



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 ACES, CES, CREC, EdAdvance, EASTCONN, and LEARN.

You'll find the following **free professional development** in this listing for July 2023 - September 2023:

Page 3: General Study Groups
Pages 4-5: NAEYC Standard Specific Study Groups
Pages 6-10: Statewide Professional Learning
Pages 11: AQIS Facilitator Office Hours
Page 12-13: Regional Administrator Forum

July (pg. 6) August (pg. 7) September (pg. 8-10)

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

Virtual via Zoom sessions are live and interactive. Your **active participation** is valuable to the success of the session. 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*

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 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 through the lens of the NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards. This model can be replicated with others from your program who are not able to attend the session(s). Each session will focus on a standard by discussing the “big ideas” conveyed in the [NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation Standards and Assessment Items](#); participants should bring a copy of the standards with them to each session. Discussion will center on the analysis and implementation of recommended practices and will provide participants with strategies to extend conversations to their own settings.

Some study groups are more “organic” with NAEYC Standards and Topic Areas being chosen by the group from month to month. These are in the section titled **General Monthly Study Groups (page 3)**. Other study groups have NAEYC Standards and Topic Areas determined ahead of time and are in the section titled **Standard Specific Study Groups (page 4)**. Participants can attend as many or as few as they need! Choose the format that best meets your needs!

Study groups are open to administrators and Educators from **any** program (NAEYC Accredited or not), at no cost. Once you register, you will be sent a confirmation email with information about the Zoom link (if applicable) and related materials. **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.

We hope to “see” you soon!

General Monthly Study Group: Standards/Topic Areas determined by group from session to session.

General Monthly Study Group: NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Assessment Items

These sessions are 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.

Intended audience: Educators and Program Administrators, for renewals and initials

Facilitators	Date & Time	Registration
EASTCONN Sheri Lambert (slambert@eastconn.org) Cheryl LaMothe (clamothe@eastconn.org) Paula Gooslin (pgooslin@eastconn.org)	<u>Wednesday, August 23</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here to register
LEARN Alison Zanardi (azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us) Lynn DePina (ldepina@learn.k12.ct.us) Maria Jose Beteta (mjbeteta@learn.k12.ct.us)	<u>Wednesday, July 19th</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom <u>Wednesday September 20th</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here to register for July 19 Click Here to register for Sept. 20

Standards Specific Study Groups				
NAEYC Standard	Intended Audience	Facilitator(s)	Date and Time	Registration
1: Relationships	Program Administrators and Educators <i>Initials and Renewals</i>	Christina Lye, CES lyec@cestrumbull.org	<u>Tuesday, September 12</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here to register
6: Staff Competencies, Preparation and Support	Program Administrators and Educators <i>Initials and Renewals</i>	Kristen Kennen kennen@edadvance.org	<u>Tuesday, August 15th</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here to register
9: Physical Environments	Program Administrators and Educators <i>Initials and Renewals</i>	Jean Barresi, CREC jbarresi@crec.org Natasha Robinson, CREC nrobinson@crec.org Traci Protz, CREC tprotz@crec.org Sara Castle, CREC scastle@crec.org	<u>Thursday, September 14th</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here to register

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10: Leadership and Management	<p>Program Administrators and Educators</p> <p><i>Initials and Renewals</i></p>	<p>Mary Stone, ACES MStone@aces.org</p> <p>Michelle F. DellaCamera, ACES mdellacamera@aces.org</p> <p>Kim Cellini, ACES kcellini@aces.org</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, August 16th</u></p> <p>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual via Zoom</p>	<p>Click Here to register</p>
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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. **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. To ensure you have all the latest information you can check out the [AQIS Page](#) on the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) website.

