



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®  
Illinois Professional Development System

# Registry

## News



## Fall 2023 Newsletter

*You are receiving this email newsletter because you are a Gateways to Opportunity Registry Member. The Registry News will provide up-to-date information about programs and policy changes. Additionally, we always include something you can use in your classroom. Feel free to share this newsletter by printing a copy for your program, or forwarding it to a friend.*

### In This Issue

**Smart Start  
Transition Grants  
Round 2**

**Birth to Five Illinois:  
Regional Needs  
Assessments**

**FREE Professional  
Development Advisor  
(PDA) Program**

## SMART START TRANSITION GRANTS



**Smart Start Transition Grant Round 2** applications will open on **October 2, 2023**. Programs that were found eligible for Transition Grant funds during Round 1 will need to submit an updated budget request for Round 2 funding by October 31, 2023. Any program that has not applied previously or was deemed ineligible during Round 1 will have the opportunity to submit a new application between October 2–31, 2023.

The federal government changed the unique entity identifier used across the federal government from the DUNS number to the Unique Entity ID (UEI). Entities doing business with the federal government will now require the Unique Entity ID created in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). This transition allows the government to streamline the entity identification and validation process, making it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the federal government. Use this [tip sheet](#) to obtain your UEI #.

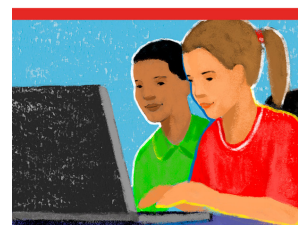
If you have questions, you can email [grants@inccrra.org](mailto:grants@inccrra.org).

### Data Bits and Bites

On average, **licensed child care center directors** have been at their current programs for **9.5 years**. **Licensed center teachers** have been at their programs for an average of **5 years** and **assistant teachers** for an average of **2 years**.



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on Facebook!**

## Birth to Five Illinois Updates

In July 2023, Birth to Five Illinois released 39 Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessments. These collaborative data reports relied on the expertise of entities that collect and analyze Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) data, Birth to Five Illinois staff, Birth to Five Illinois Action Council and Family Council members, and a variety of cross-sector stakeholders in all 39 Regions across the State.



Each community report highlights:

- Regional child and family demographics
- Local Community Collaborations
- Available ECEC programs and services
- Slot gaps
- An analysis of the local ECEC workforce
- Family access barriers
- Regional strengths and needs
- Community-generated recommendations for how to address the identified needs

These reports are being shared widely so the findings can be used in a variety of ways:

- **Local communities** - as a basis for making recommendations on how to increase enrollment in and access to, ECEC programs and services, as well as to determine what additional services/programs and resources may be needed to support families and caregivers throughout the Region.
- **Parents/caregivers and ECEC providers/educators** - to have a fuller picture of what is happening in their community.
- **Policy makers, elected officials, and state agencies that administer ECEC programs** - to have a local view of the ECEC landscape in the areas they serve so they can direct funding to the under-resourced areas across the State based on the feedback received from ECEC system users.
- **Local government bodies, early childhood providers, and other organizations** - to assess and demonstrate the need for services as funding opportunities become available.

Birth to Five Illinois continues to amplify local voices in year two, during which we will create Regional Action Plans to begin addressing the needs and recommendations identified.

Read the Regional  
Reports

Watch the  
Webinars

Contact your  
Regional Manager

## The Gateways Scholarship Program

The Gateways Scholarship Program pays up to **100% OF TUITION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION** and Child Development (ECE/CD) coursework and degrees at participating colleges.

*"While most of my successes have come from hard work and a genuine drive to make a difference, it would not have been possible without my Gateways Scholarship."*

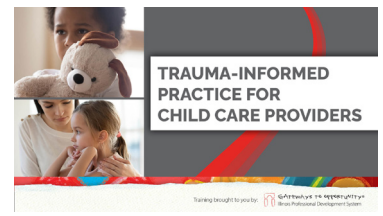
- J. Smith

For more information, visit [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com) or email [scholarship@ilgateways.com](mailto:scholarship@ilgateways.com).



## NOW AVAILABLE ON I-LEARNING: Trauma-Informed Practice for Child Care Providers

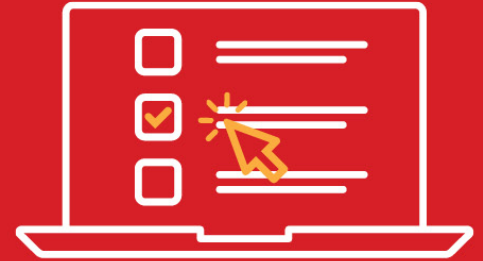
Trauma-Informed Practice for Child Care Providers explores concepts in a variety of areas including infant/early childhood mental health, social emotional development of young children, and trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Participants will look at indicators, benchmarks, and ways to foster social emotional learning in culturally responsive ways. This training meets the DCFS requirement for trauma-informed care.



**Enroll today!**

## YOUR THOUGHTS MATTER!

Please take 1 minute to answer  
the Credential application survey

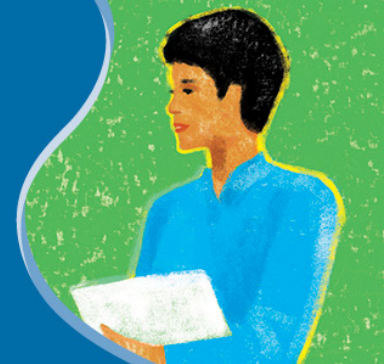


GATEWAYS OFFERS A

## FREE SERVICE

TO HELP WITH PLANNING &

## ACHIEVING CAREER GOALS



The Gateways Professional Development Advisor (PDA) Program provides an experienced professional that can help with...

- Choosing a degree program when returning to school
- Guidance on how to achieve various professional credentials
- Identifying scholarships and financial aid opportunities to help support taking college coursework
- Planning career and professional development goals and overcoming roadblocks along the way to achievement

Request a Professional Development Advisor by visiting our [website](#)!

## ***Credential Renewal Reminder!***

Gateways to Opportunity® Credentials must be renewed every 5 years. Check your [Professional Development Record \(PDR\)](#) to see if you have any Gateways Credential(s) that expire on **12/31/2023!**

GOOD NEWS! All Gateways Credential renewals are **FREE!**

Please **apply online** (the paper application can be found [here](#)). For step-by-step instructions on how to renew your Credential(s), please visit the [Credential Renewal Information](#) page.

Email [credentials@ilgateways.com](mailto:credentials@ilgateways.com) with any questions.



# Finger Paint Math

## Materials:

- Cornstarch
- Water
- Assorted food colors
- 1-pint deli containers with lids, one for each color
- Finger paint paper
- Smocks or aprons
- Paper towels

*Combining math with art is a fun and simple way to play number games for preschoolers and kindergartners.*

## Directions:

1. In a small saucepan, mix 1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch with 1 cup of water until smooth.
2. Add food color. Stirring constantly, cook on low heat until mixture is the thickness of pudding. Pour into a deli container. Cover when cool.
3. Repeat to make additional colors.
4. Place a piece of finger paint paper on a table with paint containers. Put on smocks. Invite your child to cover an area of paper with finger paint, and then use a finger to make fun shapes in paint. The shapes will appear in white whenever your child draws. (Use paper towels for finger wiping as needed.)
5. Ask: "Can you make a shape for me to copy?" Have your child make a shape. Talk with your child about the shape made, what is it, and ask if it was difficult or easy to copy.
6. Use this back-and-forth sharing to give your child experience writing numbers, and drawing shapes such as triangles, rectangles, and circles.



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