

NEWS



Pilot Program Newsletter

April 2015

The FOCUS Journey-Thank you for joining

the journey through the essential elements of quality. When implemented in your classroom you will fulfill the goal adopted by the New Mexico Early Learning Advisory Council that “every child in New Mexico will have an equal opportunity for success in school, based upon equitable access to an aligned and high quality early learning system (NM Focus; Jan 2015).” Early childhood, public policy reforms are built upon the belief that families and community must be the platform from which all efforts are launched. We believe that all work must be informed and driven by a deep respect for the diverse values and cultures of New Mexico’s families. Although New Mexico has been at the forefront of the movement to create standards within the early childhood system, the state has taken great care to ensure that these standards do not impose a standardization of practice upon individual children, their families, or the communities in which they live. Rather, it is the state’s experience that these standards provide a framework within which programs are able to flourish, implementing unique and appropriate programs that are based on the strengths of each community. This way, community-specific programs are able to reflect the history, culture, language, and traditions that must be preserved and strengthened to support each and every child’s success.

What’s in it for me?

Your busy, really busy teaching, meeting standards, filling out forms, discussing your students with their families, planning curriculum, and conducting assessments. So you may be thinking:



The answer is a resounding NO.

In FOCUS your practice will be infused with many additional rich interactions with children. That means more joy, and fun every day.



You can choose courage or you can choose comfort, but you cannot have both.

- Brené Brown

IMPORTANT;

All NMPED Focus participants will be emailed a link to the [Self-Assessment Survey](#) on April 8, 2015. Please watch your email for the link from Survey Monkey. When completing the survey you will need to have your copy of the NM Focus: Essential Elements of Quality close by for a reference. The survey will not need to be completed all at once, you will be able to save your work and return to it later.

WIN a prize! Complete the survey to be entered into a raffle to win exciting classroom materials from LAKESHORE!



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Meet The Consultants:

Deborah brings a diverse background in education to our department. Her experiences range from being a Director of a childcare facility, a Special Education/Inclusion classroom teacher and most recently Head Administrator of New Mexico Virtual Academy. Deborah holds several teaching licenses and is currently an ABD (PhD working on dissertation). Deborah Jackson, Training and Development Consultant-UNM Center for Development and Disability debjackson@salud.unm.edu; Cell # (505) 218-0600

Maggie brings a deep and wide background in Early Childhood Education. She has taught children from age birth to eight in centers, public and private schools, and enrichment programs. As a Director of high quality centers, Maggie's focus was coaching, mentoring and modeling teachers. She has taught college classes in curriculum and instruction. Currently she is working on a doctorate in ECE at NMSU. Maggie Zenn, Training and Development Consultant-UNM Center for Development and Disability mzenn@salud.unm.edu; Cell # (505)-235-2206.



Imagination is more powerful
than knowledge– A Einstein



Through the implementation of New Mexico's Authentic Observation-Documentation-Curriculum Planning process, using the New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines: Birth through

Kindergarten as criteria.

Tiered – Expectations & incentives based on designation of districts at various levels of quality.

•**Quality** – Elements established in a number of areas – professional development, quality practices, etc.

•**Rating** - Determined through the use of tools & procedures.

•**Improvement** – Activities to improve performance.

•**System** – Applied to all early childhood programs with common framework, but varied tools & specific elements.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 24, 2015 will be the next Stake Holders meeting, more information forthcoming. The meeting will focus on “All about Incentives”.

Any suggestions on incentives send to Terri Tapia, TBTapia@salud.unm.edu

Tips for getting started:

Become familiar with the core resources used in:

FOCUS Essential Elements of Quality

New Mexico Early Learning Guidelines: Birth through Kindergarten

New Mexico Early Childhood Guide for Inclusion Birth –5

Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-R)