July, 2023			
Topic	Dates/Times/ Location	Presenter(s)	Registration Info
<p>On the Move: Supporting Children to Engage their Minds and Bodies in Active Play</p> <p>Big body play like running, climbing, jumping and even wrestling is necessary for nurturing young children's bodies, minds, and spirits. Active play supports learning across developmental domains and, just as importantly, is a source of joy for young children. Join us as we discuss the types of big body play children need, and how to create environments that encourage children to move their bodies.</p> <p>Intended audience: Educators</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum; Topic Area 2C: Physical Development</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, July 26</u></p> <p>5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>CES 40 Lindeman Drive Trumbull, CT 06611</p>	<p>Christina Lye, CES lyec@cestrumbull.org</p>	<p>Click Here</p>

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NAEYC Standard 5: Health; Topic Area 5A: Promoting and Protecting Children's Health and Controlling Infectious Disease			
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August, 2023			
Topic	Dates/Time Location	Presenters	Registration Info
<p>Using Creative and Meaningful Transition Strategies to Increase Student Engagement and Create a Harmonious Classroom</p> <p>Participants will identify and discuss developmentally appropriate transitions to improve classroom routines and positively impact student behavior.</p> <p>Intended audience: Educators and Assistant Educators</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 1: Relationships NAEYC Standard 3: Teaching</p>	<p><u>Thursday, August 10</u></p> <p>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual via Zoom</p>	<p>Traci Protz, CREC tprotz@crec.org</p> <p>Sara Castle, CREC scastle@crec.org</p>	<p>Click Here</p>
<p>What's in your Outdoor Classroom?</p> <p>It is summertime and it's great to be outside! What should we do? Join us as we investigate the learning that can happen outside when we put a little planning to it. You will leave with ideas you can put into action the next day! We will be looking at the National Association for the Education of Young Children's recommended practices as we design your outdoor classroom using principles of the Arbor Day Foundation.</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, August 16</u></p> <p>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>EASTCONN 376 Hartford Turnpike Hampton, CT 06247</p>	<p>Sheri Lambert EASTCONN slambert@eastconn.org</p>	<p>Click Here</p>

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Intended audience: Educators and Assistant Educators NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum NAEYC Standard 3: Teaching NAEYC Standard 9: Physical Environment		Cheryl LaMothe EASTCONN clamothe@eastconn.org Paula Gooslin EASTCONN pgooslin@eastconn.org	
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September, 2023			
Topic	Dates/Time Location	Presenters	Registration Info
Demystifying the NAEYC Accreditation Process: The What, Why, and How to Get Started Your early childhood program is committed to achieving quality and considering NAEYC Accreditation, but getting started with the process can seem daunting. What are the requirements? Am I eligible? How long does it take? How much does it cost? What will be asked of me and my staff? How will my program benefit? In this session, we will answer all these questions and more. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps to NAEYC accreditation from self-study to the accreditation decision • Myths about the accreditation process • Available supports for program administrators, program, and staff • Benefits for program, staff, family, and children 	<u>Thursday, September 14</u> 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Liz Parmelee, CES parmelee@cestrumbull.org Laurie Franzino, CES franzinl@cestrumbull.org Mary Stone, ACES MStone@aces.org Kim Cellini, ACES kcellini@aces.org	Click Here

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<p>Intended Audience: Program Administrators and Educators new to Accreditation</p> <p>NAEYC Standards: 1 - 10</p>			
<p>The Use of Technology and the Reggio Approach (Technology as one of a Hundred)</p> <p>Participants will explore the multiple ways to use technology as a resource/language to support childrens' inquiries and learning.</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the benefit of technology as a learning tool and means of communication. • Understand developmentally appropriate ways to use technology in a classroom. • Discover ways to connect technology and the implemented curriculum. <p>Intended Audience: Program Administrators and Educators, including programs going through Initial and Renewal NAEYC Accreditation</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, September 26</u></p> <p>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual via Zoom</p>	<p>Alison Zanardi, LEARN azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us</p> <p>Lynn DePina, LEARN ldepina@learn.k12.ct.us</p> <p>Maria Jose Beteta, LEARN mjbeteta@learn.k12.ct.us</p>	<p>Click Here</p>
<p>Social/Emotional Needs & Building Relationships</p> <p>Participants will learn the fundamental approaches and practices that relate to high quality programming through building relationships and meeting the social and emotional needs of young learners. This session</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, September 20</u></p> <p>6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>ACES 205 Skiff Street Hamden, CT 06517</p>	<p>Michelle Dellacamera, ACES mdellacamera@aces.org</p> <p>Mary Stone, ACES mstone@aces.org</p>	<p>Click Here</p>

