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Hello! Welcome to the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Newsletter.

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Turtle Talk is a family resource for parents raising Indigenous children, teachers, and caregivers working with Native families. All episodes are free and open access.

May 1, 2026 - Expressing Artful Insights about Art Works: Sharing Authority with Children to Curate and Exhibition Depicting their Ancestors and their Home

To register to receive the Zoom link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ptvOq6G-QLGFMuoNvshsZQ#/registration

Sharing Success



Temeka Grandberry, mom of three children and an elementary teacher of 18 years, was referred to AzEIP by her pediatrician for her youngest child when he was 27 months old. At two years old, Koolyst had limited speech to express himself and no clear attempts at any words when he was two years old. Temeka shared, "Little did I realize, simply asking for help, as strong as you may be, is absolutely fine". She recalls initially watching the Speech Therapist, "I just observed the activities to see what I could take on when they were not present." Koolyst loved showing his curiosity and how well he could complete the activities. After a visit or two, and seeing what was modelled, I began trying the activities during the visit to have actual hands-on experience. Koolyst could see that we were working together to help him. "My child has progressed quite well, he has increased his confidence in conversations with family and enjoys sharing his thoughts and feelings." "Thanks to caring professionals and strong family support, he's blooming in his ability to communicate." On behalf of my son, our family, and myself, we give a loud round of applause and endless thanks!"

Parent Resources



Parentz Pod by First Things First offers eight on-demand podcasts you can listen to at your convenience. <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/parentz-pod/>

The Basics of Baby and Toddler Development: This episode of FTF's infant and toddler podcast features a conversation about child development with DeAnn Davies, with tips on understanding babies' cues, tummy time, and what your baby needs most.

Encircle Families



HOW DO WE HELP PROBLEM SOLVE?

CONNECTIONS

Our Parent-to-Parent program connects families with trained volunteers who have walked a similar path and are ready to offer compassionate support, understanding, and guidance.

HEALTH INFORMATION

When a child is diagnosed with a disability or complex medical need, families often don't know where to start. We help them understand systems of care and partner with providers to support their child's well-being.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

We help parents understand their rights and how to collaborate with schools through trainings and one-on-one guidance. We work with educators to provide them with the parent perspective and encourage partnership.

BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Behavior is a form of communication—even when it's hard to understand. Encircle Families offers guidance, from basic strategies to more intensive support for families navigating challenging behaviors.

Encircle Families is Arizona's IDEA, Parent and Training Information Center. They provide Parent-to-Parent support to help families navigate complex systems of care and connections with valuable resources. Visit the website to learn more <https://encirclerfamilies.org/>

Upcoming parent trainings - <https://encirclerfamilies.org/events/>

- April 08 - Individualized Education Program (IEP) Training
- April 09 - Positive Behavior Support
- April 14 - Early Childhood Education Birth to Kindergarten
- April 16 - Positive Behavior Support

Check the website for trainings in Spanish and sign up for the newsletter.



lantern
FORMERLY BRIGHT BY TEXT
Because kids don't come with instructions

We know parenting can be overwhelming. We're here to help, one text message at a time.


What to expect from our weekly text messages?

- Easy, practical tips and info for parents & caregivers.
- Messages timed exactly to your child's due date or date of birth.
- Info about free services and events based on your zip code.

Text **ARIZONAPBS** to 274 448
for **FREE** parenting tips
Msg & data rates may apply.

AZOPBS
LEARN!

Help your child grow and thrive



Download CDC's free Milestone Tracker app
Two million downloads and counting!



Track & Share Milestones | Get Tips & Activities | Learn When to Act Early

Learn more at cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker

You are invited to the ICC!

The Interagency Coordinating Councils (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers works with AzEIP to support young children with developmental delays and their families. As a parent with personal experience in Early Intervention, we want to hear from you. Hearing from families about their experience in early intervention helps us improve supports and services for children and families navigating early childhood education.

You are invited to join the council meetings to listen in as a member of the public, schedule to participate in sharing your family story, and/or become a voting member to make an impact on the future of Part C services in Arizona.

For more information, visit the ICC webpage [ICC for infants and toddlers](#). If you have questions, please email - azicc@des.gov or call (602) 532-9960. Thank you.

