

NM PreK Professional Learning Requirements and Recommendations

Definition

Professional learning enables teachers, administrators, and staff to gain or improve the skills needed to support high levels of student learning. Effective professional learning is evidence-based, results-driven, ongoing, and integrated into educators' daily routines, ensuring continuous improvement and systemic impact.

Rationale

Professional learning should enhance the knowledge, skills, and practices of early childhood professionals. It must be research-based, helping teachers recognize and apply effective strategies in their classrooms. The goal is to improve staff quality, which, when implemented, leads to better student outcomes.

Access registration for required and recommended professional development online at:

Central Regional Educational Cooperative

- <https://www.crecnm.org/>

New Mexico Early Learning System

- <https://nmels.org/ets/home>

Quorum Learning

- <https://teachingstrategies.com/lp/quorum-learning/>



Registration Questions?

- Central Region Educational Cooperative: nmecl@crecnm.com
- New Mexico Early Learning System: NMELS@unm.edu
- Quorum: support@teachingstrategies.com

All New Mexico PreK classroom staff are required to complete 24 clock hours of continued professional learning annually. The following activities qualify as continued professional learning:

- Professional learning as outlined in this document (Required and Recommended)
- Sponsored UNM ECSC & CREC professional learning
- District-required professional learning (School Based NM PreK)
- FOCUS TQRIS required professional learning (Community based NM PreK)
- Participation in Practice-Based Coaching (PBC)
 - ◆ PBC hours do not count toward the 24 hours of training required by NM Child Care Licensing regulations.
- Participation in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
 - ◆ (up to 12 hours with proof of attendance)
- Special Education Trainings related to Early Childhood Education
- Early Childhood or Special Education college credit courses
 - ◆ Associate Level Courses in Early Childhood Education
 - ◆ Bachelor Level Courses in Early Childhood Education
 - ◆ Graduate Level Courses in Early Childhood Education
 - ◆ Alternative Licensure Courses related to Early Childhood Education
 - ◆ (1 credit hour = 15 clock hours with a grade of C or higher)

Guidance for Continued Professional Learning

All continued professional learning must be directly related to early childhood education. Each session should be at least one hour long. A certificate of completion must be provided, including the complete title of the training, the participant's name, the date of the training, and the number of clock hours completed. For college credit courses, a transcript will document completion. Participants are responsible for maintaining and updating their professional learning records at least annually.

NM ePyramid Model Guidance:
Participants can enroll in Year 1 and have up to two years to finish the training, covering both Year 1 and Year 2.



Title of Professional Learning Requirement	Required Hours	Who should Register?	Course Description
<p>Dual Language Learners</p>	<p>3 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This course offers strategies to help children become proficient in both English and their home languages. It covers debunking myths, creating supportive environments, fostering language and literacy, preserving home languages, and conducting assessments.</p>
<p>• Online Registration for Dual Language Learners at: https://teachingstrategies.com/lp/quorum-learning/</p>			
<p>Early Learning Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Module 3: <i>Putting Into Practice</i> ◆ Module 4: <i>Weaving It All Together</i> 	<p>8 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based 	<p>Participants will learn how to use the Early Learning Guidelines to enhance authentic observation documentation and curriculum planning. This session emphasizes reflective practice and individualization for children and families. Participants will also explore family and community engagement, inclusive practices, and diversity.</p>
<p>Online Registration for Early Learning Series at: https://nmels.org/ets/home</p>			
<p>Early Childhood Observation Tool (ECOT)</p>	<p>5 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ School-based 	<p>This training provides professional development on using the New Mexico Early Childhood Observation Tool (ECOT) and the Early Learning Guidelines. It focuses on mastering assessment application, scoring, and reporting via ECOT's online platform. Participants will learn to interpret ECOT data for tailored instruction.</p>
<p>Course will soon be available on NMELS; registration details to follow.</p>			

<p>Introduction to the Pyramid Model</p>	<p>3 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This course covers techniques for reflecting on social-emotional learning, current research on early childhood development, and the inclusive Pyramid Model. It equips educators with knowledge and tools to support every child, ensuring a nurturing learning environment.</p>
<p>Course will soon be available on NMELS; registration details to follow.</p>			

