



Accreditation Quality
Improvement Support

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 October 2023 - December 2023:

Page 3: General Study Groups

Pages 4: Standard Specific Study Groups

Pages 5 - 11: Statewide Professional Learning

October (pgs. 5-8) November (pgs. 9-10) December (pg. 11)

Pages 12 - 13: AQIS Facilitator Office Hours

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

Virtual 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). Once you register, you will be sent a confirmation email with information about the Zoom link 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/Location	Registration
EASTCONN Sheri Lambert (slambert@eastconn.org) Cheryl LaMothe (clamothe@eastconn.org) Paula Gooslin (pgooslin@eastconn.org)	<u>Wednesday, October 18</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. <u>Wednesday, December 20</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Three Rivers Community College 574 New London Turnpike Norwich, CT 06360	Register here for OCT: (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=423521&CustomerID=186) Register here for DEC: (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=423523&CustomerID=186)
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, November 29th</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Three Rivers Community College 574 New London Turnpike Norwich, CT 06360	Register Here (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424539&CustomerID=186)

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Standards Specific Study Groups				
Standard	Intended Audience	Facilitator(s)	Date/Time/Location	Registration
4: Assessment of Child Progress	Administrators and Educators Initial and Renewal	Mary Stone, ACES MStone@aces.org Michelle F. DellaCamera, ACES mdellacamera@aces.org Kim Cellini, ACES kcellini@aces.org Rosaria Giannetti, ACES RGiannetti@aces.org	<u>Wednesday, November 8</u> 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)	Register Here (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424540&CustomerID=186)
7: Families	Administrators and Educators Initial and Renewal	Liz Parmelee, CES parmelee@cestrumbull.org Laurie Franzino, CES franzinl@cestrumbull.org	<u>Thursday, November 2</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CES 40 Lindeman Drive Trumbull, CT 06611	Register Here (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424541&CustomerID=186)

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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.

October 2023			
Topic	Dates/Times Location	Presenter(s)	Registration Info
<p>Orienting New Staff</p> <p>This session views orientation of new staff as a golden investment - in both your new hire and your program. Effective orientation maximizes the new hire's chances of becoming an asset to your program. We will explore systems to make orientation effective, meaningful, and manageable while examining a variety of tools and timelines that can be modified for each program's own use. The first 10 registrants who attend will receive a copy of <i>The Right Fit: Recruiting, Selecting, and Orienting Staff</i> by Kay Albrecht.</p> <p>Intended audience: Program Administrators</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 6: Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support NAEYC Standard 10: Leadership and Management</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, October 3</u></p> <p>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)</p>	<p>Sarah Witkiewicz, EdAdvance witkiewicz@edadvance.org</p>	<p>Register Here</p> <p>(https://www.potraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=423023&CustomerID=186)</p>

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<p>NAEYC Code of Ethics</p> <p>This course will help child care providers become familiar with the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct, understand the difference between Ideals and Principles in the Code, understand the difference between an Ethical Responsibility and an Ethical Dilemma, know the steps to solving an ethical situation using the Code, and practice using the Code on provided case study scenarios. Learn how to use the Code for improved practice starting today. This training supports NAEYC standard 6.</p> <p>Intended audience: Program Administrators, Educators, Teacher Assistants, Paraprofessionals</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 6: Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, October 10</u></p> <p>10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)</p>	<p>Liz Parmelee, CES parmelee@cestrumbull.org</p> <p>Christina Lye, CES lyec@cestrumbull.org</p>	<p>Register Here</p> <p>(https://www.potraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424543&CustomerId=186)</p>
<p>Issues of Equity</p> <p>This 3-part series will support participants in increasing their cultural competence, help them identify ways to reduce implicit bias, and consider strategies for affirming diversity in early childhood classrooms. NAEYC's Position Statement Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education will serve as the foundation for this professional learning. <i>Participants should plan to attend all 3 sessions.</i></p> <p>Intended audience: Program Administrators, Educators</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 6: Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support</p>	<p><u>Thursday, October 12</u></p> <p><u>Thursday, November 9</u></p> <p><u>Thursday, December 14</u></p> <p>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)</p>	<p>Jean Barresi, CREC jbarresi@crec.org</p> <p>Natasha Robinson, CREC nrobinson@crec.org</p> <p>Traci Protz, CREC tprotz@crec.org</p> <p>Sara Castle, CREC scastle@crec.org</p>	<p>Register Here</p> <p>(https://www.potraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424544&CustomerId=186)</p>
<p>One Size Does Not Fit All: Resources Designed for Infant and Toddler Care</p> <p>Working as an infant/toddler caregiver or teacher, have you ever felt like you were expected to use a preschool resource and just “make it</p>	<p><u>Friday, October 20</u></p> <p>1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Kristen Kennen, EdAdvance kennen@edadvance.org</p>	<p>Register Here</p>

