



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DES, Arizona State University Launch New Early Intervention Specialization**

*A unique opportunity for professionals and families to learn early childhood intervention skills through a higher education institution*

**Phoenix - (November 12, 2024)** The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College (ASU MLFTC) celebrate the launch of the [Early Intervention Specialization](#), a first-of-its-kind professional learning curriculum that focuses on children ages birth to three.

Faculty at MLFTC coordinated with the DES Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) to develop the online professional learning program after identifying early intervention courses as a vital community need.

AzEIP supports families of infants and toddlers, birth through two years old, with disabilities or delays, and this specialization makes it possible for professionals, families, and caregivers to better support young children. Recognizing the need for this training and implementing a program like this is a huge benefit for Arizona families.

"Research has consistently demonstrated the importance of early intervention for children with developmental delays and disabilities, which is why we are thrilled to partner with ASU on this specialization program," said DES Director Angie Rodgers. "This initiative will help us to raise awareness about early intervention while expanding the number of knowledgeable caregivers available to families in Arizona."

This specialization program offers three professional learning modalities that include facilitated and self-paced options and that are geared toward full-time professionals. Participants can earn professional learning hours and/or a micro-credential. In September 2024, four courses became available, with two more scheduled for February 2025 and another three in October 2025.

These courses are designed to align with national early intervention standards outlined by the [Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children](#), which ensures the professional learning courses meet high-quality, evidence-based practices for supporting young

children and their families. The specialization is being made available through [ASU's Professional Educator Learning Hub](#).

"Investing in professional development for early intervention professionals is essential for enhancing the quality of care and support provided to children with disabilities and their families," said Björg LeSueur, a clinical associate professor with ASU's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College. "Continuous learning equips practitioners with the latest strategies and evidence-based practices, ensuring every child receives the best possible start in life."

Collaboration between DES and ASU began in 2019 during the implementation of Arizona's [Comprehensive System of Personnel Development \(CSPD\)](#) program, designed to address the challenges faced by early intervention and early education staff and improve outcomes for young children with disabilities and their families.

To sign up for the courses, visit the [Early Intervention Specialization webpage](#) at [ASU's Professional Educator Learning Hub](#); ASU enrollment is not required. To learn more about the specialization, read ASU MLFTC's [Early Intervention article](#). To learn more about AzEIP, visit the [DES Early Intervention Webpage](#).

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