

March 2021

Dear Community Partners,

The UNM Family Development Program (FDP) has launched some new initiatives for families and educators intended to spark joy during these difficult days as we all do our best to manage the impact of COVID19. We hope you and those you love are safe and finding good moments which touch your hearts. Our training team wants to inspire the continuation of our great work with you and with others in your community. We believe it can be a powerful time to learn together about ways to strengthen our partnership with families who we know are also having a very hard time.

As possibilities for co-learning and collaboration together...

- ♥ **FREE RESOURCES AT OUR WEBSITE:** Right as the pandemic started last March 2020, the FDP program team mobilized development of a new Wemagination inspired resource for you to use in your work and to share with families. FDP created a special cookbook of fun learning activities for families to have hours of joy together at home. It uses what we at Wemagination call "loose parts," or everyday stuff that all families have at home.

Everyday J.U.N.K. (Joy in Uncovering New Knowledge)

A WEMAGINATION Cookbook of Recipes for Family Fun and Learning at Home

The recipes are easily available to all of you through our website: <https://fdp.unm.edu> - just click on the yellow Everyday J.U.N.K. Recipe box on the homepage. You can use them in any way that makes sense as you connect with families in your program.

- ♥ **VIRTUAL TRAINING SPRING MENU:** FDP is also has designed a number of different learning series and workshops that currently are offered virtually to early educators through Zoom. Our learning sessions intentionally create a learning community where we all are teachers and we all are learners. Some are offered statewide for cross-community learning and some are offered directly to community partners. (Flyers describing these different learning opportunities for April-June 2021 are attached.)

We are truly honored to partner with you and your community, and are eager to see you in person when we can travel again for co-learning together. In the meantime, the FDP Team joins me in sending you our best wishes for your good health and safety -- and perhaps some moments of joy as we continue to make time to learn together even on our screens.

Warmly, *Lois*

Lois Vermilya, Director



Building a Culture of Collaboration

LEARNING SERIES #1: A 4-Part Learning Community Series A Complement to Learning Series #2

Overview: Family Development Program developed ***Building a Culture of Collaboration*** as a Learning Community Series to deepen our practice of authentic family engagement and partnered support during these uncertain times. In this 4-part learning series we explore ways to strengthen how we can build cultures of collaboration that celebrate children, families and educators as leaders using hands-on discovery of the Everyday JUNK Recipes.

Session 1: *Family Engagement and Everyday JUNK Recipes*

PURPOSE: Explore ways to use Everyday JUNK (Joy in Uncovering New Knowledge) Recipes to support families at home to have simple, joyful, learning experiences together.

Session 2: *Family Engagement and Mind in the Making*

PURPOSE: Explore how *Mind in the Making 7 Essential Skills* support the social, emotional, and intellectual well-being of both children and caregivers.

Session 3: *Collaborative Leadership for Greater Authenticity in Partnership with Families*

PURPOSE: Explore essential collaborative leadership practices and how to engage family leadership, both for families and yourself.

Session 4: *Seeing ALL Children, Families, Educators as Leaders*

PURPOSE: Explore ways to see leadership qualities in ALL children, families and educators with whom you are engaged to strengthen full partnership in learning.

Community of Practice: The 4-Part Learning Community series is facilitated as 2-hour Zoom sessions for a *small* group of interested participants. Topics are investigated through dialogue, interactive learning activities and reflection. It is designed as interconnecting sessions. Participants are encouraged to attend all four sessions as part of a community of practice.

Training Hours: Upon completion, participants will receive a NM Early Childhood Training Certificate for hours attended covering Competency 3: Family and Community Collaboration.

4-Part Learning Series #1: Offered in April 2021

Audience: Statewide EC professionals across all sectors

- ♥ Monday: April 12, April 19, April 26, May 3 - AM or PM Sessions: 8:00-10:00 or 3:00-5:00
- ♥ Thursday: April 8, April 15, April 22, April 29 - AM or PM Sessions: 8:00-10:00 or 3:00-5:00
- ♥ Saturday: 2 Half-Day Sessions April 17, April 24 – AM 9:00-1:00

English and Spanish Sessions Offered: The series is offered in both Spanish and English at calendared times for statewide participants or individually scheduled to meet community partner needs. Note: Spanish Sessions in April are offered Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons – see registration link below.