Year 2

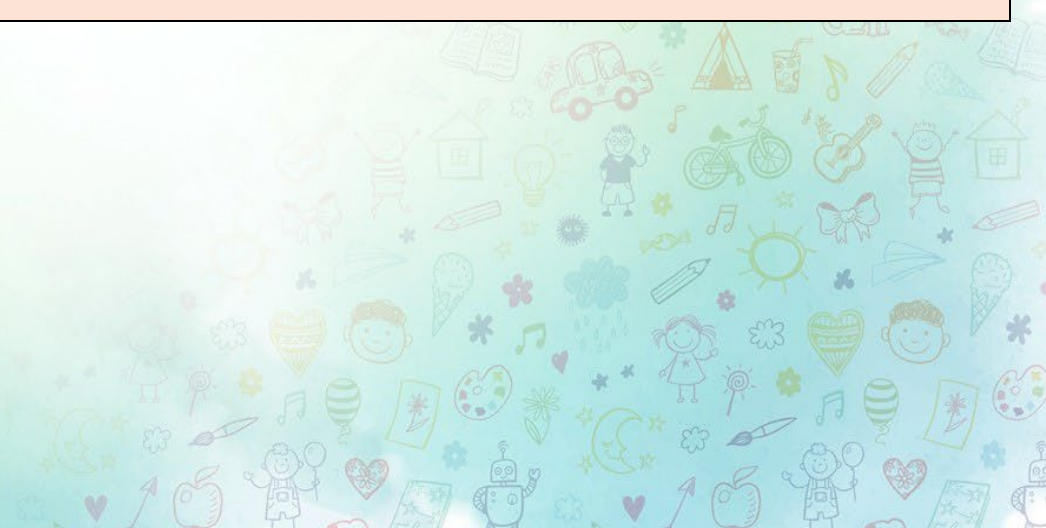
Required Professional Learning for Administrators

Title of Professional Learning Requirement	Required Hours	Who should Register?	Course Description
<p>LETRS-EC Online Modules</p>	<p>25 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling-Early Childhood (LETRS-EC) provides deep literacy instruction knowledge for early childhood educators, teaching evidence-based, developmentally appropriate strategies to develop early literacy skills through playful, purposeful instruction and practice opportunities.</p>
<p>Online Registration for LETRS-EC at: https://www.crecnm.org/</p>			
<p>Introduction to Structured Literacy (Optional but not mandatory)</p>	<p>1 Hour</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This professional learning opportunity is optional and introduces the significance of early childhood as a critical period for developing future reading and writing skills.</p>
<p>Online Registration for Introduction to Structured Literacy at: https://www.crecnm.org/</p>			

Year 1

Required Professional Learning for Lead Teachers and Long-Term Substitutes

Title of Professional Learning Requirement	Required Hours	Who should Register?	Course Description
<p>Introduction to Structured Literacy <i>(Prerequisite for Oral Language Connection and Phonological Awareness Connection trainings)</i></p>	<p>1 Hour</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This professional learning opportunity introduces the significance of early childhood as a critical period for developing future reading and writing skills. Understanding the Science of Reading—how we learn to read—provides the foundation for in-depth knowledge and practical tools that preschool teachers can apply to any well-designed early literacy program.</p>
<p>Online Registration for Introduction to Structured Literacy at: https://www.crecnm.org/</p>			
<p>Early Literacy Strategies in Action: The Oral Language Connection to Early Literacy <i>(Prerequisite for LETRS training)</i></p>	<p>3.5 Hours</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This professional learning opportunity on oral language and vocabulary acquisition delves into the powerful connection between literacy, language, and learning. Participants will explore the structural components and stages of oral language development and gain valuable strategies to facilitate oral language growth in young children.</p>
<p>Online Registration for ELS: Oral Language Connection at: https://www.crecnm.org/</p>			



