



southwest
human
development

Creating a Positive Future for Young Children



FY 2022

PROGRAM DIRECTORY

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MISSION

Southwest Human Development strengthens the foundation Arizona's children need for a great start in life.

VISION

A positive future for every child.

SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT is Arizona's largest nonprofit dedicated to early childhood development. Since our founding in 1981, Southwest Human Development has been a leader in providing services for children ages birth to 5 and their families in the areas of:

- Child Development
- Mental Health Services
- Easterseals Disabilities Services
- Early Literacy
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Family Support and Child Welfare
- Professional Development and Training

KEY MESSAGING

WHAT WE DO: We help young children and their families.

HOW WE HELP: We provide high-quality programs and services to support children's growth and development, and to help parents to feel more confident and competent.

WHY TRUST US? We are the experts in early childhood development in Arizona.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: A child's early experiences have the greatest impact on their future learning, health and development.

WHO WE SERVE AND HOW: We offer more than 40 programs that serve 135,000 children and their families each year.

WHY WE DO IT: Early experiences matter. What we see and hear as young children sets a course for a lifelong process of discovery of ourselves and of the world around us.

Science has documented that our earliest days, weeks, months and years of life are a period of important growth and development. At birth, children have cognitive, social and emotional potential that reflect a combination of genetic and environmental influences. As children, our health and development are directly influenced by the quality of care and experiences we have with parents and other caregivers. How we are held, talked to and cared for teaches us about who we are and how we are valued. This profoundly shapes who we will become.

The investments we make today in young children provide an important foundation for human development, with critical links to economic earnings and opportunities later in life. More and more evidence suggests that there are aspects of early childhood behavior and mental health that, if nurtured, can improve children's life chances.



EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START

SOUTHWEST HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START works with income-eligible families to provide a variety of educational, health, dental, nutritional and social service resources. Head Start provides children with high-quality preschool education, along with health screenings, social services and parent training. Early Head Start helps parents with child development, parenting and life skills during the prenatal period and in years before their baby is eligible for the preschool program. Each of these programs helps families learn how to make sure their children are ready for kindergarten success and to sustain their development and learning process.

Service Area: Balsz, Creighton, Madison, Osborn and Paradise Valley school districts

Contact: Beth Weller, bweller@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Self. Must meet income guidelines. Parents may call 602-468-3431 for more information.

Website: www.swhd.org/headstart

EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS rings together the strengths of Early Head Start and child care programs. Early Head Start provides comprehensive family-centered services within high-quality early learning environments and continuous services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families.

Contact: Cecelia Alaniz, ceala@swhd.org

EDUCARE ARIZONA is part of a national network of early childhood centers that provide low-income children, ages birth to 5, with comprehensive, high-quality education, family support and health care to set them on a path for success in school and in life. Educare also serves as a platform for broader change, inspiring higher quality programs, more effective public policies, and a smarter approach to the first five years. As the programmatic partner, Southwest provides high-quality early education for 191 children each year.

Service Area: Balsz school district

Contact: Lori Jablonsky, 602-845-4161, ljablonsky@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Self. Must meet income guidelines.

Website: www.educarearizona.org

CONSTRUCT is an adaptive professional development coaching model that supports teachers, caregivers, and family engagement team members through data-informed, individualized interventions aimed at moving and sustaining high-quality teacher, caregiver and family engagement practices with children and families ages birth to 5. The Construct software serves to inform the coaching implementation dose, duration and the coaching strategies utilized. The Construct’s adaptive and evidence-based design promotes, maximizes, and sustains high-quality teacher, caregiver, and family engagement practices for individualized success.

Contact: Jazzel Silvas, jsilvas@swhd.org

Website: www.swhd.org/construct

CDA CREDENTIAL The Child Development Associate Credential Program is a 30-week program for early childhood teacher candidates. The program offers enrollees the opportunity to earn a professional credential recognized by early childhood educators nationwide, improve skills to foster the development of young children, receive support from expert coaches and increase employment opportunities with improved skills and training.

