

# Family Connections 2023 January-March Training Calendar

**Pyramid Model** - These trainings are set up for STARS programs to be able to access them easily at any time. With the support of your STARS coach, these trainings can create a stable classroom environment. All Pyramid Model trainings are online. Questions? Call your STARS coach today!

- **Introduction to the Pyramid Model:** [Childcaretraining.org](http://Childcaretraining.org)
- **E-Pyramid Model Birth-5 Modules:** <https://www.mtecregistry.mtecp.org/v7/trainings>

Continue learning strategies from the Pyramid Model to help children develop social emotional skills, and how you can help children with challenging behaviors.

- **E-Pyramid Model Birth-5 Module 1:** Pre-requisite: Intro to the Pyramid Model
- **E-Pyramid Model Birth-5 Module 2:** Pre-req: Intro to the Pyramid Model & Module 1
- **E-Pyramid Model Birth-5 Module 3:** Pre-req: Intro to the Pyramid Model, Module 1 & 2

**CPR / First Aid** – The Child Care Licensing required Pediatric CPR/FA hands-on skills tests are scheduled as needed. To mitigate the amount of time spent in the classroom, all CPR/FA classes will be conducted in the American Heart Associations blended course model.

Students will need to complete the Pediatric First Aid CPR online portion before attending in-person skills sessions, completing the additional Adult CPR/AED modules. Please be advised that this takes between 4-6 hours. Online course is \$20.00 and due at the time of enrollment through the American Heart Association website. In-person skills classes are \$25.00 payable to Family Connections and due the day before class to reserve the spot.

**To get more information and to register for CPR/First Aid:**

(Region 5) Contact Deb Huestis at [debh@familyconnectionsmt.org](mailto:debh@familyconnectionsmt.org)

(Region 6) Contact Khristi Drabbs at 406.654.4228 or [khristid@familyconnectionsmt.org](mailto:khristid@familyconnectionsmt.org)

**STARS** - The Best Beginnings STARS to Quality Program is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system that aligns quality indicators with support and incentives for early childhood programs and early childhood professionals. STARS is open to licensed/registered programs throughout Montana.

Visit <https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/stars/index> for more details.

(Region 5) Contact Charrisse Jennings at 406.761.6010 or [charrissej@familyconnectionsmt.org](mailto:charrissej@familyconnectionsmt.org)

(Region 6) Contact Tammy Phelps at 406.899.4894 or [tammyp@familyconnectionsmt.org](mailto:tammyp@familyconnectionsmt.org)

**STARS Programs** - Earn professional development training hours through coaching! For more information:

(Region 5) Contact Erin Helms at 406.761.6010 or [erinh@familyconnectionsmt.org](mailto:erinh@familyconnectionsmt.org)

(Region 6) Contact Rori Croft at 406.750.4106 or [roric@familyconnectionsmt.org](mailto:roric@familyconnectionsmt.org)

**Program Management Essentials** – For more information and to register:

(Region 5) Contact Deb Huestis at 406.761.6010 or [debh@familyconnectionsmt.org](mailto:debh@familyconnectionsmt.org)

(Region 6) Contact Khristi Drabbs at 406.654.4228 or [khristid@familyconnectionsmt.org](mailto:khristid@familyconnectionsmt.org)

All classes are subject to change. Visit [FamilyConnectionsMT.org/news-classes/class-schedule](http://FamilyConnectionsMT.org/news-classes/class-schedule)