<p>Early Literacy Strategies in Action: The Phonological Awareness Connection to Early Literacy <i>(Prerequisite for LETRS training)</i></p>	<p>3.5 Hours</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This professional learning opportunity on phonological awareness explains the linguistic hierarchy of skill development in this area. Participants will explore the general continuum of phonological skill development, including rhyming, alliteration, blending, and segmenting. The course also shares effective strategies and activities to facilitate the development of phonological awareness.</p>
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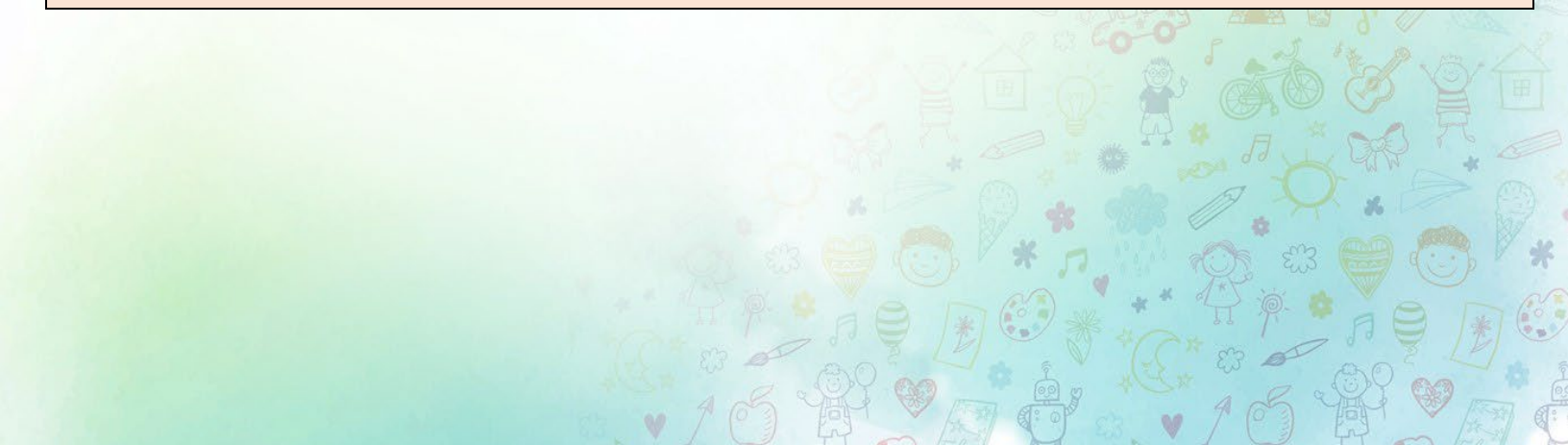
Online Registration for ELS: Phonological Awareness Connection at: <https://www.crecnm.org/>

<p>NM ePyramid Model <i>Participants can enroll in Year 1 and have up to two years to finish the training, covering both Year 1 and Year 2.</i></p>	<p>30 Hours</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>The Pyramid Model is a conceptual framework based on evidence-based practices designed to promote healthy social and emotional development in young children. Participants may enroll in the first year and complete the training over the course of Year 1 and Year 2.</p>
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Course will soon be available on NMELS; registration details to follow.

<p>Dual Language Learners</p>	<p>3 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This course offers strategies to help children become proficient in both English and their home languages. It covers debunking myths, creating supportive environments, fostering language and literacy, preserving home languages, and conducting assessments.</p>
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• **Online Registration for Dual Language Learners at: <https://teachingstrategies.com/lp/quorum-learning/>**