Contact: Bertie Pearson, 602-468-3413, bpearson@swhd.org;

Estella Smith, 602-481-3874, esmith@swhd.org



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

DIRECT SUPPORT SERVICES is a program for families with a child (age birth to 18) who has a behavioral health diagnosis. Services are provided in the family's home, at the child's school or in other community locations. Services include family support, parenting skills training, behavior coaching and social skills training.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Felipa Lerma, 602-633-8243, flerma@swhd.org

Referrals: Case Managers submit by email to directsupport@swhd.org or by fax to 602-633-8369

Eligibility: Enrollment in AHCCCS Complete Care, with the following plans: Mercy Care (ACC), Mercy Care (RBHA), Care 1st, Banner University Family Care, United Healthcare Community, Arizona Complete Health.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS is a multi-faceted, community-based practice model that works with vulnerable families in their homes, in the context of their neighborhoods, to help them meet the basic needs of their children, prevent child maltreatment and/or eliminate danger. Priorities include preventing child abuse and neglect and promote the safety of children; strengthening parents' ability to keep their children safe, healthy, and well cared for; serving children and their families in their neighborhoods of origin; reducing the likelihood of entry into out-of-home care for children receiving in-home services; reducing the likelihood of subsequent abuse and neglect reports; reducing length of stay in out-of-home care for children who are able to safely reunify with a parent; and reducing likelihood of re-entry into out-of-home care after reunification.

Service Area: Maricopa and Yuma counties

Contact: Irene Shamell, IShamell@swhd.org, (602) 860-7939.

Eligibility/Referral: Department of Child Safety referral

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION assists families seeking to provide homes for children who have been removed from their parents due to abuse or neglect. Services include: recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive parents, licensure of kinship or community foster families, certification of individuals or couples seeking to adopt, training, supporting and monitoring licensed/certified families,

and collaborating with the Department of Child Safety to promote permanency for children in the foster care system.

Service Area: Maricopa and Pinal Counties

Contact: Intake/Orientation – Foster Care Managers or Pinal County – Sabrina Shabal, 602-633-8482, sshabal@swhd.org; Julie Otero, 602-633-8418, jotero@swhd.org; Adoptions Manager – Heather Laut, 602-633-8480, hlaut@swhd.org (DCS-referred adoption only)

Referral/Eligibility: Family must reside in Maricopa County. Family must meet state requirements for licensure/certification. A family can self-refer. DCS can refer families for adoption home studies.

HEALTHY FAMILIES is an evidence-based home visitation program that supports pregnant women and families with newborns to promote child health and development, enhance parent-child relationships, improve school readiness and increase family self-sufficiency.

Service Area: Maricopa County, including the following First Things First regions: Phoenix North, Phoenix South, East Maricopa, and Southeast Maricopa and Northwest Maricopa.

Contact: Referral line 602-427-4725; Amy Jaffe, 602-427-4681, ajaffe@swhd.org

Eligibility/Referral: Pregnant woman, or family with a baby less than 90 days old. Self or other. Referral form available on website

Website: www.swhd.org/healthyfamilies



NURTURING PARENTING PROGRAM is an evidence and curriculum-based parenting skills education and coaching program. The goal of the Nurturing parenting program is to improve parents' nurturing in each of the following five parenting constructs: expectations of children, parental empathy towards children's needs, non-violent discipline, parent-child family roles, and children's power and dependence.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Irene Shamell, IShamell@swhd.org, (602) 860-7939

Eligibility/Referral: Department of Child Safety referral

PARENT PARTNERS PLUS is a program that helps families connect with free home visitation programs for expecting parents or families with a child age 0-3 living within Maricopa County.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Emily Singleton, 602-427-4718, esingleton@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Any family in Maricopa County who is expecting a child and/or have at least one child not yet in kindergarten. Parent Partners Plus Centralized Intake: 602-633-0732 or pppintake@swhd.org

HOME ASSESSMENTS, COURTESY SUPERVISION, AND ANNUAL GUARDIANSHIP REPORTS provide home study assessments, annual guardianship reports and placement supervision for court dependent children.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Christie Scharrer, 602-633-8812, cscharrer@swhd.org and Priscilla Salas, 602-633-8341, psalas@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Department of Child Safety (DCS)





EASTERSEALS SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

BIRTH TO FIVE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (COE) provides comprehensive disabilities and mental health services to young children and consultation and support services to early childhood programs. Pediatric specialists work as an integrated team to provide comprehensive evaluations, assessments, treatment plans and care coordination. The CoE supports children with a wide range of needs including children with autism spectrum disorder, feeding disorders, and developmental delay secondary to trauma and abuse. Services include Assistive Technology (ADAPT Shop; Loan Closet), Autism Services (DIRFloortime®), Comprehensive Developmental/Mental Health Team Assessments, Developmental Therapy (occupational, physical and speech), Developmental/Mental Health Consultation, Feeding Services, Psychology and Counseling (child-parent psychotherapy, Circle of Security, Interaction Guidance, Play Therapy), Psychiatric Evaluation and Consultation