Virtual Connections

AzEIP Family Connection forum is for parents and caregivers receiving Early Intervention services. The ICC Family Engagement Committee assisted AzEIP with the format and times to offer a virtual forum for families to connect with the AzEIP leadership and learn more about resources to support you along your parenting journey. The topic discussion "Your Role on the IFSP" will be the same information at both sessions. Feel free to join at either time.

If you have questions, please call the AzEIP office at (602) 532-9960 or email azeip@azdes.gov.



Arizona Early Intervention Program

AZEIP
FAMILY CONNECTION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026
12 - 1 pm or 6 - 7 pm

Engage with AzEIP Leadership Team and learn about Your Role on the IFSP

- Ask questions & share your thoughts.
- Choose the time that's best for you.
- All families receiving early intervention services are invited.

Video call link:
<https://azdes.zoomgov.com/j/16027914312>

Dial by your location

- +1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)
- +1 646 828 7666 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 160 2791 4312

For More Information Contact:
AzEIP (602) 532-9960 azeip@azdes.gov



Join the Zoom Meeting at 12:00 or 6pm
<https://azdes.zoomgov.com/j/16027914312>
Meeting ID: 160 2791 4312

Out and About

Dynamite Therapy is a contracted service providing agency, serving several of the AzEIP geographic regions. Dynamite Therapy staff hosted a vendor table at this year's Annual Phoenix Zoo Walk on Valentine's Day. Kayla, a Dynamite team member, is pictured below, with swag items given to families. Tabling at community events is a great way to share information about the early intervention program and hear from families who have been through the program. Kayla reported that she saw some familiar faces from years past and heard from a few families about their positive experience with early intervention services.



On March 3, 2026, the Arizona Biomedical Research Centre (ABRC), in collaboration with Northern Arizona University's (NAU) Center for Community Health and Engaged Research (CHER) and the Community Health Worker (CHW) Network of Northern Arizona, sponsored the CHW Sustainability Conference. The full-day interactive conference focused on organizations based in Northern Arizona to explore the science, practice, and policy needed to build and sustain Community Health Worker programs. You may have benefited from having a CHW supporting you or a family member.

AzEIP's Community Relations Liaison was a vendor at the conference to share resources about Early Intervention and other programs available at the Department of Economic Security (DES) that support the community-based systems supporting families in rural Arizona. Photo of attendees below.



Professional Development Opportunities

AzEIP and the Arizona Department of Education/ Early Childhood Special Education are excited to present the Early Childhood Community of Practice. Click on the link for the flyer to register for the months you plan to attend.

<https://des.az.gov/sites/default/files/dl/GCI-1174A.pdf?time=1765568688953>

Save the Date!

AzEIP and ADE/ECSE are excited to present:

Early Childhood Transition Community of Practice (COP)



The COP will:

- Provide opportunities for AzEIP practitioners, DDD, ASDB, school districts and Head Start / Early Head Start providers to build local collaborative communities.
- Allow local collaboratives to share their processes for smooth and effective transitions for children with disabilities and their families.
- Identify solutions using best practices to address challenges experienced with transition from Part C to Part B.

To register, please click on the months you plan to attend below.
Both sessions for each month will have the same presentation.
You can choose to attend one or both days.

February 11, 2026, 2pm-3pm
February 13, 2026, 11am-12pm

April 22, 2026, 2pm-3pm
April 24, 2026, 11am-12pm

September 23, 2026, 2pm-3pm
September 25, 2026, 11am-12pm

November 18, 2026, 2pm-3pm
November 20, 2026, 11am-12pm

We look forward to seeing you there!



Equal Opportunity Employer / Program • Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities • TTY/TDD Services 7-1-1

GCI-1174A FLYENG (12/25)



The Strong Families Home Visiting Alliance provides free online training for home visiting professionals who registered for the Home Visiting Conference in September 2025. Upcoming training and directions to access the monthly topics can be found using this link - [2025-2026 Learning Festival Calendar](#)

Stay Connected

The Arizona Early Childhood Community Facebook page, hosted by the Interagency Coordinating Council's Family Engagement Committee, provides various early childhood resources and community events for families. Follow Arizona Early Childhood Community on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/azearlychildhoodICC> Please like the page.



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