<p>ECERS-3 101: Introductory Course (Optional and not mandatory)</p>	<p>5 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>The Environment Rating Scales Institute offers an optional online introductory training course on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale®, Third Edition (ECERS-3). This course is organized into two separate modules, or chapters, and is designed for flexibility, allowing participants to complete it at their own pace. Although the course takes approximately 5 clock hours to complete, it can be stopped and started as needed to fit individual schedules.</p>
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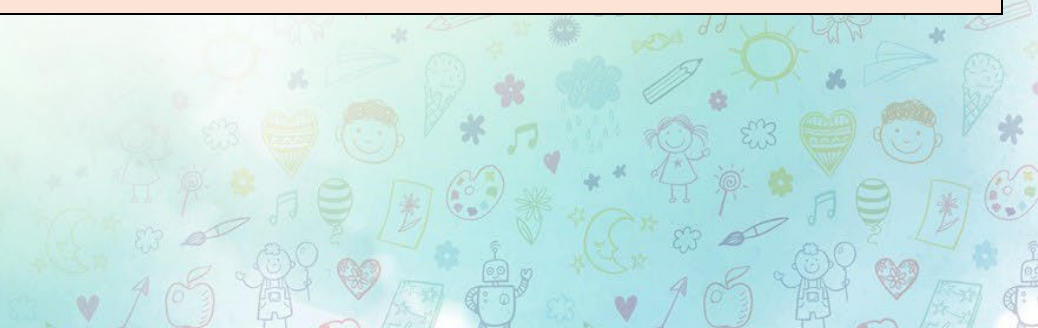
Online Registration for ECERS-3 101 at: <https://nmels.org/ets/home>

<p>Early Learning Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Module 3: <i>Putting Into Practice</i> ◆ Module 4: <i>Weaving It All Together</i> 	<p>8 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based 	<p>Participants will learn how to use the Early Learning Guidelines to enhance authentic observation documentation and curriculum planning. This session emphasizes reflective practice and individualization for children and families. Participants will also explore family and community engagement, inclusive practices, and diversity.</p>
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Online Registration for Early Learning Series at: <https://nmels.org/ets/home>

<p>Early Childhood Observation Tool (ECOT)</p>	<p>5 Hours</p>	<p>This training is applicable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ School-based 	<p>This training provides professional development on using the New Mexico Early Childhood Observation Tool (ECOT) and the Early Learning Guidelines. It focuses on mastering assessment application, scoring, and reporting via ECOT's online platform. Participants will learn to interpret ECOT data for tailored instruction.</p>
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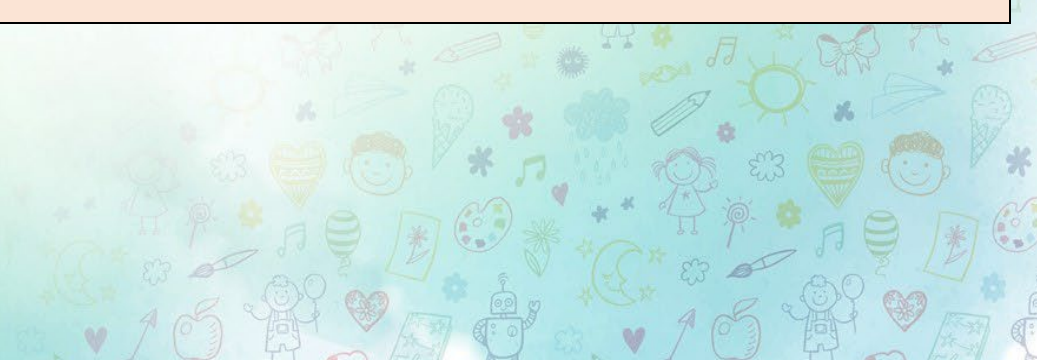
Course will soon be available on NMELS; registration details to follow.



Year 1

Required Professional Learning for Education Assistants

Title of Professional Learning Requirement	Required Hours	Who should Register?	Course Description
Dual Language Learners	3 Hours	This training is applicable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	This course offers strategies to help children become proficient in both English and their home languages. It covers debunking myths, creating supportive environments, fostering language and literacy, preserving home languages, and conducting assessments.
Online Registration for Dual Language Learners at: https://teachingstrategies.com/lp/quorum-learning/			
Early Learning Series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Module 3: <i>Putting Into Practice</i> ◆ Module 4: <i>Weaving It All Together</i> 	8 Hours	This training is applicable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	Participants will learn how to use the Early Learning Guidelines to enhance authentic observation documentation and curriculum planning. This session emphasizes reflective practice and individualization for children and families. Participants will also explore family and community engagement, inclusive practices, and diversity.
Online Registration for Early Learning Series at: https://nmels.org/ets/home			
NM ePyramid Model <i>Participants can enroll in Year 1 and have up to two years to finish the training, covering both Year 1 and Year 2.</i>	30 Hours	This training is applicable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	The Pyramid Model is a conceptual framework based on evidence-based practices designed to promote healthy social and emotional development in young children. Participants may enroll in the first year and complete the training over the course of Year 1 and Year 2.
Course will soon be available on NMELS; registration details to follow.			



