

PINAL COUNTY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2020

Volume 7, Issue 4

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Pinal County Extension Website

<https://extension.arizona.edu/pinal>

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Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting (Cooperative Extension, Pinal County, 820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C, Casa Grande, AZ 85122, 520.836.5221). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.



Cooperative Extension, the outreach arm of the University of Arizona, brings the University to the people.

The faculty and staff in the Pinal County Extension office are part of a non-formal education network bringing research-based information into communities to help people improve their lives.

Cooperative Extension is committed to delivering high-quality, relevant educational programs and information to Pinal County citizens and communities.

Fall is in the air! While it still feels like summer, the calendar reflects there are only three months left in the year 2020. As thoughts turn to cooler weather, Black Friday shopping, and the holidays, we can look back on this difficult year with pride. Along the way, we have fought through tough times and have persevered.

Although the pandemic has altered the way Cooperative Extension provides programming, we have become very creative in the way we present our services. Parent Education, Nutrition, and Financial Literacy classes have shifted to the Zoom platform. Information and educational reinforcement items have been distributed through an outreach swag bag, across Pinal County. 4-H has continued with virtual club meetings and we just wrapped up our first Virtual Expo.

As we keep an eye on data posted daily about the COVID-19 numbers for Pinal County, this guides us in our weekly schedules for getting back to the new norm. Currently, Pinal Cooperative Extension has achieved low enough levels of community spread of COVID-19 to move safely to Phase One of the re-entry plan, recommended by The University of Arizona. This means we will slowly begin in-person training and meetings, following the CDC guidelines including:

- Social distancing (6 feet or more) will continue and gatherings should be avoided unless they can meet social distancing guidelines
- For indoor meetings – 1:1 meetings or meetings with less than 5 total individuals, with masks and meeting social distancing guidelines; the longer you interact with others the more risk everyone has of exposure, so keep meetings short
- For outdoor meetings – 1:1 meetings or meetings with less than 10 total individuals, with masks and meeting social distancing guidelines; the longer you interact with others the more risk everyone has of exposure, so keep meetings short

Soon you will see small classes, tent talks, and outreach events happening in the near future around the community. We will resume screenings, site visits, and soon be opening the doors to the general public.

This has been a time of radical changes, but we are on a path to recovery and are excited about the new opportunities we will offer.

Please take time to reflect on the positive and look toward a better future. Be kind to one another and have a wonderful holiday season.

Esther Turner
Esther Turner

Program Coordinator, Sr.





Free!!!
FAMILY FUN
DAY!!!

Join us for this fun, family event
free to the community...



Cooperative Extension Day

Saturday, October 3, 2020—9:00 am to 12:00 pm
820 East Cottonwood Lane, Casa Grande, Arizona 85122

INFORMATION INCLUDE:

- Improving your Financial Health
- Learning about sources of food & fiber
- Learning how to prevent diabetes
- Water Conservation Technology
- How to make a healthy snack
- How to garden at home
- Oral Health
- Physical Activity
- Vision & Hearing Screening
- And much, much more!



PROGRAMS FEATURING:

- 4-H Youth Development
- Ag Ventures
- AmeriCorps
- AZ Health Zone
- Child Care Health Consultation
- Developmental & Sensory Screening
- EFNEP
- Field Crops Systems
- Financial Literacy & Parenting
- Master Gardening/Garden & Landscape
- Pinal First Smiles
- Prevent Type 2 Diabetes
- Project WET
- Strengthening Families
- And many others!

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DEVELOPMENTAL & SENSORY

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION & DYSFUNCTION

Submitted By Shevonda Joyner, Community Outreach Assistant II

The University of Arizona Sensory and Developmental program is committed to your child's developmental health. When it comes to development and the functions of the brain, there have been new terms thrown out for discussion – “executive function” is one of them. By definition, executive function is a group of mental skills that involve working memory, flexible thinking, and self-control (Team, 2020). Not all children will be functioning at the same level as others when it comes to executive function. Some may have executive dysfunction; this occurs often in children diagnosed with ADHD (Board, Barkley, & Novotni, 2020).

Executive function skills allow us to operate in many different ways, planning, organizing, and prioritizing, which help influence how we complete tasks. Since this involves initiation and motivation, children with executive dysfunction may struggle with starting tasks as well. Self-monitoring is another skill affected by executive dysfunction. These children may not be able to receive criticism because their ability to measure their progress is limited. The most known symptom of executive dysfunction is a lack of impulse control. This can include excessive talking and interrupting others when they are talking, as well as hitting, kicking, pushing, and grabbing (COGx, 2018).