Registration: Registration is required, using FDP's web link: <https://fdp.unm.edu/register.html>

Listening, Learning, Leading

LEARNING SERIES #2: A 4-Part Learning Community Series A Compliment to Learning Series #1

Overview: In response to participant requests, we designed ***Listening, Learning, Leading*** as a follow-up series to Learning Series #1: *Building a Culture of Collaboration*. It is also a stand-alone learning community engagement, not requiring attendance in the first series. In this 4-part learning series, we explore how listening is foundational to learning, to leading and to strengthening collaboration and authentic partnership with families during the pandemic. We also discuss and reflect on ways to nurture our own social and emotional well-being so that we can be fully present for children, families and for each other.

Session 1: *Listening to Learn*

PURPOSE: Discover what is meant by truly listening and why it is important in our relationship with families.

Session 2: *Listening as a Way to Support Social-Emotional Well-Being of Families and Children*

PURPOSE: Explore ways to listen to families as we support their social and emotional needs by promoting Moments Together and other joyful learning activities.

Session 3: *Deep Listening for the Full Participation of Families*

PURPOSE: Fulfill the promise of the Guiding Principles of the New Mexico Early Childhood Strategic Plan launched in February 2021 by our Governor and ECECD Leadership.

Session 4: *Listening as Essential Practice to Fulfill the Promise of Our New Mexico Early Childhood Strategic Plan*

PURPOSE: Create a vision to successfully guide you as you strengthen listening and the full participation of families with your program as intentional contributions to achieve ECECD goals.

Community of Practice: *Listening, Learning Leading* engages participants through reflective practice, small group discussion and hands on learning. It builds on the strengths of everyone involved. Four interconnecting 2-hour Zoom sessions engage a *small* group of interested participants as a learning community where attendance in all sessions is required.

Training Hours: Upon completion, participants will receive a NM Early Childhood Training Certificate for hours attended covering Competency 3: Family and Community Collaboration.

4-Part Learning Series #2: Offered in May 2021

Audience: Statewide EC educators across all sectors

♥ Thursday: May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27 - AM or PM Sessions: 8:00-10:00 or 3:00-5:00

English and Spanish Sessions Offered: The series is offered in both Spanish and English at calendared times for statewide participants or individually scheduled to meet community partner needs.

Registration: Registration is required, using FDP's web link: <https://fdp.unm.edu/register.html>

Moments Together Campaign

Help ECECD Promote the Campaign with Families A 2-Part Learning Series

Part 1: Key Concepts of Moments Together

Workshop Overview: Learn about **Moments Together**, an informational campaign out of the New Mexico State Early Childhood Education and Care Department that provides early childhood tips and resources to help parents and caregivers give their children a bright start. Based on your trusted relationships with New Mexico families, you can help them utilize the available tools, information and tips. Expand on “Why” the first five years are so important to what you can do in everyday moments to help babies develop healthy brain connections and learn more about brain development to inform your practice. This 90-minute workshop takes you into the research that shapes the campaign, with time to explore with others how the array of resources can be integrated into your program as you support families to find joy with their children in lots of natural, fun ways.

Part 2: Ambassador Toolkit

Workshop Overview: An **Ambassador Toolkit** was created for home visitors, teachers, child care providers and other early education professionals to have easy resources at hand to actively promote Moments Together with families in your programs. The materials in the Ambassador Toolkit are meant to spread awareness about the early childhood tips and resources available for New Mexico families across the state. As an ambassador, use the communications elements in this kit to ensure that families access Moments Together as a fun and helpful resource to support their children and learn why early development is so important. FDP staff are offering this 90-minute virtual exploration of the Ambassador Toolkit and how to use it to promote the campaign within your community and program.

Training Hours: Upon completion of Part 1 and Part 2, participants will receive a NM Early Childhood Training Certificate for training hours covering Competency 3: Family and Community Collaboration.