Year 2

Required Professional Learning for Education Assistants

Guidance:

In Year 2, education assistants are required to complete 24 clock hours of continued professional learning. Approved forms of professional development that count toward this requirement are outlined on page 2 of this document. Please refer to that section for further guidance. There are numerous professional development opportunities available, providing a variety of options to support educational assistants in their learning. Below are some of the most common options, accessible through the links provided.

Note: Educational Assistants registered in the NM ePyramid Model in Year 1 have the option to complete the remainder of the training in Year 2.

Training platforms include, but are not limited to:

New Mexico Early Learning System

- ◆ <https://nmels.org/ets/home>

Quorum Learning

- ◆ <https://teachingstrategies.com/lp/quorum-learning/>

Central Regional Educational Cooperative

- ◆ <https://www.crecnm.org/>



Recommended Professional Learning for Lead Teachers

Recommended Professional Learning:

Note: The professional learning opportunities listed below are recommended, not required for lead teachers. They support ongoing professional development by providing valuable resources and knowledge to enhance your practice. These opportunities help you stay current with educational trends and best practices, benefiting both you and the children you work with. We encourage you to explore these tools to enrich your professional growth and effectiveness.

Title of Professional Learning	Clock Hours	Who should Register?	Course Description
Early Literacy Strategies in Action: Read Alouds	3.5 Hours	This training is applicable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lead Teachers Only ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	This 3.5-hour training will delve into evidence-based practices from LETRS-EC to enhance early literacy development. Participants will learn how to develop tiered vocabulary, engage in inferential questioning, outline interactive reading routines, and support writing strategies using a rich children's book. The session aims to equip educators with instructional strategies to help young children build foundational literacy skills.
Online Registration for ELs: Read Alouds at: https://www.crecnm.org/			
Early Literacy Strategies in Action: Becoming a Writer	3.5 Hours	This training is applicable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lead Teachers Only ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	This training focused on the developmental progression of young children's writing. We will discuss the stages of writing and share instructional strategies to help young children develop their writing skills effectively.
Online Registration for ELs: Becoming a Writer at: https://www.crecnm.org/			

<p>Early Literacy Strategies in Action: Alphabet Knowledge</p>	<p>3.5 Hours</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lead Teachers Only ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This training will focus on alphabet knowledge and its importance for young children. We will discuss key print concepts and describe letter characteristics that facilitate learning. Additionally, we will share strategies and activities to enhance alphabet knowledge development.</p>
<p>Online Registration for ELS: Alphabet Knowledge at: https://www.crecnm.org/</p>			
<p>Pyramid Calming Kit: Training for Preschool Teachers</p>	<p>2 Hours</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lead Teachers Only ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This training will focus on supporting social-emotional practices for children, helping them manage their emotions and behaviors. Additionally, it will cover strategies for fostering effective interactions with both children and adults, promoting a harmonious and supportive environment.</p>
<p>Online Registration for Pyramid Calming Kit at: https://www.crecnm.org/</p>			
<p>Practice With Pyramid: A Hands-On Approach</p>	<p>3 Hours</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lead Teachers Only ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>This training allows participants to apply Pyramid strategies to their teaching practice using the Pyramid Model Classroom Kit. Educators will engage in scenarios related to the kit's items, exploring how coaching and the Pyramid Model align to enhance classroom effectiveness.</p>
<p>Online Registration for Practice With Pyramid at: https://www.crecnm.org/</p>			
<p>ECERS-3 101: Introductory Course</p>	<p>5 Hours</p>	<p>This training is recommended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lead Teachers Only ◆ Community-based ◆ School-based 	<p>The Environment Rating Scales Institute offers an optional online introductory training course on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale®, Third Edition (ECERS-3). This course is organized into two separate modules, or chapters, and is designed for flexibility.</p>
<p>Online Registration ECERS-3 101: https://nmels.org/ets/home</p>			