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<p>fit” for your age group? It’s like wearing your sister’s hand me down prom dress even though you and she are NOT the same size! Have you ever wondered what resources were developed specifically for the infant and toddler age groups? This is the session for you! You will have an opportunity to both learn about and directly explore resources that were created with the infant/toddler age group in mind. These resources will include websites, curricular materials, evaluation tools, and more. You will develop a plan for selecting at least one explored resource and determining how you will use it within your infant/toddler setting. Some of these resources are free and easy to access online. If you are a program administrator with limited infant/toddler experience yourself, you will also find this session very beneficial! If possible, please bring a device such as a laptop or tablet for some of our explorations. <i>The first 10 registrants that participate will receive a copy of the <u>Infant /Toddler Environment Rating Scale - 3rd Edition (ITERS-3)</u> by Harms, Cryer, Clifford, and Yazejian</i></p> <p>Intended Audience: Program Administrators; Infant and Toddler Educators</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum NAEYC Standard 3: Teaching</p>	<p>EdAdvance 355 Goshen Road Litchfield, CT</p> <p><i>This session is part of a full day conference focused on infant / toddler care which is being held at EdAdvance.</i></p> <p><i>To learn about the conference, please email Orie Sullivan at sullivan@edadvice.org</i></p>		<p>(https://www.prtoraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=423024&CustomerID=186)</p>
<p>Designing Learning for Infant and Toddlers</p> <p>What do you mean you don’t do whole group with infants and toddlers?! When we focus on the importance of supportive and nurturing relationships we can better adjust our routines and schedules to best help infants and toddlers develop. This session will look at daily schedules, large and small group activities, and how to incorporate information shared by families into the classroom daily.</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, October 25</u></p> <p>5:00 p.m -7:00 p.m</p> <p>EASTCONN 376 Hartford Turnpike Hampton, CT 06247</p>	<p>Sheri Lambert, EASTCONN slambert@eastconn.org</p> <p>Cheryl LaMothe EASTCONN clamothe@eastconn.org</p>	<p>Register Here</p> <p>(https://www.prtoraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx)</p>



<p>Intended audience: Educators and Assistant Educators</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 1: Relationships NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum NAEYC Standard 3: Teaching NAEYC Standard 7: Families</p>			?ID=423524&CustomerID=186
<p>Curriculum, Standard, Assessments</p> <p>Now that the school year has started and educators are adjusted to their new young learners, it is time to think more deeply about curriculum, standards, and assessment. In this session, participants will dig deeper into what high quality learning experiences look like and how to align to standards while taking effective data to document growth and progress for children.</p> <p>Intended Audience: Leadership, Educators, and Support Staff</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum NAEYC Standard 3: Teaching NAEYC Standard 4: Assessment of Child Progress</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, October 18</u></p> <p>6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>ACES 205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT</p>	<p>Michelle Dellacamera, ACES mdellacamera@aces.org</p> <p>Mary Stone, ACES mstone@aces.org</p> <p>Kim Cellini, ACES kcellini@aces.org</p> <p>Rosaria Giannetti, ACES RGiannetti@aces.org</p>	<p>Register Here</p> <p>(https://www.potraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=423106&CustomerID=186)</p>