Children with executive dysfunction face many obstacles, but we are here to help. If you feel that your children are having difficulty with their executive functions, please reach out to us for guidance as well as screening. We have a tool called the ASQ-3 (AGES AND STAGES QUESTIONNAIRE-3), which will screen your child's development. We also have many resources for any other concerns you may have about your child's development. To contact one of our screeners, call us at (520) 836-4651.



References

- Board, A., & Barkley, R. (2020, January 26). What Is Executive Function? 7 Deficits Tied to ADHD (M. Novotni, Ed.). Retrieved August 20, 2020, from <https://www.additudemag.com/7-executive-function-deficits-linked-to-adhd/>
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- Team, T. (2020, April 17). What Is Executive Function? Retrieved August 20, 2020, from <https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/executive-functioning-issues/what-is-executive-function>



REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES THROUGH PINAL COUNTY

Submitted By Victoria Iniguez, Instructional Specialist

In response to the Arizona Department of Education decision to restrict access to drinking fountains the Arizona Health Zone team decided to order 8,000 water bottles to be distributed to Pinal County Schools. As a result, the AZ Health Zone team has been busy the last few weeks, delivering reusable water bottles. With all the constant changes that we are all enduring due to COVID-19, we are happy to support the need of our school communities re-opening plans for in-person students.

Our team recognizes the importance of having children hydrated throughout the day and we knew something needed to be done. We decided to give back to our school district by ordering these reusable water bottles. To continue the support of our community schools in providing resources and education during this time of social distancing.



**CASA GRANDE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT #4**

Dr. JoEtta Gonzales, Ed. D
Superintendent

Mrs. Joanne Kramer
Principal

*Dear Malaine and Vogt Extension,
Thank you very much for the
400 water bottles you delivered
to our school. We are very
thankful and can't wait to
give them to our students when
we come back in person.
Truly, Joanne Kramer
Principal*

August 19, 2020

Miss Malaine Bargo
University of Az. Extension Service
820 E. Cottonwood Lane, #C
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Dear Miss Bargo,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of 400 water bottles in the amount of \$1,200 to Palo Verde School. Your support of our school is greatly appreciated and we are proud to call you a member of our school community.

Sincerely,

Joanne Kramer

Mrs. Joanne Kramer
Principal

5 Criteria For Positive Discipline Parenting

CURRICULUM BY DR. JANE NELSEN

YOUR PARENTING CHOICES SHOULD MEET THESE CRITERIA FOR MOST SITUATIONS:

1. IS IT RESPECTFUL?
2. DOES IT HELP A CHILD FEEL BELONGING & SIGNIFICANCE?
3. IS IT EFFECTIVE IN THE LONG TERM?
4. DOES IT TEACH VALUABLE SOCIAL & LIFE SKILLS FOR GOOD CHARACTER?
5. DOES IT INVITE CHILDREN TO DISCOVER HOW CAPABLE THEY ARE & TO USE THEIR POWER CONSTRUCTIVELY?

CONTACT: SYBILPETERS@EMAIL.ARIZONA.EDU
FOR SCHEDULE OF ONLINE CLASSES



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Cooperative Extension
Pinal County

**EVEN SETTING
ASIDE A SMALL
PORTION OF EACH
PAYCHECK WILL
PAY OFF
BIG DOLLARS
LATER!!!**

**Start a new habit with
Parenting & Financial Tools
Today!**

For more information, please contact:

Sybil Peters, Instructional Specialist

820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C

Casa Grande, AZ 85122

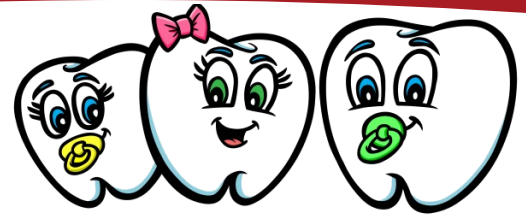
Phone: (520) 836-5221

E-mail: sybilpeters@email.arizona.edu



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Cooperative Extension
Pinal County

FIRST SMILES



GOING TO THE DENTIST?

Submitted By Greeta Mills, RDH Med, Oral Health Professional

So many things have changed since March, leaving many people wondering about their health safety. One thing hasn't changed. It is still safe to go to the dentist!

