

Texas LAUNCH NEWS

Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

JANUARY 2018 – Edition 13

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First3Years Training Opportunities
Social-Emotional Screening Toolkit
LAUNCH Year 2 Infographic Link
...and more!

Greetings from Texas LAUNCH

Happy New Year and welcome back!! January marks the official start to 2018 and the 13th edition of the Texas LAUNCH Newsletter. Already this project has provided training to 1,400 providers and screened 516 children using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires. The Texas LAUNCH leadership team would like to thank all those who are working so diligently to make this happen! The newsletter is another strategy to support professional development. Newsletters are made up of project highlights, resources, toolkits, success stories, data, and training opportunities. They are meant to serve as a resource tool for all stakeholders involved in the LAUNCH project and beyond. We will be enhancing our service delivery by publishing these newsletters once a quarter for the remainder of the project, and we need your help to know who it's reaching and how it's helping you in your work. Please contact holly.gursslin@austin.utexas.edu to share who you are sending this too, how you use it, and how we can make it more useful to you. We look forward to another wonderful and productive year ahead.

~ Your Texas LAUNCH Leadership Team

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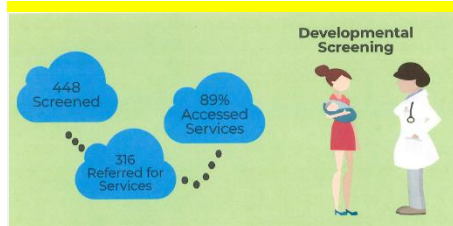
F3Y 2018 Webinar Series

The statewide early childhood organization, [First3Years](#), has published their [2018 Webinar Series](#) line up for professional development. Topics for 2018 include:

- Maternal Mental Health and the Impact on Child Development
- Equality vs. Equity in Early Childhood Education
- Infant Feeding Practices and Brain Development
- Baby Brain Development and Health
- Drug Addicted Babies and Support for Development
- Positive Discipline Practices in Early Childhood
- Attachment Milestones in Early Childhood

...and more!

Click [here](#) for a full listing of topics and dates for 2018. First3Years also provides online and digital learning experiences.



Texas LAUNCH Year 2 Infographic

Please visit the Texas LAUNCH website to download a copy of our Year 2 infographic outlining data from the incredible work the project has accomplished so far. This resources can be utilized in council meetings, agency team meetings, or to engage leaders in the community.

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Success Story in Tarrant County

MHMR of Tarrant County (MHMRTC) is one of the three expansion communities for Texas Project LAUNCH. MHMRTC is utilizing this project to build a strong early childhood system in collaboration with multiple early childhood organizations. It is relatively normal to have difficulty collaborating with multiple and different organizations, trying to meet everyone’s unique goals and needs; however, the relationship between MHMRTC and Everman Independent School District (EISD) is breaking that norm. LAUNCH leaders Stephanie Norton and Laura Kender met with EISD leaders to discuss LAUNCH strategies to meet the needs of their students and families. One of the strategies discussed was Parent Cafés, a parenting education program that engages parents in an informal setting to discuss family resilience and protective factors. Due to the quality of relationships built between MHMRTC and its community, EISD was open to trying a Parent Café to boost their own parent engagement strategies. Thirteen parents attended the first Café and raved about their experiences, resulting in four more being planned for the school year!



Social-Emotional Screening Toolkit

The Social-Emotional Screening Toolkit: Tips and Tools for Early Childhood Programs was published by Brooks Publishing Co. This toolkit assists programs with the implementation and use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social and Emotional edition (ASQ:SE). The toolkit is packed with useful tips for conducting screenings, scoring the instrument, and sharing results with families. There are even colorful handouts that can be shared with families to foster the discussion about the importance of early childhood social and emotional learning. There are even sample letters to introduce parents to the tool and worksheets to use in a family conference. Seeking input from families through the ASQ and sharing the results helps early childhood programs engage families. “When families actively participate in social-emotional screening, the process is easier and more accurate - and fully engaged families also boost their children’s development between screenings.” [Click here](#) to access the toolkit and learn more about easy steps to begin implementation.



2018 Growing Strong Calendar

Brooks Publishing has released the [Growing Strong: Supporting Social-Emotional Calendar](#) All Year Long Calendar! Each month focuses on an early childhood topic and tips/checklists to address it. [Click here](#) to download a copy for your agency and families!