



in Communities



FAQ

1.

What is *Building a Connected Community*?

Building a Connected Community is a 10-week online training for early childhood teachers of 4-year-old children. The course aims to help early childhood education (ECE) teachers build healthy relationships with children and families and support children's social and emotional development. The online training includes five learning units:

- Unit 1: A Welcoming Community. Foster a sense of belonging in your learning community using physical space and preparation.
- Unit 2: Knowing My Community. Provide opportunities for children to know themselves and each other.
- Unit 3: Better Together. Extend children's prosocial skills with tactics that promote positive interaction.
- Unit 4: Creative Problem-Solving. Promote collaborative problem-solving for challenges that arise.
- Unit 5: A Wider World. Use skills and strategies to keep growing beyond your program.

In each learning unit, teachers will read articles and watch brief videos that explain the unit's key concepts. Through the course, teachers will watch videos, read articles, and participate in learning activities and online forums as they learn new strategies. Teachers will receive free resources and activities to use with children and children's caregivers. Teachers will have 2 weeks to complete each unit, and each unit is expected to take about 45 minutes to complete. By attending the online training we expect teachers to learn how to better foster a sense of belonging, provide opportunities for children to build relationships, extend children's prosocial skills, promote collaborative problem solving in the classroom, and help children grow beyond the program.

2.

What is the evaluation about?

The American Institutes for Research (AIR, www.air.org; a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts behavioral and social science research) will conduct an evaluation to examine the impact of the course on teachers, families, and children, and to identify opportunities to improve the course. Sesame will use the results of the evaluation to further improve the course. Participation in the evaluation is voluntary, and all evaluation activities are optional.

3.

What will early childhood administrators be asked to do?

If your site is selected to participate in the evaluation, you will be asked to serve as your site's project liaison or nominate another administrator to serve as the liaison for your site. You will be asked to share basic information about the site for sampling and communications purposes, and you will be periodically asked to share information about the study with the teachers and families in your site. Administrators who are selected and participate in the project will receive a \$200 gift card as a thank you for serving as the evaluation liaison.

4.

What will teachers be asked to do?

If your site is selected to participate, all teachers serving 4-year-old students will have access to the resources; however, some teachers will be randomly selected to receive them during a first wave in Fall 2023, and other teachers will receive them during a second wave in Spring 2024. They will be asked to complete two 15-minute surveys, regardless of the wave during which they are assigned to take the course. Teachers in both groups will take the first survey in Fall 2023 and the second survey in late 2023. Teachers will receive a \$30 gift card for completing each survey. Teachers in Wave 1 who receive first access to the course may not share the course with teachers in the wait list group until after Spring 2024. Teachers may be presented with an additional opportunity to participate in an interview to help improve our survey materials before the course begins and an opportunity to participate in a focus group after the course ends to give additional feedback on it.

5.

What will families be asked to do?

To learn more about how the resources may have affected children's social and emotional development and teachers' relationships with families, caregivers of children in each teacher's classroom will be asked to complete two 15-minute surveys (regardless of the wave in which their teacher is assigned to take the course). They will take the first survey in Fall 2023 and the second survey in late 2023. Caregivers will receive a \$30 gift card for completing each survey. Caregivers may also be presented with the opportunity to participate in an interview to help improve our survey materials before the course begins. Only one parent or guardian may participate per family.

6. Why should I participate?
Your participation in the evaluation will inform Sesame Streets' effort to improve the resources. Participation is voluntary and you can stop participating at any time. Teachers who have used Sesame materials in the past have reported positive experiences.

7. What should I do if I have more questions?
If you have any questions about the evaluation, you may contact the outreach lead *Cecilia Zhang* at czhang@air.org.
To learn more about the study, please check out our website:
<https://www.air.org/project/sesame-street-building-connected-community-evaluation>.

Ready to sign up? Click here or scan the QR code to complete the interest form!*

<https://airtable.com/shrQOIuL4UyArVgWP>



**Please note that completing this interest form does not guarantee your site a spot in the evaluation, and gift cards will only be distributed to sites that are selected to participate.*