Dental offices have had to be very careful about infection control, disinfecting surfaces, sterilizing equipment, and staying healthy for a long, long time. Because dental healthcare workers work with saliva, blood, and aerosols, they have to take continuing education classes about infection control and prevention every time they renew their license to practice. And because they see so many people in the office during a day, they want to keep things clean for their patients as well as for themselves.

You may see a few new things. They make take your temperature, ask you a few more questions about your general health, and may be wearing a bit more PPE than they did before COVID-19 showed up. The dental office is a very safe place to receive care.

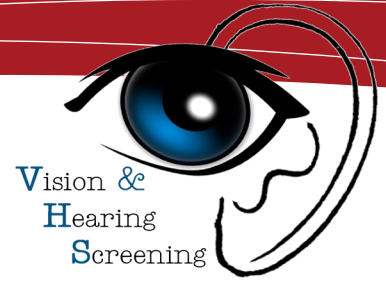
In fact, putting off you or your children's appointments is not recommended. The healthier our mouth is, the healthier our whole body is. Keeping regular and routine dental appointments will help us stay healthy, and the dentist and dental hygienist can find anything that needs to be taken care of before it becomes more serious. When our mouth is healthy, our body can better fight other potential infections, like the coronavirus, flu and common cold.

Now is a good time to think about how we take care of ourselves and our children at home too! Brush twice a day with a soft toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste. Floss between teeth to remove bacteria and food that collects there. Brush your tongue to help get rid of the bacteria colonies that like to live there too! Have your children brush by themselves first, then follow-up and finish-up the brushing if they are younger than 5 or 6 years old. Replace your toothbrushes about every 3 months, unless you have been sick. If you've been sick, get a new toothbrush and throw out your old one.

Remember to take care of your mouth, and it will help take care of you!



VISION & HEARING SCREENING



KEEPING KIDS' GLASSES ON

Submitted By Shevonda Joyner, Community Outreach Assistant II



The Developmental and Sensory program is focused on your children's vision health. When going through our program your child may be referred to an optometrist. If the optometrist sees an issue with your child's vision, they could be given glasses. Transitioning to wearing glasses can be difficult for children especially for the 5 and under demographic. With anything new, it takes some time and patience to adjust to the new normal. The Developmental and Sensory program is here to assist you with keeping your kid's glasses on.

Displaying an encouraging and positive attitude towards your child's glasses is a great tool in making them comfortable with their new look. It is more than letting them know that their new glasses will make them see better. Play up the new frames, they are more than just glasses they are a magical gift that allows them to see better. It is hard for your child to adjust to this change and you as well. If they sense your disappointment it will make it difficult for them to deal with their appearance. Having a positive attitude makes all the difference, just remember that the glasses are there to make their vision better.

At the eye doctor's office let your child pick their own frames. Your child being able to be a part of the process of getting glasses allows them to be excited for the transition. They are more likely to enjoy them and show their friends. Also, at the doctor's office make sure their glasses fit. Do periodic fittings to confirm that they still fit. Your child will not want to keep their glasses on if they are uncomfortable and/or constantly slipping. If your child still doesn't have their frames on having a consistent schedule can help. Pair an eyeglasses schedule with a reward system and it gives your child the push they need to keep their glasses on.

A pair of eyeglasses doesn't have to be daunting for your child. Use these tips and they can be pros at wearing glasses. The Developmental and Sensory program has vision screenings. For more information on those screenings or anything else about our program be sure to contact one of our screeners at (520) 836-4651 or check out our program at [Pinal Developmental & Sensory Screening](#).

More Resources

- <https://www.mathervisiongroup.com/getting-kids-wear-glasses>
- <https://www.premiereyedocor.com/how-to-encourage-young-kids-to-wear-their-first-pair-of-glasses/>
- <http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/kids-wearing-glasses>
- <https://lifeasmom.com/preschoolers-and-glasses-reader-qa/>

ARIZONA PROJECT WET



DOING SCIENCE & SAVING WATER W/ARIZONA PROJECT WET (APW)

Submitted By Miriam Aleman, Program Coordinator



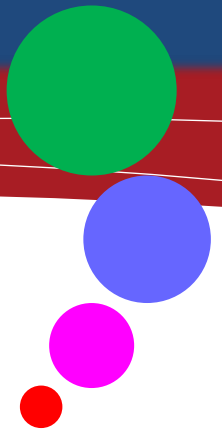
Harnessing our passion for meaningful, playful, and effective water education, APW created the Water Scene Investigation Program. With the assistance of Drippy (APW's water mascot), participants become Water Investigators walking through a step-by-step audit of their home bathroom faucet. They learn about water conservation and take action to save water at home. Participants engage in simple math which means something with help from Drippy. They receive FREE water-efficient aerators for every bathroom of their house! Visit <https://arizonawet.arizona.edu/awf/wsi/start-here> and become part of the Water Investigators family and save hundreds of gallons of water per year!

