

Early Childhood Summary

Current Activities

- Building conversations related to providing special education services in the early childhood (EC) classroom
- Visiting programs to see strengths and challenges
- Attending ASEP meetings (Cooperative EC Coordinators group)
- Working with DDS to coordinate the provision of special education services for preschool children in Developmental Day Treatment Clinic Services (DDTCS) centers

Statewide Collaboration Projects

- ELAN (Equity Leaders Action Network) led by Headstart
 - This group is looking at inequities in preschool services for African American boys
- AAIMH (Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health)
 - This organization looks at mental health needs of infants through preschool and supports available
 - AAIMH meets monthly
- Project LAUNCH
 - Through Project LAUNCH state and local networks will be developed to improve the coordination of the early child-serving system, in particular behavioral health and primary care services, and to enhance the practices, programs, and services for young children and their families.
 - LAUNCH state council meets quarterly
- Suspension and Expulsion Work Group
 - This work group, formed through DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE), reviews needs for students and looks at ways to increase understanding of needs of children behaviorally in the EC setting.
- Professional Development Leadership team in collaboration with Part C
 - The vision for this group is to create a multi-tiered, connected network of professional development in evidence-based practices that results in successful outcomes for children birth to five and their families learning in inclusive environments.