Service Area: Statewide (telehealth); Maricopa County (home and community visits)

Contact: coe@swhd.org, 602-468-3430

Website: swhd.org/disabilities

Fax: 602-633-8198

INCLUSION PROGRAM provides child care facilities and preschools with training and technical assistance so they can support the full and successful inclusion of children with disabilities into their programs. Inclusion coaches work with child care providers and preschool staff to support children with identified special needs as well as those who may have delays but are not yet identified.

Service Area: First Things First Phoenix South, Phoenix North, and Northwest Maricopa Regions

Contact: Phoenix South, Northwest Maricopa – Nadine Alfonso, 602-468-3433, nalfonso@swhd.org; Phoenix North, Northwest Maricopa – Andi Sinohui, 602-633-8575, asinohui@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Child care providers. Child Care centers in the First Things First Phoenix South, Phoenix North and Northwest Maricopa Regions are eligible.

Website: www.swhd.org/inclusion

HEAD START DISABILITIES SERVICES helps children with disabilities in Southwest Head Start by providing evaluations and therapy services.

Service Area: Balsz, Creighton, Osborn, Madison, and Paradise Valley school districts

Contact: Lisa Adams, 602-525-0821, ladams@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Head Start family or staff. Children enrolled in one of Southwest Human Development's Head Start programs who meet federal eligibility criteria.

Website: www.swhd.org/disabilities or www.swhd.org/headstart

HIGH RISK PERINATAL PROGRAM provides home or virtual visits by a community health registered nurse to assist families in transition to home after having a baby in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. During the visits, baby's physical and developmental progress will be observed and discussed with the family. Through these visits, families may receive support and education, as well as referral to appropriate community resources.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Julie Kodicek, 602-633-8681, jkodicek@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Self, physician or hospital staff. Infants who have spent five days or more in a Level 2 or 3 Newborn Intensive Care Unit are eligible.

Website: www.swhd.org/nicp

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP is an evidence-based national program providing nurse home-visiting to low income, first time pregnant mothers. A registered nurse builds a relationship with each new mother and her family to promote a healthy pregnancy, improve self-efficacy, and improve child health and development. From pregnancy until the child's second birthday, the nurse will help with individual goals, family support, resources, health and wellness, and parenting.

Service Area: North, South, Central, East, and West regions of greater Phoenix

Contact: Rebecca Jagernauth, 602-633-8690 rjagernauth@swhd.org; NFP Referral Line 602-224-1740

Referral/Eligibility: May be self-referred, or referred by other agencies. Clients need to be first-time mothers, less than 28 weeks pregnant, low-income, and living in most greater Phoenix areas.

Website: www.swhd.org/nfp



SMOOTH WAY HOME works to improve the social, developmental and medical outcomes of very fragile infants by enhancing the coordination of care and the quality of services provided to them as they transition from the newborn intensive care unit back to their home and community. In addition, we also provide extensive training and professional development for both NICU staff and community providers working with the fragile infant population. We offer a home visiting program, which provides services to families who are transitioning from the newborn intensive care unit back home to their community. Our home visitors offer families developmental guidance in caring for their baby, emotional support, and help accessing community resources.

Service Area: Arizona

Contact: Ashley Flowers, 602-633-8373, aflowers@swhd.org or Jennifer Harrison, 602-633-8355, jharrison@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: NICU SWH team, HRPP, AzEIP, PPP, community programs or self. Families across Arizona, whose infant spent time in the NICU and would benefit from additional support. We provide home visitation and mental health services for infants under 8 months adjusted age and their families.

Website: www.swhd.org/smoothwayhome

SIDE BY SIDE provides support for families raising children ages birth to 5 years who may be concerned about their child's development or may have questions about parenting their child. Services include home visits and information about community resources. Our Parent Coaches and Specialized Technical Assistance Team (STAT), work alongside families to find ways to support their child's optimal development in the areas of communication, problem-solving, motor, daily living, behavior and social-emotional skills. Services also include ongoing developmental and sensory screenings, as well as, information on community resources and how to access them.