A second water investigation available on the Water Scene Investigation website is the Make Every Drop Count, leak detection project. Through two introductory videos, participants engage in a study of water conservation and why it's important here in Arizona. The last two videos demonstrate how to quantify a leak and use math to figure out how much water could be wasted from leak a at home in a month and a year! Visit <https://arizonawet.arizona.edu/awf/water-scene-investigation-program/make-every-drop-count> to explore.

Lastly, as proper handwashing has become more important than ever, the Project WET Foundation offers free, online resources to teach proper handwashing and personal hygiene. One of these resources is the [Soap and Water Science activity](#), a step-by-step interactive lesson that explores the chemistry behind soap and water, and shows how the 20-second handwashing technique works.

All these programs are for everyone! APW programs focus on saving water through science-based programming. To learn more about Arizona Project WET visit <https://arizonawet.arizona.edu>.





WHY DRESSING UP IS IMPORTANT FOR A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

Submitted By Florence Bargo, Data Input Operator

The Halloween season is a fun and exciting time of the year where kids love to dress up in costumes that represent a fun idea, career, or favorite character from a movie or television show.

In addition to being one of my daughter's favorite ways to spend time, dress-up play is a fantastic way to teach young ones so many things! In the current climate with technology so readily available to dominate your child's time, dress-up play can be a welcome addition to your routine and it's a fantastic way to spend time with your children as well.

Helping a child to pretend in this way can teach them how to use their imagination and understand the things that they want. As they role play, they will develop their own sense of self by emulating the personalities of those around them and it will also help them to articulate and discuss the things they are feeling and encountering in real life.

Here are some reasons why dress play is so important for the development of young children:

- Dress-up play can help children learn and practice new vocabulary. As you play with a child you can teach them new words and phrases that will help them communicate with others as well as expressing their feelings in a more effective way.
- Playing pretend is a fantastic way to expand a child's power to create narratives. It can help them imagine and create stories about how the world works.
- Imagining and pretending helps to strengthen your child's memory and ability to recall scenarios and details.

- Dressing up can be a wonderful platform for your child to showcase just how creative they are. As they play and share with you what they have seen and what they have felt, they will continue creating and exploring their surroundings.

- Empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Role-play can help a child learn to recognize another person's feelings and emotions and how to appropriately respond. As you play with a child you can show them what a sad child might look like and what they could do to help the sad child feel better.



DEVELOPMENTAL & SENSORY

continued from page 9

- As you play and imagine with young children they can learn how to express themselves and give their emotions names. A child can learn how to process their feelings by role-playing scenarios that might be frightening to them. Children can process scary situations through role-play and this will help them understand and overcome feelings of anxiety and nervousness.
- Physically dressing up and playing can be used to teach gross and fine motor skills. Fine motor skills can be taught by zipping up a jacket, buttoning pants, or even tying a cape or an apron. Help them find accessories and new clothing to try on such as hats, belts, necklaces, gloves, scarfs, wallets, purses, etc. Gross motor skills can be developed and strengthened by running, climbing, jumping, dancing, and kicking or catching balls.
- Dress-up play is an excellent opportunity for children to work amongst themselves and to practice group problem solving. They can learn how to interact and share with other children.

There are so many benefits to dress-up play so why limit the fun to only a few weeks in October! Gather some costumes, props, extra-large clothes, and keep it in a central location, like an old trunk or suitcase. And remember you can play along too!

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension-Developmental and Sensory Program provides FREE developmental milestone screenings to help you determine where your child's development is and the milestones they are reaching. Call us today for a FREE screening.

DRESS UP PLAY CAN BE A WELCOME
ADDITION TO YOUR ROUTINE AND IT'S A
FANTASTIC WAY TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR
CHILDREN AS WELL.



The Strengthening Families Program



Family, Fun and Free!