# JANUARY

<p><b>KB:</b> Observation, Documentation, and Assessment <b>CDA:</b> Observing and recording children's behavior</p>	<p><u><b>Understanding the Relationship between Temperament and Behavior</b></u> Temperament affects behavior and how children and adults react with others. Learn what temperament is, how it affects behavior in adults and children, and strategies to help all temperaments be more successful in Early Childhood Environments.</p>	<p>Jan 11 6-8pm 2 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Rori Croft Intermediate \$14</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Child Growth and Development <b>CDA:</b> Understanding the principles of child development and learning</p>	<p><u><b>Heavy Work for Sensory Input</b></u> Heavy work can be calming and help children self-regulate. It can also help improve focus and attention. Join us to discuss what heavy work is, why it is so beneficial, and how you can include more heavy work activities in your day.</p>	<p>Jan 17 6:30-8:30pm 2 hours Lewistown</p>	<p>Charrisse Jennings Intermediate \$14</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Curriculum <b>CDA:</b> Advancing children's physical and intellectual development</p>	<p><u><b>Growing Up Wild for Early Childhood &amp; Project Learning Tree</b></u> Take advantage of this opportunity to increase your understanding of environmental experiences to engage children in Montana's environment. To Register: <a href="https://montana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTHx4rqwgi4xOXI">https://montana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cTHx4rqwgi4xOXI</a> 4600 Giant Springs Road Great Falls MT</p>	<p>Jan 21 9am-3pm 6 hours Great Falls</p>	<p>Christina Oppegard MT F,W&amp;P Beginning \$25</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Observation, Documentation, and Assessment <b>CDA:</b> Observing and recording children's behavior</p>	<p><u><b>Using Intentionality When Planning for Children</b></u> Have you ever thought, "I observe children all day long, but I don't have time to write down what I see, let alone use what I see to drive my planning!" We will explore practical, realistic ideas to support observations that guide authentic assessment and provide intentionality to your curriculum planning.</p>	<p>Jan 24 6:30-8:30pm 2 hours Great Falls</p>	<p>Deb Huestis Intermediate \$14</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Diversity, Child Growth &amp; Development, Program Management, Curriculum <b>CDA:</b> Maintaining a commitment to professionalism, understanding principles of child development and learning, advancing children's physical and intellectual development, Managing and effective program operation</p>	<p><u><b>The Out of Sync Child has Fun Book Discussion series</b></u> Learn how to plan specific play opportunities for the various Sensory Processing Disorders. We will read the book, "The Out of Sync Child Has Fun" by Carol Sock Kranowitz and participate in 6 discussion sessions. We will implement 10 different play opportunities with the children we serve. Must attend all sessions to receive credit.</p>	<p>Jan 26 Feb 9 &amp; 23 Mar 9 &amp; 23 Apr 6 6-8pm 12 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Khristi Drabbs Beginning \$42</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Child growth and development <b>CDA:</b> Understanding principles of child development and learning</p>	<p><u><b>Play is Learning</b></u> Play is an essential part of life, not just childhood. Educators and psychologists say play helps organize information and learning. Through various types of play, pretend, dramatic, free, or guided play, learning is constantly happening.</p>	<p>Jan 31 6-9pm 3 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Tammy Phelps Intermediate \$21</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Child Guidance <b>CDA:</b> Supporting Children's Social and Emotional Development</p>	<p><u><b>Flip It! Transforming Challenging Behavior</b></u> Learn supportive steps to help young children learn about feelings, gain self-control, and reduce challenging behavior.</p>	<p>Jan 18 &amp; 25 6-9pm 6 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Child Care Connections Intermediate \$42</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Curriculum <b>CDA:</b> Advancing Children's Physical and intellectual development</p>	<p><u><b>There's No Such Thing as Bad Weather</b></u> Outdoor play is important even in the cold, come join us and learn how to make it fun and enjoyable for all.</p>	<p>Jan 11 6pm-8pm 2 hours Web Based</p>	<p>The Nurturing Center Beginning \$14</p>

# FEBRUARY

<p><b>KB:</b> Professionalism <b>CDA:</b> Maintaining a commitment to professionalism</p>	<p><u><b>Take Charge of Your Self-Care</b></u> Burnout is not just long hours. Burnout occurs when you have a feeling of not being in control. We will explore reasons you may be feeling out of control, burnout, and explore how to live reasonable lives. Self-care is just the tip of the iceberg.</p>	<p>Feb 1 6:30-8:30pm 2 hours Great Falls</p>	<p>Deb Huestis Intermediate \$14</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Curriculum <b>CDA:</b> Advancing children’s physical and intellectual development</p>	<p><u><b>Watch Me, Teach Me – Observation Guided Curriculum Planning</b></u> To develop effective curriculum, quality observations must be conducted. Children reveal who they are and how they think through their actions and behavior. Join us as we discuss how to be intentional in creating activities and enriching environments based on classroom observations.</p>	<p>Feb 6 6-9pm 3 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Tammy Phelps Intermediate \$21</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Child Guidance <b>CDA:</b> Supporting children’s social and emotional development</p>	<p><u><b>That’s Not Fair</b></u> Join us as we explore the phrase “That’s Not Fair” and learn tips to support the children in your care when they think things aren’t “fair”</p>	<p>Feb 7 6:30-8:30pm 2 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Child Care Resources</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Child Growth and Development <b>CDA:</b> Principles of child development and learning</p>	<p><u><b>7 Essential Life Skills- Mind in the Making</b></u> The mind in the Making Seven Essential Life Skills training has its origins in the book by Ellen Galinsky, Mind in the Making the Seven Life Skills Every Child Needs. Learn all seven life skills, how the skills apply to your life, and how to provide guidance and experiences to build the skills in the children you work with. Must attend all sessions to receive credit.</p>	<p>Feb 8, 15, 22 Mar 1, 15, 22, 29 Apr 5 6-9pm 21 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Deb Huestis Intermediate \$60</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Child Growth and Development <b>CDA:</b> Understanding principles of child development and learning</p>	<p><u><b>Heavy Work for Sensory Input</b></u> Heavy work can be calming and help children self-regulate. It can also help improve focus and attention. Join us to discuss what heavy work is, why it is so beneficial, and how you can include more heavy work activities in your day!</p>	<p>Feb 21 6:30-8:30pm 2 hours Conrad</p>	<p>Charrisse Jennings Intermediate \$14</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Diversity, Child Growth &amp; Development, Program Management, Curriculum <b>CDA:</b> Maintaining a commitment to professionalism, understanding principles of child development and learning, advancing children’s physical and intellectual development, Managing an effective program operation</p>	<p><u><b>The Out of Sync Child has Fun Book Discussion series</b></u> Learn how to plan specific play opportunities for the various Sensory Processing Disorders. We will read the book, “The Out of Sync Child Has Fun” by Carol Sock Kranowitz and participate in 6 discussion sessions. We will implement 10 different play opportunities with the children we serve. Must attend all sessions to receive credit.</p>	<p>Jan 26 Feb 9 &amp; 23 Mar 9 &amp; 23 Apr 6 6-8pm 12 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Khristi Drabbs Beginning \$42</p>

