



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

APR 2024

With the arrival of spring, we are filled with renewed energy and the promise of new beginnings. As we embrace the warm weather and the blossoms of growth, let's not forget the potential of outdoor activities to bring joy and learning to families with children. The Week of the Young Child presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the wonder and potential of early childhood education and development. Let's make the most of this special week by planning and implementing outdoor activities that can inspire our little ones to learn, grow, and thrive.

The Week of the Young Child calls attention to the needs of young children (ages 0-8) and early education programs. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) was established this week to recognize that early childhood years lay the groundwork for later development and successful transition to school-age systems. This work is done daily in each of your programs; could you take this upcoming week to place special recognition upon each day?

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your active participation in our second annual Professional Development Day, Burnout to Brilliance: Reigniting the Passion in ECE. The day was a resounding success, with the energy in the room palpable. Each of you, along with your staff and centers, contribute to making magic happen every day. At Neighborhood Villages, we can't help but smile when we think back on this event. We are eagerly looking forward to next year and the opportunity to continue this journey of growth and learning with you.

Have a joyful and bright April,

Presented by Cassidy Murphy, a candidate in MA Child Studies and Human Development at Tufts University, and Alina Lopez Thomas, the Senior Director of the Neighborhood



## Neighborhood Community of Practice Sessions

Our next operation manager and family navigator COP will be virtual and separate. Please begin to think about what important topics you would like to discuss during these meetings. Keep an eye out for surveys regarding meeting structure within the next few weeks.

Facilitated by Lacey Mallet, Neighborhood Program Coordinator

**COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE**

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## DAY

# 2024



At Neighborhood Villages, we know how important it is to invest in early educators, providing them with the teaching and learning support that both they and their students deserve.

That's why we held our second annual Professional Development Day, "***Burnout to Brilliance: Reigniting Passion in ECE,***" at UMass Boston. It was a huge success! Over 300 early educators joined us for a day full of workshops, awards, and networking. We were thrilled to offer a series of inspiring sessions with an amazing lineup of presenters and welcomed comedian and motivational speaker, ***DJ Pryor as our Keynote Speaker.*** Professional Development Day is only one part of a comprehensive menu of Teaching and Learning supports we are piloting for early educators in The Neighborhood. Our Teaching and Learning services also include a new toddler curriculum, instructional coaching, onboarding workshops, webinars, and a monthly newsletter highlighting best practices. With these coordinated teaching and learning supports, we are showing what it takes to ensure that early educators have the resources they need to deliver high-quality early education to our littlest learners. Here's to a future where every child and educator's journey is lit with brilliance!



# WELCOME TO NV

Neighborhood Villages is ecstatic to welcome two **NEW** Early Childhood Education coaches! Get to know them below.



## Christine Ashman

Christine has been in the early education field for over 25 years. Her previous roles include family group childcare owner, special education aide, lead teacher in infant and preschool classrooms, and program specialist. She has considerable experience working with dual language learners. She has an M.Ed. in Early Childhood and Special Education, and an M.A. in International Communication. Christine was born in Boston and grew up in Plymouth. She has lived in China, Hong Kong, England, and Australia. She has been an advocate for early care and education and for providers throughout her career.

She is currently a member of the Strategies for Children Advocacy Network, 3rd Cohort. She works in early education and advocates for it because quality early learning environments make a real difference in children's lives.



## Erica Maia

Erica grew up in Watertown, CT. She completed her education at Boston College, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in Music. That summer, she began teaching as an Assistant Toddler Teacher in Newton, MA, emphasizing the strengths-based Brazelton Touchpoints Center approach to early childhood development. There, she fell in love with teaching young children and witnessing how quickly children grow and change through their early years. She became especially passionate about helping children label and navigate their big feelings and brought her love for music into the classroom by making up silly songs, playing instruments, and playing many genres of music for the kids. She is also grateful for the time she spent working as a Lead Toddler Teacher at BU Children's Center, where she had the opportunity to train and mentor the college students working in her classroom. It was there that her interest in coaching blossomed!

# BRAZELTON TOUCHPOINTS CENTER



**Brazelton**  
Touchpoints Center

**Parenting While Black 2024**  
BELIEVE, LIBERATE, AND BEHOLD:  
BEAUTIFULLY BRILLIANT BLACK BABIES AND CHILDREN

**Save the Date** 

March 18, April 22, May 20,  
June 10 & 24, 2024  
3:00 - 4:30 pm ET /  
12 - 1:30 pm PT

Be part of the  
conversation



## Parenting While Black

**New Workshop Series starting Monday, March 18th!**

**Register**

We are excited to relaunch our **Parenting While Black** series in 2024, **Believe, Liberate, and Behold: Beautifully Brilliant Black Babies and Children**. This **free**, interactive, virtual series offers a safe and welcoming space to hold unapologetic conversations for and by Black families. All are welcome to join and engage in these powerful conversations! The five-part series begins on Monday, March 18, and continues through June 24, 2024. Each webinar is 1 hour followed by a 30-minute Q&A session with our parent panelists.