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Cooperative Extension

Pinal County

ABOUT THE **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM**

The **Strengthening Families Program (SFP)** consist of three skills courses: Parenting, Children's Life Skills, and Family Skills. Skills Building Program for children ages 3-5 and their parents (16 sessions). Parents and children have fun while learning valuable bonding techniques. Family style dinner at each class and Family Graduation Celebration. All parents or primary caregivers must register and attend classes. Child care available for children whose families are participants of the program.

LOCATIONS & TIMES OF THE NEXT **SF PROGRAM**

Monday Classes—Starting February 1, 2020 at 5:30pm & continues through mid-May 2021
First Baptist Church, 13955 South Sunland Gin Rd., Arizona City, AZ

Tuesday Classes—Starting February 2, 2021 at 5:30pm & continues through mid-May 2021
Methodist Church, 1515 North Trekeel Road, Casa Grande, AZ

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE **SF PROGRAM**

University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension, Pinal County
820 East Cottonwood Lane, #C, Casa Grande, AZ 85122
(520) 836-5221, x211 / eturner@cals.arizona.edu

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

Free Dinner!

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PINAL COUNTY GARDENS

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

Submitted By Jim Jepsen, Program Coordinator, Sr.



The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly messed up life in general around the country and the state of Arizona, but it has not stopped us from gardening around the county. We may not have quite as many gardens as we used to but there are still several that have made it through this past hot summer so far. Two, in particular, the Florence Community Garden and the Casa Grande Middle School Community Garden have kept on growing due to the efforts of numerous volunteers who have worked hard in these gardens throughout the summer heat.

Unfortunately, there is a menace living and wreaking havoc at both gardens. Actually, there is more than one menace. In fact, there are quite a few. Besides the problem insects that we deal with every year, four additional culprits have been identified that are not our friends. They are rabbits, gophers, ground squirrels, and birds.

We have tried various methods of persuasion to get rid of these problems but are still losing the battle. One method that we have found that does deter these critters from totally devouring our garden is to use empty two-liter soda bottles and various larger sized juice bottles that we cover seedlings and new small plants for their protection. We first remove the bottom of these plastic bottles so that they can fit over the tops of the plants. Next, we cut the top of the bottle off where the molded bottle begins to taper up to here the cap is screwed on. We have found that when you leave a little bit of the tapered top on the bottle, it makes it harder for the animals to climb into the bottle and eat our seedlings as a tasty snack. These bottles not only protect the young plants, it also creates a bit of a microclimate within which helps the plants stay a little warmer during the cool season.

Besides letting you know that we have not stopped our quest to grow gardens in Pinal county during these troubling times, the main reason is to let you know that we need your help. As mentioned above, we use large soda and juice bottles as a form of pest control. These bottles are in short supply and we need as many as we can get. If possible, please save them for the next month or so, and when convenient, drop them by the Pinal County Cooperative Extension Office located at 820 East Cottonwood Lane in Casa Grande.



Any help in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated.

AZ 4-H YD PROGRAM



VIRTUAL AZ 4-H HORSE

Written By Betsy Greene, Extension Specialist, Equine/Horse Professor

The AZ 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology State Contests went virtual for 2020.

Both contests were held September 19, 2020. Congratulations to all of our contestants!

Results for Horse Judging / Event Details

- 6 Classes judged: 3 Halter, 1 Hunter under Saddle, 1 Western Pleasure, and 1 Ranch Riding
Each class had multiple choice questions after the class

Junior Placings—

- 1 Madison Kenny
- 2 Paden Dillard
- 3 Greta Zimmerman
- 4 Josephine Hunt
- 5 Joelle Orr
- 6 Rebecca Dillard

Senior Placings—

- 1 Corey Jones

Results for Hippology / Event Details

- 25 slides (100 points total): One multiple choice question based upon an image on the screen.
- 10 stations (100 points total): Matching problems w/5 matches each, based upon an image on screen.
- Exam (100 points total): 25 multiple choice questions for Juniors
50 multiple choice questions for Seniors
- Judging (150 points total): 1 video halter class,
1 video performance class
5 multiple choice questions on each class

Junior Placings

- 1 Alexandria Campbell
- 2 Madison Kenny
- 3 Josephine Hunt
- 4 Greta Zimmerman
- 5 Paden Dillard
- 6 Emily Bredimus
- 7 Rebecca Dillard
- 8 Joelle Orr

Senior Placings

- 1 Hailey Weese
- 2 Corey Jones



FIND US. LIKE US. FOLLOW US.

