

Developing Early Childhood Leaders



the region's leading resource
in early education and care

A 10-Month Seminar

Leadership is about relationships. Leadership is by choice. Leadership is earned.

— Roxanne Qualls
Former Vice Mayor, Cincinnati



FIND OUT:

- **What** is the Developing Early Childhood Leaders Seminar?
 - **Who** is eligible?
 - **Why** participate?
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WHAT IS DECL?

The Developing Early Childhood Leaders (DECL) seminar was created to address an unmet need in Ohio and Northern Kentucky: in-depth professional development for the directors, board members and owners of early childhood programs and centers.



Presenter Sallie Westheimer discusses data-driven decision making with participants over lunch.

4C has been very successful in supporting staff who work in

early education programs. But we know a program's overall quality depends on more than individual teachers. It depends on leadership at the top—leaders who can create a vision, establish benchmarks for quality and support staff while responding to the daily management demands and challenges in early childhood settings.



Directors and program administrators celebrate the completion of their DECL seminar.

“To be an effective leader, you must first understand yourself and how to use your strengths to achieve your goals,” says Kim Ginn, 4C’s director of professional development. “Be more than a manager of day-to-day operations. Be a leader!”

For years 4C has offered workshops and conferences focusing on the day-to-day management of early childhood programs. DECL is different.

This in-depth program strengthens leaders by encouraging personal reflection through a community of learners and the presentation of advanced topics.

Participants also receive coaching support to implement a change project in their program.



DECL participants in Northern Kentucky celebrate their graduation from the program.

This seminar—the only program of its kind in Ohio or Kentucky—includes 10 monthly day-long classes to develop and strengthen early childhood leaders.

Be more than a manager of day-to-day operations. Be a leader!

SEMINAR TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

Session topics include:

- Philosophy of early childhood education
- Staff management and human resources
- Program evaluation
- Professional development planning
- Marketing and public relations
- Family engagement
- Strategic planning
- Financial management
- Collaboration and leadership
- Advocacy



Presenter Carolyn Brinkmann discusses ways of "Managing Change" with DECL participants in Southwest Ohio.

Presenters

The DECL seminar has a roster of presenters that represent the community's foremost experts on topics relevant to early childhood program leaders. Presenters come from the early childhood field as well as from local business, community, neighborhood and government arenas.

Each DECL session is enhanced by special lunchtime presentations given by leaders from the community who share their personal leadership philosophies and stories.



Presenter Dr. Telly Sellars explores "Mission and Vision" with Miami Valley DECL seminar participants.

Among the past presenters are former Cincinnati Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls, Kathy Reschke of ChildWise Resources, former Cincinnati Local 12 news anchor Kit Andrews, management consultant/leadership coach Diane Jordan-Grizzard and Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl.

The DECL program changed my life. You are not alone—this is where you get support to make your program the best it can be.

— Rani Judd, Bright Future Child Enrichment Center

APPLICATION AND BENEFITS

The application and selection process

Successful applicants are highly motivated administrators in the early education and care field with a minimum of two years experience in administrative roles. Applicants must possess knowledge of management and have the ability to confidently manage the day-to-day operations of an early education and care program.

Special consideration is given to applicants from quality-rated (Step Up To Quality, STARS for KIDS NOW) or NAEYC-accredited programs.



DECL participants in Miami Valley work together on a group project.

The selection process seeks to ensure a diverse class membership, taking into consideration professional background, organizations represented and functional areas of responsibility. 4C may limit the number of participants from the same organization to ensure diversity within the group.

Apply today

Applications are available at 4cforchildren.org/decl.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee to determine eligibility. Successful candidates will take part in interviews to help them better understand the scope of the seminar and commitment required. Those chosen will take their first steps together as a class at a kickoff event.

Locations for DECL seminars rotate annually between the three regional 4C offices (Cincinnati, Dayton and Covington). Scholarships are available.

What's in it for you?

- Interactive day-long sessions with an all-star lineup of presenters who will engage you—and challenge you to reflect on yourself and your program.
- Coaching to help you apply what you learn in ways that are meaningful to you.
- Improvements for your program in the areas of staff development, marketing and public relations, family partnerships, center operations, risk management and human resources.
- Resources such as leadership books and publications to use for future reference.

*There is no other opportunity like this
for early childhood program directors to
learn from experts of this caliber.*

— Becky Evemy,
4C professional development coordinator

4C REGIONAL OFFICES



the region's leading resource
in early education and care

4C Miami Valley

1000 N. Keowee St.
Dayton, OH 45404
937-220-9660

4C Southwest Ohio

1924 Dana Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45207
513-221-0033

4C Northern Kentucky

525 W Fifth St., #215
Covington, KY 41011
859-781-3511

www.4cforchildren.org



Agency Partner