**Episode 1:**  
**Monday, March 18, 2024, 3 – 4:30 PM ET / 12 – 1:30 PM PT**

**Episode 2:**  
**Monday, April 22, 2024, 3 – 4:30 PM ET / 12 – 1:30 PM PT**

**Episode 3:**  
**Monday, May 20, 2024, 3 – 4:30 PM ET / 12 – 1:30 PM ET**

**Episode 4:**  
**Monday, June 10, 2024, 3 – 4:30 PM ET / 12 – 1:30 PM PT**

**Episode 5:**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024, 3 – 4:30 PM ET / 12 – 1:30 PM PT**

This series is moderated by Eurnestine Brown, Ph.D., Director of Relational Equity and Belonging at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center.

# EDUCATIONAL TRAINING



## Plan Ahead for your Professional Development in 2024!

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC) offers live, online workshops and multi-day courses for all professionals who work with young children and their families. Our trainings are led by BTC Staff Facilitators and National Facilitators, and provide certificates of attendance. Members of the BTC Learning Network receive a discount on all registration fees. (Click here for information on joining the BTC Learning Network.)

Click [HERE](#) for access to an extensive list of upcoming workshops and courses.

## Training and Event Calendar



| The Children's Trust Events & Trainings |            |                     |                    |                                      |                   |     |
|---|------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Today                                   | April 2024 |                     |                    |                                      |                   |     |
| Sun                                     | Mon        | Tue                 | Wed                | Thu                                  | Fri               | Sat |
| 31                                      | Apr 1      | 2                   | 3                  | 4                                    | 5                 | 6   |
|   |            | 1pm Partner Trainin |                    | 9:30am Technicol: 10am Family Suppc  |                   |     |
| 7                                       | 8          | 9                   | 10                 | 11                                   | 12                | 13  |
|   |            | 10am Parenting as   |                    | 9:30am Trauma-Inf: 10am Family Suppc |                   |     |
| 14                                      | 15         | 16                  | 17                 | 18                                   | 19                | 20  |
|   |            | 10am Western MA I   |                    |                                      |                   |     |
| 21                                      | 22         | 23                  | 24                 | 25                                   | 26                | 27  |
|   |            |                     | 10:30am Step Up fo |                                      | 10am Family Suppc |     |
| 28                                      | 29         | 30                  | May 1              | 2                                    | 3                 | 4   |
|   |            |                     |                    |                                      | 10am Family Suppc |     |

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York

The Children's Trust offers a variety of trainings ranging from Family Support Fridays (free training) to Child Abuse-related trainings. The calendar has been added for a visual of all the trainings that the Trust offers.

**\*Check out the Training Center page on their website by clicking [this LINK](#)**

# EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

## Mitigating Workplace Stress and Promoting Well-Being



Join the Zaentz Early Education Initiative on April 30th to hear from Harvard Graduate School of Education faculty, who will discuss the science and signs of adult stress, the importance of mitigating stress for adults, and strategies to support their own well-being. The Zaentz Initiative is fully covering the cost of this program. Registration is free to all interested participants.

Click [HERE](#) for access to the Zoom link and registration for this Zoom event. The event is on April 30th from 12-2 pm EST.

## FREE LEAD TEACHER PROGRAM: STARTING IN MAY

Do you have staff members seeking to become Lead Teachers? The Neighborhood Villages Lead Teacher Program is here to help! This program is at no cost to you or your educators. We are currently enrolling for the following May 2024 Lead Teacher courses, to be offered at a partner college:

*Infant and Toddler Curriculum*

*Preschool Curriculum*

*Health, Safety, and Nutrition for Young Children*

*Strategies for Children's Behavior*

All courses are ONLINE, 8 WEEKS, CREDIT-BEARING, AND FREE. Please share the link to our [Lead Teacher Program Interest Form](#) with educators who may be interested, and we'll take it from there!