Facebook Pages:

- Pinal County Garden and Landscape Program
- Maricopa Master Gardeners
- Pinal County 4-H
- Child Care Health Consultation for Pinal County, AZ
- Sensory & Developmental Screening

Webpage: [CALS, Pinal County](http://CALS.PinalCounty)

Twitter: [@RickGibson4](https://twitter.com/RickGibson4)

Blog: ricksgardenspot.blogspot.com



Cathy L. Martinez, Cooperative Extension County Director
Blase Evancho, Field Crops Systems Assistant in Extension
Victor Jimenez, 4-H Youth Development Agent

clmartin@cals.arizona.edu
bee1@cals.arizona.edu
vicjimenez@yahoo.com

4-H provides educational opportunities for youth to become capable and contributing members of a global community. Children, ages 5-19, learn about healthy lifestyles, animals, plant sciences, and leadership.

Contact: Maria Melendez at (520) 836-5221, or mmelende@cals.arizona.edu

AZ Health Zone is a program designed to influence healthy eating and active living in a positive way that promotes health and reduces disease among all people living in Arizona.

Contact: Kevin Bawden at (520) 836-5221, x216 or kbawden@email.arizona.edu

Child Care Health Consultations (CCHC) develops relationships with childcare facilities to provide training to staff that will improve their knowledge and practice in the childcare setting.

Contact: Janet Jepsen at (520) 836-4651, x234 or janetj@cals.arizona.edu

Choose Health Action Teen (CHAT) is designed to recruit teens to teach younger children the benefits of healthy eating and active living. Teens also participate in community service events.

Contact: Esmeralda Castillo at (520) 836-5221, x244 or ecastill@cals.arizona.edu

Developmental Screening Program reaches out to families with children, ages 0-5, to screen for early developmental milestones such as gross and fine motor skills, communication, personal-social skills, and problem-solving capacities.

Contact: Esther Turner at (520) 836-5221, x238 or eturner@cals.arizona.edu

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a nutrition education class designed to assist limited resource families in eating smart and being active and in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and behavioral changes necessary to contribute to their personal development and the improvement of the total family diet, nutritional and physical well-being.

Contact: Esmeralda Castillo at (520) 836-5221, x244 or ecastill@cals.arizona.edu

Field Crops Systems uses research and education efforts to work to improve field crop productivity and global food and fiber supply, farm economic viability, and protecting the environment.

Contact: Blase Evancho at (520) 836-5221, x215 or bee1@cals.arizona.edu

Financial Literacy & Positive Discipline Parenting will help individuals gain the knowledge, self-esteem, self-efficacy and self-awareness to become in control of their finances, and thus improve their lives controlling their financial health. This program will help with daily stressors such as: worrying about electric bills, putting food on the table and wondering if they have somewhere to sleep tomorrow night, which all influences the way individuals interact with their child(ren), their families and their communities.

Contact: Sybil Peters at (520) 836-5221 or sybilpeters@arizona.edu

First Smiles is an oral health program that provides preventative oral health education, oral screening, referral to dentists for children birth to age five and pregnant women; and fluoride varnishing for children with emergent teeth up to age five.

Contact: Greeta Mills at (520) 836-4651, x235 or g Mills@email.arizona.edu

MAC (Maricopa Agricultural Center) Farm Ag-Ventures educational programs include a combination of videos, educational presenters, hands-on learning experiences and tractor-trailer rides around their 2,200 acre farm for a close-up view of what makes a working farm operate.

Contact: Victor Jimenez at (520) 374-6216 or vicjimenez@yahoo.com

Master Gardener Program provides practical information to those desiring to improve the quality and effectiveness of desert gardens and landscapes.

Contact: Master Gardener Volunteers macmastergardener@gmail.com

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a program designed to teach educators how to better integrate water education, water conservation, and best management practices for water use into their curriculums.

Contact: Chuck Dugan at (520) 836-5221, x210 or cld1@email.arizona.edu

Sensory Screening Program provides free screenings of children, ages 0-5, for vision and hearing impairments that could affect developmental growth.

Contact: Esther Turner at (520) 836-5221, x238 or eturner@cals.arizona.edu

Soil Fertility Research and Education is a program that focuses on the development of research and education on soil testing, nutrient management, and fertilizer and animal waste best management practices.

Contact: Rick Gibson at (520) 836-5221, x227 or gibsonrd@cals.arizona.edu

Strengthening Families Program is a parenting and family strengthening program for families with children ages 3-5, that focuses on strengthening parental bonds with their children and learning more effective parenting skills.

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