Service Area: Phoenix South FTF Region: 85003, 85004, 85006, 85007, 85008, 85009, 85031, 85033, 85034, 85035, 85037, 85040, 85041, 85042, 85043, 85045, 85339

Contact: Elizabeth Barnes, 602-633-8455, ebarnes@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Families of infants, toddlers and preschoolers who have concerns about their child's development, but are not eligible for special needs services provided through AzEIP, Department of Developmental Disabilities or their local school district are eligible to participate in the Side by Side program. Families must reside in the First Things First Phoenix South region.

Website: www.swhd.org/side-by-side



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

BIRTH TO FIVE HELPLINE (1-877-705-KIDS) is a free, statewide question line, available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., for parents, caregivers and professionals with questions or concerns about children birth to 5. English and Spanish-speaking early childhood specialists are available to support callers' questions and community referral needs. Translation services are also available for a wide range of other languages.

Service Area: Phoenix South FTF Region: 85003, 85004, 85006, 85007, 85008, 85009, 85031, 85033, 85034, 85035, 85037, 85040, 85041, 85042, 85043, 85045, 85339

Contact: Elizabeth Barnes, 602-633-8455, ebarnes@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Families of infants, toddlers and preschoolers who have concerns about their child's development, but are not eligible for special needs services provided through AzEIP, Department of Developmental Disabilities or their local school district are eligible to participate in the Side by Side program. Families must reside in the First Things First Phoenix South region.

Website: www.swhd.org/side-by-side

FUSSY BABY PROGRAM is a service of the Birth to Five Helpline and provides telephone and home-visiting support for parents and caregivers who have questions or concerns about their baby's development during the first year of life. Common topics include excessive crying, hard-to-soothe infants, sleeping problems and feeding difficulties.

Service Area: Maricopa County for in-home or virtual visits. Statewide for phone or virtual consultation

Contact: Ana Arbel, 602-633-8694, Ana@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Self and others

Website: www.swhd.org/fussybaby

DCS PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTATION is a unit psychology consultation service provided to the Department of Child Safety in order to support DCS caseworkers and supervisors with case and service planning for children and families on their caseloads.

Service Area: Currently provide consultation to the following DCS units/offices; Pinnacle Peak.

Contact: Diana Rodriguez, 602-200-0434, drodriguez@swhd.org or Douglas Albrecht, dalbrecht@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Separate contract only open to DCS in order to provide consultation services to their units.

HARRIS INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING INSTITUTE offers two intensive training programs for mental health clinicians and other professionals working with young children. Successful completion of training leads to a certificate in either Infant/Family Studies or Infant/Family Clinical Practice. Southwest Human Development's Harris Institute is part of the prestigious Irving B. Harris professional development network of infant mental health training, which includes programs in the United States and Israel.

Service Area: Statewide

Contact: Peggy Baxter, 602-845-4815, pbaxter@swhd.org

Website: www.swhd.org/harris



SMART SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION SYSTEM provides mental health consultation to early care and education programs and providers in specified regions in Arizona. Consultation services are provided to staff (not directly to children) in order to enhance their capacities to promote the social and emotional development of all children in their care, as well as to help them respond effectively to individual children with behavioral challenges. Early childhood mental health consultants work in partnership with early childhood staff on the prevention, early identification and reduction of challenging behaviors which place children at risk for current and later adverse outcomes. Additionally, consultation services are available for home visitation programs and Family, Friend and Neighbor programs in some regions.

Service Area: The First Things First Regions of Coconino, East Maricopa, Graham and Greenlee, Hualapai Tribe, Navajo Nation, Navajo/Apache, Northwest Maricopa, Phoenix North, Phoenix South, Pinal, Salt-River Pima Indian Community, Southeast Maricopa, and Yavapai. Smart Support also holds contracts for mental health consultation with several Head Start programs across the state.

Contact: Leah Eckley, 602-200-0434, leckley@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Licensed child care and regulated home-based centers and providers within specific First Things First regions.

Website: www.swhd.org/smartsupport

TUITION SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS Funding for this program is provided by First Things First and is designated for mental health professionals working with children ages birth to 5 who want to develop or hone their expertise in the specialty of infant and early childhood mental health.

