



**Baby College 101
Courses For
Ałchíní Yázhí**



Fall 2021

Program Description

Baby College 101: Courses for Ałchíní Yázhí is a comprehensive, community-based and sustainable program that aims to promote young children's early literacy in four southern Navajo Nation Chapters (Nahata'Dziil Commission Governance, Wide Ruins, Houck, and Pine Springs). We use research-based components to help parents, grandparents and other caregivers expand their use of five early literacy practices (reading, talking, writing, singing, and playing) with the 0-6-year-old children they care for. We have developed coordinated program components that address the multiple contexts where young children develop. The program content and evaluation plan have been developed in partnership with an advisory board of local stakeholders and community members. This program builds on the strengths and relationships of local Cooperative Extension and Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Programs.

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

News

Navajo Cultural Perspectives on Early Child Development and Teaching

Baby College 101: Courses for Ałchíní Yázhí sponsored a three-hour workshop for early care and education professionals. During the workshop, Sandra Freeland, MA and Verdie Martinez, MA introduced culturally responsive teaching methods for Navajo children and families and shared how to use the Navajo language to promote language development. The workshop was attended by 228 participants, 94% of whom reported that they would use what they learned during the workshop in their work with children and families.



Watch a recording of the webinar here:

https://youtu.be/o_sMWg4edjg

This workshop is presented in the Navajo Language.

Program Website Launched

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

The Baby College 101: Courses for Ałchíní Yázhí program website launched this summer. Over 200 people have already visited the website and watched the videos. Visit the website for early literacy handouts and short quick tip videos as well as a complete listing of upcoming virtual and in-person events for Navajo families with young children and child care providers.





Online Events for Families

Each month we invite Navajo families with young children to drop in for half-hour literacy events. Parents, grandparents, children and other family members participate in hands-on activities that promote early literacy. Some our recent events are listed below.

Sharing Stories

Families practiced telling stories and were reminded of the importance of stories as a way to connect with each other, pass on family history and culture, and help children prepare to read.

Rhyming Boxes

Families learned how to make a rhyming box and use it to talk about, sing, and play with words that rhyme. Participants talked about how rhyming words are fun for young children and can help them learn sounds and words.

Check out our website for a complete list of upcoming events!

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