**DEADLINE TO ENROLL IS APRIL 19TH**

*\*To be educated, educators must be currently working in the field and must have completed Child Growth and Development at a college to be eligible for the NV Lead Teacher Program.\**



# An EPIC Training: Ableism & Inclusion Training



EPIC provides training and consulting for employers to educate themselves about ableism and learn how to successfully include individuals with disabilities in their workplaces. Our programs are customizable and suitable for all. Whether you are a team of executives, managers, recruiters, or diversity professionals, EPIC can help you create a solid foundation for disability inclusion.

## Preliminary Training- *Intro to Disability & Ableism Training*

96% of DEI programs do not include Disability and Ableism trainings, which can lead to bias and discrimination in the workplace and disabled employees not feeling safe to seek the supports necessary to thrive in their positions. Because of this, 76% of employees hide their disability at work.

EPIC's Intro to Disability & Ableism Training is essential and will provide participants a foundational understanding of disability and ableism. Topics covered in this training include:

- *Defining Disability*
  - *Social Model of Disability*
- *Language for Disability*
- *Medical Model of Disability*
- *Defining & Examining Ableism*

## What Comes Next?

Once the introductory training has been completed, clients can choose from any of the following training topics to address the unique needs of their team:

- Reasonable Accommodations
- Inclusive Practices
- Accessibility 101
- Becoming an Anti-Ableist Workplace

EPIC's experienced trainers can also work with clients to customize training offerings and provide additional consulting services when needed.

## About EPIC & Their Experience

For 11 years, Empowering People for Inclusive Communities (EPIC) has prepared young people with disabilities to be actively engaged community leaders through innovative leadership development and service-learning programs. EPIC also combats ableism through inclusivity training and consulting to equip the world for today's disabled leaders.



**Scan Here to  
Request More Info!**

PROUD TO BE PART OF

**Triangle, Inc.**

people with ability

# Free

## CAREER SUPPORT FOR EARLY EDUCATORS



Neighborhood Villages has several **FREE** programs to help you grow your career in early childhood education!



### LEAD TEACHER PROGRAM

Complete your Lead Teacher coursework at one of our partner colleges! Free college courses and personalized step-by-step support for Teachers seeking to advance in their careers and earn Lead Teacher qualifications.

**Contact:** [LTProgram@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:LTProgram@neighborhoodvillages.org)



### CDA APPRENTICESHIP

Earn your CDA through our registered apprenticeship program! Benefit from training classes, workshops, technology assistance, and supportive mentorship as you complete CDA requirements. Available in English and Spanish.

**Contact:** [Apprenticeships@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:Apprenticeships@neighborhoodvillages.org)



### EMERGING LEADER APPRENTICESHIP

Grow your administrative skills and qualify as an early education Director! Receive training and support in leadership, business practices, family outreach, curriculum development, and more through this registered apprenticeship program.

**Contact:** [Apprenticeships@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:Apprenticeships@neighborhoodvillages.org)



### DEGREE SUPPORT

Receive customized support to enroll in a Bachelor's or Master's degree program! With application guidance, financial aid resources, one-on-one goal-setting sessions, and more, find and enroll in the right degree program to meet your goals.

**Contact:** [KHassan@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:KHassan@neighborhoodvillages.org)



LEARN MORE!



# Need Help with Taxes?

There is free help to get money from state and federal “credits” and help filing taxes at [FindYourFunds.org](https://findyourfunds.org).

You may be able to get back all the tax that your employer took out of your pay, plus extra money from credits.

► **New:** Get \$310 for covered people in your home by filing state taxes, even if you had no taxable income or income at all. For more information and free help, go to [FindYourFunds.org/MA-Family-Payment](https://findyourfunds.org/MA-Family-Payment).

## Need Help with 2023 Tax Returns?

If you cannot afford to pay to have your taxes done, you may be eligible for a qualified tax preparer to do your taxes for free.

Find free tax preparation programs all over the state for:



People with low income  
(about \$60,000 or less, but  
may be higher)



Limited-English speakers



People with disabilities



People age 60 and older

And there is free online filing if you want to do it yourself

For **FREE** help and more information:

 [findyourfunds.org](https://findyourfunds.org)





## Didn't get past COVID stimulus or child tax credit money?

It is not too late to claim those payments!

You may be eligible to get free help with COVID 2020 and 2021 stimulus and Child Tax Credit payments you missed. Deadline for claiming 2020 payments: May 17, 2024.

## Information and help for Immigrants

Getting 2023 tax credits and any COVID tax payments you missed will not hurt your immigration status. Get more information and free help applying for an ITIN.



## Other tax problems with IRS?

For other tax problems, such as disagreements with IRS about your refund or owing taxes, you may be able to get free legal help from Low Income Taxpayer Clinics.