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<p>will support learning practical strategies that can easily be embedded within the daily routines and structures of your program.</p> <p>Intended Audience: Educators, Program Administrators, Support Staff, and anyone interested in learning</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 1: Relationships</p>		<p>Kim Cellini, ACES kcellini@aces.org</p>	
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AQIS Facilitator Office Hours

AQIS Facilitator Office Hours are available for your convenience so that you might connect with your regional facilitator. Use the contact information to set up a time during the set office hours to ask questions regarding your program's accreditation, what next steps you might need to be taking, or where you can get more information for your staff on accreditation support. You do not need to be accredited to reach out to the facilitators listed.

Region	Facilitator	When	Contact Info
CES	Liz Parmelee Christina Lye Laurie Franzino	Mondays, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	parmelee@cestrumbull.org (Mon) franzinl@cestrumbull.org (Mon & Thurs) lyec@cestrumbull.org (Thurs)
ACES	Kim Cellini Mary Stone Michelle DellaCamera Rosaria Giannetti	Mondays, 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	kcellini@aces.org mstone@aces.org mdellacamera@aces.org rgiannetti@aces.org
CREC	Natasha Robinson & Sara Castle Jean Barresi & Traci Protz	Mondays, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Fridays , 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	scastle@crec.org (Mon) nrobinson@crec.org (Mon) jbarresi@crec.org (Fri) tprotz@crec.org (Fri)
EdAdvance	Kristen Kennen Sarah Witkiewicz	Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	kennen@edadvance.org witkiewicz@edadvance.org
EASTCONN	Sheri Lambert Paula Gooslin Cheryl LaMothe	Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mondays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	slambert@eastconn.org pgooslin@eastconn.org clamothe@eastconn.org
LEARN	Ali Zanardi Lynn DePina Maria Jose Beteta	Mondays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	azanardi@learn.k12.ct.us ldepina@learn.k12.ct.us mjbeteta@learn.k12.ct.us

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AQIS Administrator Forums

Join colleagues and AQIS facilitators in your region to engage in professional learning connected to NAEYC Early Learning Program Standards and Assessment Items. Each forum is open to early childhood program administrators pursuing re-accreditation interested in connecting with colleagues in their community. The forum will provide space for administrators to share practices, successes, and problem-solve challenges related to NAEYC re-accreditation processes and standards. To determine your region, visit the [AQIS Page](#) on the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) website, and scroll down to the interactive map.

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

Region	Facilitator(s)	When/Where	Registration
ACES	Mary Stone Kim Cellini Michelle DellaCamera Rosaria Giannetti	<u>Wednesday, September 27</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here
CES	Liz Parmelee Christina Lye Laurie Franzino	<u>Wednesday, September 27</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here
CREC	Jean Barresi Sara Castle Traci Protz Natasha Robinson	<u>Thursday, August 3</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here

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EASTCONN	Sheri Lambert Cheryl LaMothe Paula Gooslin	<u>Wednesday, September 27</u> 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EASTCONN 376 Hartford Turnpike Hampton, CT 06247	Click Here
EdAdvance	Kristen Kennen Sarah Witkiewicz	<u>Thursday, October 5</u> 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EdAdvance 355 Goshen Road Litchfield, CT 06749	Click Here
LEARN	Ali Zanardi Lynn DePina Maria Jose Beteta	<u>Wednesday, September 13</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom	Click Here