The APEX Project: Arizona Providers Engaging in Excellence (APEX)

Rio Salado College, in collaboration with KAET/ASSET (Arizona State University), is initiating a coaching model for early childhood professional development. Named Arizona’s Providers Engaging in Excellence: The APEX Project has as its primary goal to advance the quality of care and education for Arizona’s children by developing and sponsoring educational opportunities for childcare personnel to improve their knowledge and skills when working in any settings (e.g., family day care homes, centers, schools). The proposed design for APEX will serve childcare personnel in the Northwest Maricopa and Central Maricopa Regions.

Webinars

Eight Educational Outreach-ASSET in collaboration with Rio Salado College is offering five webinars as part of the APEX Project. Each webinar can be accessed from your own computer. In addition, we have reserved space at three locations so that you can participate in the webinar with other webinar participants.

April 8, 2010 - PBS KIDS Raising Readers Island – Noon-1

Participants will explore www.readytolearnreading.org, which provides free reading games and activities for children, parents, caregivers and teachers to use at home or in the classroom.

This site is specifically designed to build reading skills and aggregates the literacy-based activities, games and resources from PBS KIDS Raising Readers series that include SESAME STREET, SUPER WHY, WORDWORLD and BETWEEN THE LIONS for parents, teachers and kids in one place so it’s easily accessible in a cohesive environment. The site is built on a literacy framework, based on the National Reading Panel guidelines and funded by a Ready To Learn Grant from the U.S. Department of Education and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Participants will leave the webinar with an understanding of the following:

- How to enroll children in the website
- How to use this resource in a structured learning environment
- How this resource can be used to help kids build and boost reading skills
- How to use the Child Progress Tracker tool to review an individual child’s progress through the learning activities
- How to use the imbedded lesson plans and activities to enhance direct instruction opportunities

Presenter: Mandy Bachali, Eight Educational Outreach-ASSET
Click Here to Register

April 22, 2010 - What’s the Word on the Street – Noon-1

Participants will explore the "What’s the Word on the Street" literacy resource from Sesame Street.

This program helps children learn new words by using the Word on the Street materials which include activity sheets, podcasts, and an interactive word game. These materials all encourage children to explore words with all of their senses, encouraging children to jump up and act out words, read stories, make up songs, ask questions, and engage their imaginations. Word cards demonstrate the meanings of 26 different words and the back of each card shows a learning exercise that uses imaginative play and physical activity to get children thinking about the concepts they are learning.

Participants will leave the webinar with an understanding of the following:

- How to use this resource in a structured learning environment
- How to use What’s the Word on the Street podcasts to inspire language development within their children
- How to use What’s the Word on the Street materials to help parents inspire language development at home

Presenter: Mandy Bachali, Eight Educational Outreach-ASSET
Click Here to Register
May 6, 2010 - Supporting Children with Special Needs – Noon-1

This webinar will address the challenges and rewards of caring for a special needs child in your center or home. Participants will become aware of resources available online and locally to support their work with special needs children. Participants will learn inclusion strategies for special needs children. All children have unique needs, and the needs of special needs children are similar to and different from other children.

**Presenter:** Faith Rogow, National Association for Media Literacy Education

[Click Here to Register]

May 20, 2010 - Launch Young Readers with Reading Rockets – Noon-1

The Reading Rockets website is a rich resource for launching young readers. Reading Rockets is a national multimedia project offering information and resources on how young children learn to read, why so many struggle and how caring adults can help. Find out how Reading Rockets can inform and inspire parents, teachers, child care providers, administrators and others who touch the life of a child.

Information will also be provided on ¡Colorín Colorado! This web service was developed by Reading Rockets to provide information, activities and advice for Spanish-speaking parents and educators of English language learners (ELLs).

**Presenter:** Tina Chovanec, Director, Reading Rockets

[Click Here to Register]

June 10, 2010 - Success for Early Childhood Care Providers – Noon-1

The one hour Webinar will be designed for care providers in the early childhood field of education. The webinar will discuss ways in which early childhood providers can be more effective advocates for early childhood education and the children that are affected. The participants will discuss strategies to effective advocacy with their community and the public as a whole.

**Presenter:** Bruce Liggett, Arizona Childcare Association

[Click Here to Register]

You are encouraged to participate from your own home or work location and simply log in to the website provided by Elluminate.

**However, Face to Face Locations to Participate are Available:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eight Educational Outreach-ASSET</td>
<td>555 North Central Avenue, Suite 404H</td>
<td>Room To Be Announced</td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ 85004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Tempe</td>
<td>2324 West 14th Street</td>
<td>15950 N. Civic Center Plaza</td>
<td>Tempe, AZ 85281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communiversity at Surprise</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surprise, AZ 85374</td>
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You are encouraged to participate from your own home or work location and simply log in to the website provided by Elluminate.

The webinars are presented in Elluminate. In order to participate from your computer you will need to have speakers (if you just want to listen) or a headset with microphone (if you want to ask a question or add to the discussion). Shortly before the scheduled webinar you will be emailed a link to access the webinar.

Elluminate has the following participant reference guides and online tutorials to assist you in participating in these webinars:

- Participant Orientation (5 minutes)
- Elluminate Live! User Guide for Participants
- Elluminate Live! Quick Reference Guide for Participants
- Elluminate Participant Orientation Slides
First Things First (FTF), approved by Arizona voters, works to ensure that our youngest children have access to quality early childhood experiences so they will start school healthy and ready to succeed.

Across the state, FTF regional partnership councils – in collaboration with local leaders – identify the educational and health needs of children from birth through age 5 in their communities and fund strategies to address those needs. For more information about First Things First: [www.azftf.gov](http://www.azftf.gov)

Partnering Organizations

Rio Salado College is a Maricopa Community College