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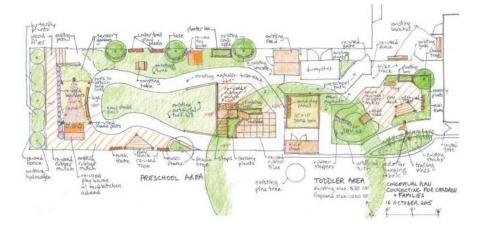
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News from the Rhode Island Child Care and Early Learning Facilities Fund



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# Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Wrap-Up



In 2015 and 2016, by providing small grants and technical support, the LISC Rhode Island Child Care and Early Learning Facilities Fund (RICCELFF) enabled 83 early learning centers across Rhode Island to dramatically improve the learning environments in their facilities. The grants, which totaled \$2.3 million, were made possible by the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge, a U.S. Department of Education program designed to support high-quality early learning programs as well as increase the number of lowincome and disadvantaged children who are enrolled in them. We are pleased to present the results of this funding.

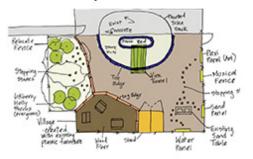
#### Learn More

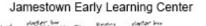
## Update on OPIPP – Outdoor Play Interventions Pilot Project

We are so excited to share an update on the Outdoor Play Interventions Pilot Project (OPIPP), our strategy to aid in the development of low-cost, high-value simple design interventions for outdoor spaces utilizing architectural design, LISC technical assistance, fundraising, and volunteer coordination. Our landscape design architect, studioMLA, has been hard at work since our first brainstorming session in February to discuss all of the fun elements that could be added to our test sites and incorporated in a written resource guide highlighting these achievable, lowcost solutions for any type of outdoor play space.

On April 11th we met with our three pilot sites – Westbay Children's Center, Jamestown Early Learning Center, and Children's Friend Hartford – for a collaborative design review, discussing initial concepts for the transformation of space. The ideas shared were so inspiring we couldn't wait to let other Rhode Island Child Care Centers know about them. Here is a sneak peek at the conceptual designs proposed for each site.

#### Westbay Children's Center









### Infant/Toddler Corner – New Training Session

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In 2017 we will be hosting an informational session about the features to consider when designing and building spaces for infants and toddlers. This would include a discussion about the importance of scale, light, sensory elements, and layout as well as the implications of poor design and its effect on child development. Before scheduling this, we are asking child care center owners, directors, educators, facility managers, and staff members to answer a few questions to help us determine the day and time to provide this training. If you are interested in participating in this session, please take a moment to respond to a few questions about the best times for you to attend.



# April 24th – April 28th is the Week of the Young Child

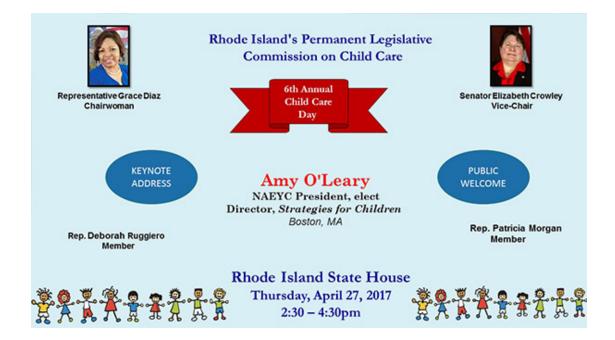
The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is hosting their annual Week of the Young Child April 24-28th, 2017. Each day has a special theme: Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. Check out NAEYC's website for some examples of great activities to celebrate and bring awareness to the development of our youngest learners.



#### **Read More**

# Child Care Day is April 27th at the Rhode Island State House

The 6th Annual Child Care Day will be taking place on Thursday, April 27th from 2:30 to 4:30pm at the Rhode Island State House! Stop by and show your support.



# Have you missed any of our previous eNEWS or want to reference something you saw in an article from the past?

Our entire eNEWS catalog is available on our website. Be sure to <u>check it out here!</u>

### Follow Us on Twitter

Did you know that your favorite Child Care and Early Learning Facilities Fund is on Twitter? <u>Follow us here</u>, and feel free to tweet at us @LISC\_Childcare!



#### About RICCELFF

The Rhode Island Child Care and Early Learning Facilities Fund (RICCELFF) is an innovative publicprivate partnership dedicated to expanding access to quality child care and early education opportunities throughout Rhode Island. The RICCELFF provides the capital and technical expertise that child care and

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early learning centers need to improve the quality and capacity of their physical space. The RICCELFF provides a combination of training, technical assistance, grant funding and flexible, affordable financing for a wide range of indoor and outdoor projects including minor renovations or construction of new, state-of-the art facilities and playground spaces. <u>Click here</u> to learn more about what the RICCELFF can offer your program.

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