Service Area: Statewide

Contact: Leah Eckley, 602-200-0434, leckley@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Individuals with masters' degrees or higher in a license-eligible mental health discipline (e.g. marriage and family therapy, counseling, social work, psychology) who work with or intend to work with very young children in Arizona, and individuals pursuing an advanced degree in a license-eligible mental health discipline and who intend to work with very young children in Arizona.

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE TRAININGS Southwest Human Development provides a variety of trainings on trauma utilizing a trauma-informed care approach. The trainings are designed to help families and early childhood professionals understand the impact of trauma on young children and the importance of caregiving relationships in the health/development of young children. Southwest Human Development trainings on trauma are available to foster, kinship, and adoptive families, child care centers/providers, behavioral health providers, and family support and home visiting programs/professionals.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Molly Strothkamp, mstrothk@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: For foster, adoptive and kinship families, classes are provided twice a month at Southwest Human Development, registration available online. Additional trainings are provided through the Expulsion Prevention program to DES-licensed child care centers and family home providers (must register on the Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry), exceptions can be made with DES approval. Trauma informed care trainings are also available by request for providers, agencies, programs and public trainings.

Website: www.swhd.org/traumatraining



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

CREATING CONNECTIONS is a professional development opportunity for early care and education professionals in East Maricopa and Southeast Maricopa regions. Participants will meet with a professional development and training coordinator to create a professional development plan that will support their individualized learning needs. They will be connected to available community resources, offered customized trainings and will also receive on-site technical assistance.

Service Area: Region Specific - East Maricopa and Southeast Maricopa

Contact: Angela Zilch, 602-633-8744, azilch@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Licensed/Regulated centers, group homes or family child care homes. Priority given to programs on the Quality First waitlist

AZ STEPS TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS Young children are being expelled from preschools and child care programs at an astonishing rate, often because of challenging behaviors. Southwest Human Development provides teachers/caregivers with skills and strategies they need to respond effectively to these challenges through a series of trainings on expulsion prevention. This recently developed series of trainings offer opportunities to learn how understanding child development, attachment, trauma reaction, and supporting children's developing self-regulation skills can help reduce and prevent expulsion of children from age birth to twelve years. In addition to training, participants that attend training on an expulsion prevention topic are also eligible to request targeted onsite technical assistance consultation to support the implementation of strategies introduced in the expulsion prevention training. This consultation from the trainer allows for further opportunities to learn more about the topics presented in the training series.

Service area: Statewide

Contact: Jennifer Atkari, jatkari@swhd.org

Eligibility: DES-certified child care centers and family home providers, others may attend with DES approval. All must register on the Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry.

Website: www.azregistry.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE AT EDUCARE ARIZONA's vision and purpose is to act as the state's leading professional workforce development entity. The goal is to improve early childhood education teacher quality and practice, which will lead to better outcomes for children. The PDI implements training programs for early

childhood providers and leaders focused on leadership, language and literacy and family engagement.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Natasha Byars, 602-606-9156, nbyars@swhd.org

Eligibility: Early childhood professionals (caregivers, administrators/directors)

Website: www.swhd.org/pdi

CONSTRUCT SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

(Construct SE-FE) uses a strategic mix of individualized coaching, director supports and learning communities. This innovative, engaging and research-informed program gives educators the necessary tools to nurture healthy social-emotional development in the classroom and strengthen educator partnerships and communication with families.

Service Area: Phoenix Metropolitan Area

Contact: Natasha Byars, 602-606-9156, nbyars@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: DES-certified child care centers

JOURNEY THROUGH BOOKS is designed to sustain early communication, language and literacy practices that are relationship-based between the child, family and caregivers. Journey Through Books offers training and coaching to child care professionals that is focused on self-confidence in teaching skills that are focused on self-reflection and the sustainability of skills. The program enhances classroom language and communication through the use of targeted Natural Language Strategies making book sharing fun and educational for each child.

Service Area: Statewide

Contact: Pam Hoffer, (602) 330-8242, phoffer@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Licensed/Regulated sites

QUALITY FIRST ACADEMY is part of the national movement to improve the quality of child care centers. Our program provides statewide comprehensive and integrated professional development that supports all technical assistance providers and partners who are working to improve the quality of child care centers. The data-driven content of the academy focuses on skills that are necessary to provide high-quality coaching and consultation through a collaborative process.

Service Area: Statewide, specifically in Maricopa County, Yuma, Flagstaff and Tucson

Contact: Brenda Urquidi, 602-845-4817, burquidi@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: All Technical Assistance Providers and partners working to improve the quality of child care centers.

