u>            6:30-8:30 pm            Held virtually via Zoom</p>	<p>Jean Barresi (CREC)            Natasha Robinson (CREC)            Mary Stone (ACES)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here to register for this 3-part series.</a> Please be sure you are able to attend all three sessions.</p>



<p><b>Book Study: <i>Big Body Play</i></b></p> <p>In this <i>three-part series</i> we will be reading and discussing "<i>Big Body Play: Why Boisterous, Vigorous, and Very Physical Play Is Essential to Children's Development and Learning</i>" by Frances Carlson.</p> <p>From the <a href="#">website description</a>: "<i>Big body play</i>"—the sometimes rowdy, always very physical running, rolling, climbing, tagging, jumping, grabbing, and wrestling that most children love and many adults try to shut down—can and should be an integral part of every early childhood setting. Drawing from evidence-based practice and the latest research, this book explains the multitude of benefits of big body play for young children’s social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Also learn how to organize the physical environment, set rules and policies, and supervise the play.”</p> <p>Over the course of three sessions, participants will have the opportunity to participate in guided reading and reflection exercises. All participants will receive a copy of "Big Body Play" and a journal for note taking. This book study is appropriate for all members of the ECE community.</p> <p><i>NAEYC Standards 2: Curriculum and 3: Teaching</i></p> <p><i>Intended Audience: Teachers, Assistant Teachers/Paras, Program Leaders, Education Managers</i></p>	<p><u>March 22, 2022</u> 5:00-7:00 pm In person at EASTCONN</p> <p><u>April 5, 2022</u> 5:00-7:00 pm In person at EASTCONN</p> <p><u>April 26, 2022</u> 5:00-7:00 pm In person at EASTCONN</p> <p>376 Hartford Turnpike Hampton, CT</p>	<p>Sheri Lambert (EASTCONN) Cheryl LaMothe (EASTCONN)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to register for this book study in advance.</p>
<p><b>Book Study: “Nurturing Creativity - An Essential Mindset for Young Children’s Learning”</b> by Rebecca Isbell and Sonia Akiko Yoshizawa.</p> <p>From the NAEYC description: Young children have great capacity for creativity that thrives when it is nurtured. Early childhood teachers have the opportunity to inspire children’s innovative thinking and doing by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Including creative opportunities across all domains of learning</li> </ul>	<p><u>March 31, 2022</u> 1:00 -2:30 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>April 7, 2022</u> 1:00 -2:30 pm Held virtually via Zoom</p> <p><u>April 14, 2022</u></p>	<p>Ali Zanardi (LEARN) Lynn DePina (LEARN)</p>	<p>Please contact <a href="mailto:azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us">azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us</a> or <a href="mailto:ldepina@learn.k12.ct.us">ldepina@learn.k12.ct.us</a> to register. Include your name, program name, town where program is located, and OEC Registry ID number.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Designing a beautiful space that encourages children’s experimentation and play</li> <li>● Extending children’s learning and challenging their thinking</li> <li>● Documenting children’s thought processes and displaying their work</li> <li>● Involving families and the community in children’s creative endeavors</li> <li>● Reflecting on your beliefs and practices about creativity and nurturing your own creativity</li> </ul> <p>Learn how to support children as they problem solve, explore and share new ideas, and collaborate with others. Watch their confidence and capabilities grow!</p> <p><i>NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum and 3: Teaching</i>  <i>Intended Audience: Teachers, Assistant Teachers/Paras, Program Leaders, Education Manager.</i></p>	<p>1:00 -2:30 pm  Held virtually via Zoom</p>		
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**We look forward to seeing you.**

**To ensure you have all the latest information you can check out the [AQIS Page](#) on the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) website.**