November 2023			
Topic	Dates/Times Location	Presenter(s)	Registration Info
<p>Developing Your Program's Operations Manual / Handbooks</p> <p>Policies, procedures, and intentional written systems all help to promote - and sustain - quality early childhood practices. Participants in this session will gain basic policy/procedure writing skills and develop the ability to analyze existing written documents to ensure they are effective.</p> <p>Intended audience: Program Administrators</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 6: Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support NAEYC Standard 10: Leadership and Management</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, November 29</u></p> <p>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)</p>	<p>Sarah Witkiewicz, EdAdvance wikiewicz@edadvance.org</p>	<p>Register Here</p> <p>(https://www.prtoraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=423026&CustomerId=186)</p>
<p>Using the NAEYC Class Observation and Class Portfolio Tools for Accreditation</p> <p>The Class Observation Tool and Class Portfolio Tool are two sources of evidence used by NAEYC assessors to evaluate classrooms during a site visit. They also help teachers to reflect on and improve their teaching practices! In this session, we will examine both tools, practice using them, and see how they support quality. This session is designed for those who are early</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, November 28</u></p> <p>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)</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>Register Here</p> <p>(https://www.prtoraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424545&CustomerId=186)</p>

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<p>in their NAEYC Accreditation journey or not familiar with the process.</p> <p>Intended Audience: Program Administrators who are actively pursuing NAEYC initial accreditation or renewal; Educators in programs who are actively pursuing NAEYC initial accreditation or renewal</p> <p>NAEYC Standards: 1 - 10</p>			
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December 2023			
Topic	Dates/Times Location	Presenter(s)	Registration Info
<p>Frida Kahlo, Bisa Butler, Claude Monet, and More! Helping Young Children Appreciate Diverse Art</p> <p>Visual arts allow young children to explore the world around them. This can happen through both active, hands-on, engaging art experiences AND through intentional conversations with adults who help children to look at, analyze, and reflect on a variety of interesting images. Participants in this session will come away with concrete examples of ways they can incorporate diverse art into their curriculum. <i>A limited number of registrants for this session will receive children's books and other curriculum materials related to this topic.</i></p> <p>Intended Audience: Educators of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers</p> <p>NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum NAEYC Standard 9: Physical Environment</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, December 5</u></p> <p>6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>EdAdvance 355 Goshen Road Litchfield, CT</p>	<p>Kristen Kennen, EdAdvance kennen@edadvance.org</p>	<p>Register Here</p> <p>(https://www.prtoraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=423028&CustomerID=186)</p>



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. - 4:00p.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 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.	scastle@crec.org (Mon) nrobinson@crec.org (Mon) jbarresi@crec.org (Fri) tprotz@crec.org (Fri)

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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 leaders pursuing re-accreditation interested in connecting with colleagues in their community. 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	Registration
ACES	Kim Cellini Mary Stone Michelle DellaCamera Rosaria Giannetti	<u>Wednesday, December 20, 2023</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)	Register Here (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424546&CustomerID=186)
CES	Liz Parmelee Christina Lye Laurie Franzino	<u>Wednesday, December 13, 2023</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)	Register Here (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424547&CustomerID=186)
CREC	Jean Barresi Sara Castle Traci Protz Natasha Robinson	<u>Thursday, November 2, 2023</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)	Register Here (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424549&CustomerID=186)

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EASTCONN	Sheri Lambert Cheryl LaMothe Paula Gooslin	<u>Wednesday, November 29, 2023</u> 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EASTCONN 376 Hartford Turnpike Hampton, CT 06247	Register Here (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424550&CustomerID=186)
EdAdvance	Kristen Kennen Sarah Witkiewicz	<u>Thursday, October 5, 2023</u> 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EdAdvance 355 Goshen Road Litchfield, CT 06749 <u>Thursday, January 4, 2024</u> 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. virtual via Zoom (link will be sent following registration)	Register Here for October (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=422836&CustomerID=186) Register Here for January (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424551&CustomerID=186)
LEARN	Ali Zanardi Lynn DePina Maria Jose Beteta	<u>Wednesday, December 13, 2023</u> 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. LEARN 44 Hatchetts Hill Road Old Lyme, CT 06371	Register Here (https://www.protraxx.com/Scripts/EzCatalogNY/ViewClass.aspx?ID=424552&CustomerID=186)

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