Moments Together 2-Part Learning Series: Offered in May and June 2021

Audience: Statewide EC educators across all sectors

- ♥ Monday: May 17 and May 24 - AM Session 8:00-9:30 or PM Session - 3:00-4:30
- ♥ Monday: June 7 and June 14 - AM Session 8:00-9:30 or PM Session - 3:00-4:30
- ♥ Monday: June 21 and June 28 - AM Session 8:00-9:30 or PM Session - 3:00-4:30

English and Spanish Sessions Offered: The workshop is offered in Spanish and English at calendared times for statewide participants.

Registration: Registration is required, using FDP’s web link: <https://fdp.unm.edu/register.html>

Special Community Partner Workshop Can Be Scheduled: FDP staff will also arrange a convenient time with community partners for this orientation. Please call your staff contact or Andrew Castellano, our Program Specialist at our FDP phone number: 505-277-5800.

Study of Mind in the Making

Overview: Study of Mind in the Making

The ***Study of Mind in the Making*** invites participants to explore essential social, emotional, and intellectual skills as they reflect on the research behind how children learn based on Ellen Galinsky's book, *Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs*. This 16 hour Learning Exploration includes hands-on activities, minds-on discussions, and short videos to discover strategies to promote these skills that help children (and the adults in their lives) to thrive.

- ♥ **Day 1** will provide an overview and an exploration into **Skill 1: Focus & Self-Control**
- ♥ **Day 2** will explore **Skill 2: Perspective Taking** and **Skill 3: Communicating**
- ♥ **Day 3** will explore **Skill 4: Making Connections** and **Skill 5: Critical Thinking**
- ♥ **Day 4** will conclude with **Skill 6: Taking on Challenges** and **Skill 7: Being an Engaged, Self-Directed Learner**

Training Hours: Upon completion of the Learning Exploration, participants will receive a NM Early Childhood Training Certificate for training hours covering Competency 1: Child Growth, Development and Learning.

Mind in the Making Study Group: Offered in June 2021

Audience: Statewide EC educators across all sectors

- ♥ Friday: AM Sessions June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25 – 8:00 -12:00 each day
- ♥ Friday: PM Sessions June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25 – 1:00 – 5:00 each day

Registration: Registration is required, using FDP's web link: <https://fdp.unm.edu/register.html>

Special Community Partner Workshop Can Be Scheduled: FDP staff will also arrange a convenient time with community partners for a Study of Mind in the Making offered in both English and Spanish. The workshops will be scheduled for Fall 2021. Please call your staff contact to arrange or call Andrew Castellano, Program Specialist, at (505) 277-5800.

Early Childhood Collaborative Leadership Institute

A 16-Hour Intensive Leadership Immersion
Introduction to the Tool Kit for Self-Guided, Continuous Learning and Practice

Overview: The Family Development Program (FDP) has focused on developing sustainable approaches for a statewide system of early childhood collaborative practice as foundational to our mission and 35 years of community-based work. In 2010, a three-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation supported creation of our **Early Childhood Collaborative Leadership Tool Kit**. Private support from the Brindle and Thornburg Foundations, along with significant CYFD/ECECD investment in leadership capacity building have promoted an intentional approach for seeing all children, families and educators as leaders. FDP has deliberately aligned *Mind in the Making's* seven life skills with a set of Essential Leadership Practices for individuals, teams and community to strengthen a common language for learning and leadership.

Early Childhood Collaborative Leadership Institute: An intensive **16-Hour Leadership Institute** introduces learning strategies and Tool Kit activities as an approach to build a self-directed community of practice for continuous learning and leadership development. The approach recognizes that collaboration within our organization and cross-sector with other programs requires new kinds of leadership supported through ongoing learning. The institute focuses on the strengths of natural leaders recognized as anyone who is willing to be a change agent. The Tool Kit promotes a philosophy of collaborative leadership that is not defined by formal roles, but that includes anyone who is willing to step forward and work for the well-being of children in families, including family leaders as essential partners. Participants are required to commit to 16 hours of training that provides the Tool Kit free of charge along with hands-on learning to become oriented on how to use it and make it your own.

No Statewide Leadership Institutes Offered at This Time

♥ **All scheduled Institutes are planned with local community partners.**

Call Andrew at 505-277-5800 for Information

A Community Partner Institute Can Be Scheduled: FDP staff will arrange a convenient time with community partners for the required 16-Hour Institute.