# MARCH

<p><b>KB:</b> Child growth and development <b>CDA:</b> Understanding principles of child development and learning</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><a href="#">Milestones to Success</a></u> The developing child attains skills through a continuum of growth. Supporting children as they work to reach developmental milestones is an important part of providing care. We will take a close look at these milestones and tools we can use to aid children in meeting them.</p>	<p>Mar 7 6-8pm 2 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Tammy Phelps Beginning \$14</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Family and Community Partnerships <b>CDA:</b> Establishing productive relationships with families</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><a href="#">It's So Hard Raising Families</a></u> Children must be looked at in context—meaning that each child must be viewed in the context of his and her family, and each family must be viewed in the context of the community to which it belongs. But how do we as Early Childhood Professionals do that? Learn strategies to bring parents into your program environment and truly engage them in their children's early education.</p>	<p>Mar 8 6:30-8:30pm 2 hours Great Falls</p>	<p>Deb Huestis Intermediate \$14</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Diversity, Child Growth &amp; Development, Program Management, Curriculum <b>CDA:</b> Maintaining a commitment to professionalism, understanding principles of child development and learning, advancing children's physical and intellectual development, Managing and effective program operation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><a href="#">The Out of Sync Child has Fun Book Discussion series</a></u> Learn how to plan specific play opportunities for the various Sensory Processing Disorders. We will read the book, "The Out of Sync Child Has Fun" by Carol Sock Kranowitz and participate in 6 discussion sessions. We will implement 10 different play opportunities with the children we serve. Must attend all sessions to receive credit.</p>	<p>Jan 26 Feb 9 &amp; 23 Mar 9 &amp; 23 Apr 6 6-8pm 12 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Khristi Drabbs Beginning \$42</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Child Growth and Development <b>CDA:</b> Understanding principles of child development &amp; learning</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><a href="#">Heavy Work for Sensory Input</a></u> Heavy work can be calming and help children self-regulate. It can also help improve focus and attention. Join us to discuss what heavy work is, why it is so beneficial, and how you can include more heavy work activities in your day!</p>	<p>Mar 16 6:30-8:30pm 2 hours Great Falls</p>	<p>Charrisse Jennings Intermediate \$14</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Child Growth and Development <b>CDA:</b> Understanding principles of child development &amp; learning</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><a href="#">Positive Potty Practices</a></u> Utilizing the MELS development domains- be able to identify signs of developmental readiness and walk away with positive encouraging tools and supports</p>	<p>Mar 23 6-9pm 3 hours Web Based</p>	<p>HRDC 7 Beginning \$21</p>
<p><b>KB:</b> Observation, Documentation, and Assessment <b>CDA:</b> Observing and recording children's behavior</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><a href="#">Observation and Assessment: What is the Importance?</a></u> Join us as we explore the importance and types of observation and assessment.</p>	<p>Mar 14 6-8pm 2 hours Web Based</p>	<p>Butte 4 C's Beginning \$14</p>