

Early Childhood Summary

Current Activities

- Building conversations related to how to provide special education services in the early childhood (EC) classroom
- Visiting programs to see strengths and challenges
- Attending Arkansas Special Education Early Childhood Professionals (ASEP) meetings (Cooperative EC Coordinators group)
- Reviewing EC to Kindergarten transition process
- Monitoring EC programs

Statewide Collaboration Projects

- ELAN (Equity Leaders Action Network) lead by Headstart
 - Group is looking at inequities in preschool services for African American boys
- AAIMH (Arkansas Association of Infant Mental Health)
 - Organization looks at mental health needs of infants through preschool and supports available
 - Meets monthly
- 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
 - Through the Division of Childcare (DCCECE). Reviews needs of students and looking at ways to increase understanding of the needs of children behaviorally in the EC setting.