For **FREE** help and more information:

 [findyourfunds.org](https://findyourfunds.org)



# ¿Necesita ayuda con los impuestos?

Esta es una ayuda gratuita para obtener dinero del estado y de “créditos” federales y ayuda diligenciando los impuestos en [FindYourFunds.org](https://findyourfunds.org).

Usted puede ser capaz de que se le devuelvan todos los impuestos que su empleador tomo de su pago, más dinero extra de los créditos.

► **Nuevo:** Obtenga \$310 para las personas cubiertas en su hogar al declarar los impuestos estatales, incluso si no tuvo ningún ingreso gravado o si no tuvo incluso ningún ingreso. Para más información y ayuda gratuita, vaya a [FindYourFunds.org/MA-Family-Payment](https://findyourfunds.org/MA-Family-Payment).

## ¿Necesita Ayuda con la Devolución de Impuestos del 2023?

Si no puede permitirse pagar para que le diligencien sus impuestos, usted puede ser elegible para calificar para un preparador de impuestos para que se los diligencie gratuitamente.

Encuentre programas de preparación de impuestos gratuitos por todo el estado para:



Personas que bajos ingresos (alrededor de \$60.000 o menos, pero puede ser mayor)



Hablantes con Inglés Limitado



Personas con discapacidades



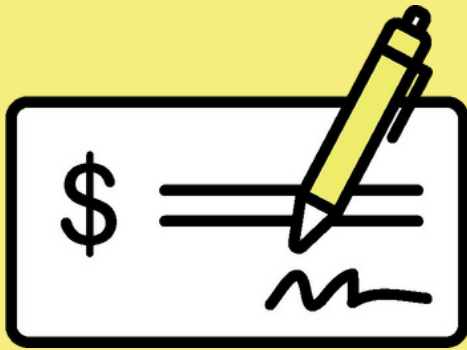
Personas de 60 años o mayores

Y hay presentación gratuita de impuestos en línea si desea hacerlo usted mismo

Para ayuda GRATUITA y más información:

 [findyourfunds.org](https://findyourfunds.org)





¿No obtuvo el estímulo de COVID pasado o el dinero del crédito tributario por hijo?

¡No es demasiado tarde para reclamar esos pagos!

Usted puede calificar para obtener ayuda gratuita con los pagos de los estímulos de COVID del 2020 y 2021, y del Crédito Tributario por Hijo que no reclamó. La fecha para las reclamaciones de los pagos del 2020: 17 de mayo de 2024

## Información y ayuda para Inmigrantes

Obtener créditos fiscales de 2023 y cualquier pago de impuestos por COVID que haya pasado por alto no afectará su estatus migratorio. Obtenga más información y ayuda gratuita aplicando para un Número de Identificación de Contribuyente Individual (ITIN, por sus siglas en inglés)



¿Tiene otros problemas fiscales con el Servicio de Impuestos Internos (IRS, por sus siglas en inglés)?

Para otros problemas fiscales, como desacuerdos con el IRS sobre su reembolso o impuestos adeudados, es posible que pueda obtener ayuda legal gratuita de las Clínicas para Contribuyentes de Bajos Ingresos.

Para ayuda GRATUITA y más información:

 [findyourfunds.org](https://findyourfunds.org)



# JOIN US AT PATHWAYS TO POWER

REGISTER NOW



## PATHWAYS TO POWER:

Everyday advocacy for  
families & caregivers

**27**  
**APRIL**

 11 AM - 3 PM

 Epiphany Early Learning Center  
230 Centre St, Dorchester

Join us for an engaging day of learning to  
unleash your inner advocate.

- Registration required
- Lunch will be provided
- Children are welcome to attend



Northeastern University  
College of Social Sciences and Humanities  
**Humanities Center**



# Week of the Young Child®

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child® is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The Themes for each day are as follows:

***Kick-off Saturday***

***Music Monday***

***Tasty Tuesday***

***Work Together Wednesday***

***Artsy Thursday***

***Family Friday***

Check [HERE](#) for activity resources for WOYC



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Thank you for joining our Neighborhood Newsletter community! We appreciate your contributions and encourage you to share any upcoming program news and highlights with us. Our monthly newsletter is eagerly anticipated by all, so if you have content for the next edition, please send it to [lmallett@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:lmallett@neighborhoodvillages.org) at least two weeks prior to publication. We can't wait to see what you have in store!



Stay Tuned for the May 2024 Newsletter

The Neighborhood News is a digital newsletter by Neighborhood Villages