

ACDS Quarterly Newsletter



Winter 2021

Counties currently offering classes:

- Berkeley
- Cabell
- Kanawha
- Greenbrier
- Hardy
- Harrison
- Logan
- Mercer
- Monongalia
- Nicholas
- Ohio
- Putnam
- Raleigh
- Upshur
- Wood

For a complete list of ACDS events, class start dates, visit the ACDS website www.wvacds.org and Facebook page.



A Review of 2020

What a year 2020 was! It definitely brought many changes in our lives, both personally and professionally. I don't think any of us could have guessed the many ups and downs and challenges that 2020 brought us.

Before March, many of us never imagined we would be facing a pandemic, quarantined in our homes and communicating with work and family using virtual platforms. Whether we wanted to or not, we all learned new technology skills and ways of communicating with each other.

Unfortunately, the year was financially challenging for child

care, as it was for many industries. Those of us that were fortunate enough to keep our employment were grateful, and faced new policies, procedures and attitudes toward our jobs. Many saw their jobs or positions change due to changes in enrollment and the demand for school age childcare.

In regard to the ACDS program, as you know we were challenged with turning our lessons into an online format. The process of switching a program that has been done in person for 31 years to virtual learning was challenging. Despite the hiccups and bumps along the path of going virtual and creating online

lessons, we are thankful that we were able to finish the spring 2020 semester and continue with subsequent semesters.

We thank you for your patience and support over the past year. **ACDS staff continue to work remotely**, as we have done since March 2020. The best way to communicate with us is through email.

We are hopeful that the year 2021 will be a year of healing and renewal for all of us.

Please take care of yourselves and those around you. ~ Jennifer

2020 Graduates

Spring 2020 Graduating Classes

- Berkeley
- Cabell
- Harrison
- Kanawha
- Monongalia
- Nicholas
- Putnam
- Raleigh

Fall 2020 Graduating Classes

- Berkeley
- Harrison
- Kanawha
- Upshur



After graduating ACDS you may still be involved in the program by becoming a mentor or local council member. Mentors serve as supervisors for students that do not have direct supervisors. Local councils meet twice a year to discuss current happenings in the ACDS program and to determine the class schedule in their region. For more information, contact ACDS.

Virtual Learning Tips



This spring will mark a year that our classes have been online only. We never expected the effects of this pandemic to impact our program this long. It seems most professional development is happening online. With this in mind we would like to share some tips on how to get the most from virtual learning.

- Be in a mindset to learn
- Read all directions carefully
- Schedule a set time to complete lessons and stick to it
- Find quiet space where you can complete lessons uninterrupted and with few distractions
- Take notes to help you recall information
- If you need help or do not understand something ask your instructor for help
- Set a goal to finish assignments before the due date
- Make it fun—have some coffee, play relaxing music, etc.
- Stay organized; use a calendar to remind you of due dates and meeting times
- Stay healthy



Remember to complete the surveys you are given at the end of each semester. Your feedback is considered when making decisions about the program's policies and procedures.



New Registration Process

We started a new registration process in fall 2020. All students must follow the new guidelines. Below are the steps involved for registration into the program.

- All semesters now require an orientation. Students must take the orientation for the semester they are entering. All orientations can be found on the WVSTARS training calendar, www.wvstars.org.
- All students must fill out and submit a registration to ACDS. This should be done as part of the orientation, but can also be emailed or mailed to ACDS staff.
- All students must submit the \$25.00 participation fee. ACDS accepts personal and business checks, money orders and credit/debit cards.

All three of these steps must be done by the registration deadline date. That date will vary each semester. The spring 2021 semester deadline is January 22. You can learn the deadline date for future semesters by looking on the ACDS website, www.wvacds.org or by following ACDS on Facebook.



Don't forget to register for the 2021 Celebrating Connections Conference in April! This year the conference will be virtual and free! Visit the Celebrating Connections Facebook page for more information.



Contact Information

ACDS promotes highly skilled, confident early childhood employees, quality early childhood classrooms, and informed supportive early childhood professionals.

Jennifer Conkle

ACDS Statewide Coordinator

Tara Kitts

ACDS Specialist

Contact Information

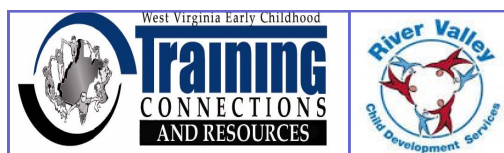
Address: 611 7th Avenue

Huntington, WV 25701

Phone: 304-523-0433

Fax: 304-697-6613

Website: www.wvacds.org



This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and is administered by WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services.

Questions and Answers

- How do I get the Department of Labor Certificate?

When apprentices have accumulated between 3200 and 4000 OJT hours they can submit for completion with the Department of Labor. Apprentices will need to send copies of all OJT logs, all 4 semester supervisor evaluations and the Department of Labor application for completion (www.wvacds.org) to the ACDS office. Once received we will review all documents for accuracy and submit a completion request on behalf of the apprentice. It is important that students complete this process as soon as they collect the hours. We urge apprentices not to delay submission.

- Do I need to let anyone know if I switch employers?

Yes, apprentices do need to let the ACDS office know when they change employers. We must get a new employer acceptance agreement signed on the student's behalf from their new employer. We also update the employer in the Department of Labor database.



Testimonial

“My instructor was very professional and truly made me feel like I can do anything I set my mind to. She was always eager to help in any way and was very informative while finding a way to make learning fun.

~Anonymous Student

