

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Updates

Working with DHH Children & Their Families

EHDDI Free Training Opportunities

The Washington State Early Hearing Detection, Diagnosis and Intervention (EHDDI) Program has created multiple trainings to educate Family Resources Coordinators (FRCs) and early support providers about working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) and their families. The trainings are:

- [Specialized Providers and Services](#) – Discusses DHH specialized programs and supports, and special considerations when working with children who are DHH with additional disabilities.
- [Knowledge Building](#) – Provides information about diversity in the DHH community, describes hearing levels, and technology options available.
- [Bias Awareness](#) – Provides information about communication opportunities, recognizing biases, and ways to support diverse families.
- [Transition from Part C to Part B](#) – Provides information about children who are deaf or hard of hearing transitioning from Part C to Part B services.

[EHDDI Resource Library | Healthier Washington Collaboration Portal](#)

If you have questions about this or other training opportunities, please visit [Training Resources | Washington State Department of Health](#).

2026 Infant and Early Childhood Conference

May 4–8, 2026 | Virtual

Registration is now open for the 2026 Infant and Early Childhood Conference (IECC). Each year, IECC brings together families, early learning providers, educators, and advocates to explore timely topics that impact infants, toddlers, and young children. The 2026 conference will feature a wide range of engaging sessions designed to support everyday practice, strengthen systems of care, and elevate the voices of those who work alongside young children and their families.

IECC will be held **virtually**, offering a flexible, accessible learning experience that allows you to participate from wherever you are—without sacrificing connection, collaboration, or meaningful learning.

Join us for:

- Inspiring, evidence-based workshops;



- Practical strategies you can use right away;
- A shared commitment to supporting the well-being and development of all young children and their families.

We hope you'll join us for this exciting week of learning, connection, and advocacy. Let's come together to learn, share, and strengthen our work—because what we do matters.

For more information and to register, visit the [IECC website](#).

2026 Pyramid Model Annual National Conference

April 6-10, 2026 | Tampa, Florida

Registration is still open for the Pyramid Model National Conference! The National Training Institute on Effective Practices aims to provide professionals with an in-depth, intensive learning experience around the Pyramid Model framework for addressing the social and emotional development and challenging behavior of young children.

We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the Pyramid Model framework, learning new strategies, and hearing about new research to attend. Individuals who may benefit from the Institute include administrators, coaches, behavior specialists, higher education faculty, teachers, and child care staff, to name a few.

Topics and speakers have been chosen carefully to provide NTI participants with a high-quality learning experience related to promoting the social and emotional competence of young children, addressing challenging behavior, improving systems and practices, and building systems of care. The conference offers both in-depth three-hour workshops and 1.5-hour sessions.

For more information and to register, visit the [NTI2026 website](#).

2026 International Early Childhood Inclusion Institute Hybrid Conference

May 19 – May 21, 2026 (Hybrid) | Chapel Hill, NC

June 24 – 25, 2026 | Virtual

We welcome early childhood and early childhood special education (EC/ECSE) professionals, families, individuals with disabilities, EC/ECSE higher education faculty, professional development and technical assistance providers, local, state, or national administrators and leaders, as well as EC and ECSE students.

Whether you are a family of a child with disabilities, a newcomer in the field of early childhood/early childhood special education, or a seasoned professional, you'll find sessions that matter the most to your role in supporting inclusive opportunities for children with disabilities

and their families. With more than 50 sessions to choose from, we hope the Inclusion Institute will leave you feeling informed, energized, and supported.

For more information and to register, visit the International [Early Childhood Inclusion Institute website](#).

Strengthening Early Learning: PELE–Marsico Partnership Announced

We are pleased to announce a formal partnership between the Positive Early Learning Experiences (PELE) Center and the Marsico Institute for Early Learning. The strategic collaboration between these two nationally recognized centers, housed at the University of Denver, is designed to bolster early childhood education support offered to states, programs, and providers to benefit outcomes for young children and families. We believe in the powerful impact of our collective work across the complex early childhood system.

What This Means for You

The project faculty and staff with whom you are partnering, as well as contracts and deliverables, will remain UNCHANGED.

This merger offers several key benefits:

- This partnership complements Marsico’s rigor in developing and testing early STEM curricula (e.g., Learning Trajectories), professional development and assessments with PELE’s statewide and district-level implementation capacity emphasis on social-emotional learning, inclusion, and belonging for young children with disabilities. Together, the larger Marsico Institute can pair what we know works best with how to make it work for children, families, and providers across settings.
- Through this partnership, we look forward to aligned and supported operations that will make your experience as partners in this work improved and more streamlined.

Upcoming Changes

As we move toward partnership, you will notice a few updates:

- The Institute will be led by Drs. Julie Sarama and Doug Clements – Distinguished University Professors and Kennedy Endowed Chairs – with decades of experience in higher education administration, research, and technical assistance.
- Effective February 15, 2026, we will begin officially using the Marsico Institute for Early Learning name in our correspondence and marketing rather than PELE.
- By April 1, 2026, we expect to have full integration across our website and social media platforms. We will share updates with you as this occurs.

We are incredibly excited about this new chapter and the synergy and opportunities the partnership brings to our work in early learning. We remain fully committed to our shared goals and look forward to continuing our work together within this strengthened institute.

If you have any questions about what this partnership means for you specifically, please do not hesitate to reach out to our new email marsico.earlylearningpd@du.edu.