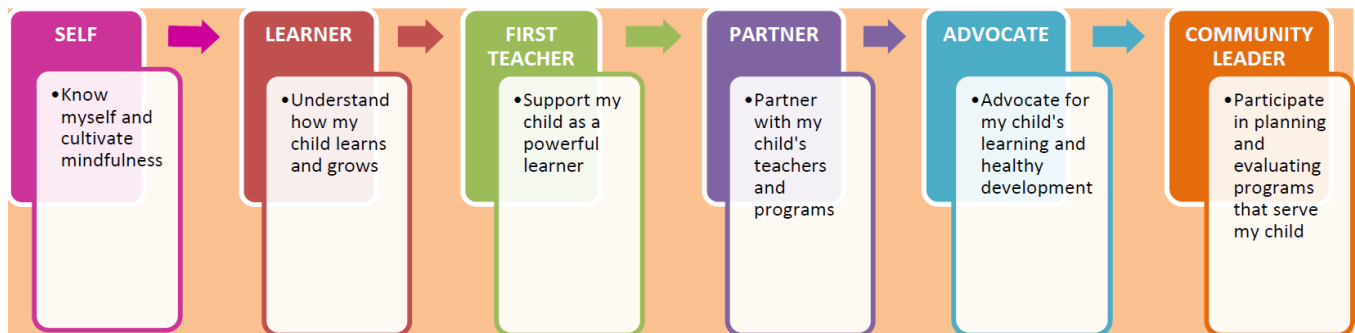
Authentic Family Engagement in Action

A 3-Part Learning Process for EC Professionals

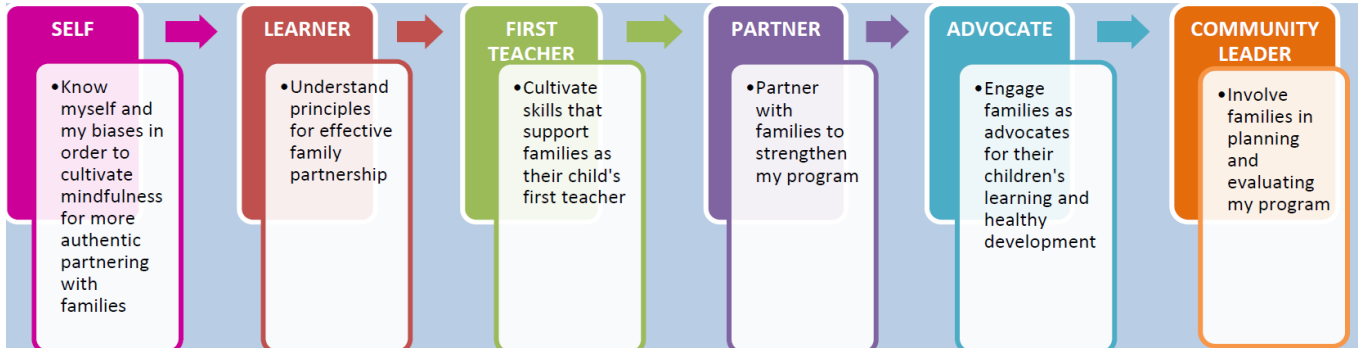
Overview: FDP designed and piloted a co-learning approach for strengthening authentic ways to engage families as full partners and leaders in support of NM's early childhood goals for the full participation of families in growing early childhood quality, programs and an integrated early childhood system for NM.

Authentic Family Engagement in Action explores a developmental framework that describes a parallel learning process for both early childhood professionals and family leaders.

Family Framework



Educator Framework



Authentic Family Engagement in Action is offered to Early Childhood Professionals as 3 half-day Learning Sessions that address:

1. Guiding Principles for Authentic Family Engagement and Successful Learning Events
2. Partnering with Families as Advocates and Leaders in Their Program
3. Seeing and Strengthening Family Leadership

No Statewide Virtual Sessions Offered at This Time

♥ All scheduled training for this series is planned with local community partners.

Call Andrew at 505-277-5800 for Information

Community Partner Training Can Be Scheduled: FDP staff will arrange a convenient time with community partners for the required 12-hour learning series.