QUALITY FIRST ASSESSMENT is a component of the quality improvement and rating system for early care and education programs serving children age birth to 5. Assessors complete observational assessments of the environment, interactions and administrative practices with programs that have been selected for Quality First. Objective feedback is then provided in the form of a written report to the participants and Quality First Coaching agencies.

Service Area: Statewide

Contact: For Assessment: Katie Romero, 602-633-8652, kromero@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Licensed/Regulated centers, group homes or family child care homes. Interested programs must apply through FTF website.

Website: www.swhd.org/qualityfirst

QUALITY FIRST COACHING is another component of Arizona's quality improvement and rating system. Early care and education providers are assigned a coach who partners with them in a variety of improvement efforts. Coaches offer training, technical assistance and on-site mentoring to support goal planning, enrich classroom environments and enhance teaching practices. Through participation in Quality First, programs may also have access to incentive funds and child care scholarships.

Service Area: Statewide

Contact: For Coaching: Angela Zilch, 602-633-8744, azilch@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Licensed/Regulated centers, group homes or family child care homes. Interested programs must apply through FTF website.

Website: www.swhd.org/qualityfirst

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS Southwest Human Development provides many training opportunities for early childhood professionals who are working with young children and their families in Arizona and throughout the United States.

Contact: Alan Taylor, 602-224-1749, ataylor@swhd.org

Website: www.swhd.org/training



EARLY LITERACY

RAISING A READER is an evidenced based early language and literacy program for caregivers and their children birth to 5 years of age. Families attend eight weekly early literacy groups where strategies to promote children's early communication, language, and literacy skills are discussed and practiced, thereby helping families prepare their children for subsequent school success. Children are provided with new books to build their home libraries. Raising A Reader is offered in community-based settings, including affordable housing apartment communities, elementary schools, health clinics, and family resource centers.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Meghan Storms, 602-633-8748, mstorms@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Funding eligibility

Website: www.swhd.org/raisingareader

REACH OUT AND READ is a national, evidenced-based program focused on providing children with a foundation for success by incorporating early literacy into pediatric care. Reach Out and Read combats the effects of income inequality by providing children and families with a new book and by encouraging families to read together. Reach Out and Read practitioners give families developmental guidance and feedback on language and literacy milestones. Reach Out and Read practitioners also use the book as a developmental screening tool to aid in identifying possible delays which can lead to referrals to early intervention services, giving each child the best opportunity to learn and grow.

Service Area: Maricopa County

Contact: Meghan Storms, 602-633-8748, mstorms@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Pediatric medical practices providing well-child checks to children ages 6 months to 5 years old

Website: www.swhd.org/reachoutandread

LITERACY COMMUNITIES Southwest Human Development's Language and Literacy Learning Communities are designed to help early childhood professionals understand and promote early language and literacy in young children from birth to 5 years old. The curriculum consists of 24 hours of professional development. The sessions support childcare teachers and directors as well as home care providers in understanding early language and literacy in the context of a young child's social and emotional development. Sessions are highly interactive with opportunities for participants to work in both large and small groups. The sessions provide an engaging mix of theory and assist participants to develop activities and strategies to use immediately. In addition, the program provides a list of recommended children's books tied to learning objectives.

Contact: Meghan Storms, 602-633-8748, mstorms@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Child Care Centers and Home Care Providers

Website: www.swhd.org/literacy

3TS LET'S TALK DADS Let's Talk Dads is a six-week virtual series of group sessions for fathers of young children ages 0-3 years old. Learn about the important role that dads play in encouraging and supporting their child's language development, and also learn new strategies to promote early brain development and help prepare your child for kindergarten.

Contact: Elizabeth Webber-Schmitt, 602-633-8802, ewebber@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Statewide for fathers with children ages 0-3

Website: www.swhd.org/letstalkdads

3TS LET'S TALK is an eight-week virtual series of group sessions for parents of young children ages 0-3 years old. Learn about the important role that caregivers play in encouraging and supporting their child's language development, and also learn new strategies to promote early brain development and help prepare your child for kindergarten.

Contact: Elizabeth Webber-Schmitt, 602-633-8802, ewebber@swhd.org

Referral/Eligibility: Statewide for families with children ages 0-3

Website: www.swhd.org/letstalk





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