



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 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, you will read articles and watch brief videos that explain the unit's key concepts. Throughout the course, you will have the opportunity participate in learning activities and online forums as you learn new strategies. In addition, you will receive free resources and activities to use with children and children's caregivers. By attending the online training, we expect you will learn new ways 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.

How much time will the course take?

You will have 2 weeks to complete each unit, and each unit is expected to take about 45 minutes to complete. So this should take only about 20–30 minutes of your time each week.

3.

What is the pilot study about?

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

4.

Why should I participate?

Teachers who have used Sesame materials in the past have reported positive experiences. Additionally, your participation in the pilot will inform Sesame Streets' effort to improve the resources. Participation is voluntary, and you can stop participating at any time.

5.

What will teachers be asked to do?

All teachers who are selected to participate will have access to the resources; however, some teachers will be randomly selected to receive them during a first wave in fall of 2023, and other teachers will receive them during a second wave in early 2024. You will be asked to complete two 15-minute surveys, regardless of the wave during which you are assigned to take the course. Teachers in both groups will take the first survey in the fall of 2023 and the second survey in late 2023/early 2024. You 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 Wave 2 until after January 1, 2024.**

You may be presented with additional study opportunities. First, you may be invited to participate in an interview to help improve our survey materials before the course begins. Second, you may be invited to participate in a focus group after the course ends to give additional feedback on it. Participation in these additional activities is voluntary.

As you attend the online course, we're hoping that you will share the free resources that you receive with the families in your class and incorporate the activities and resources that you receive into your classroom practices.

6.

What will families be asked to do?

Parents/caregivers of children in each classroom (regardless of the wave to which their student's teacher is assigned) will be asked to complete two 15-minute surveys. They will take the first survey in the fall of 2023 and the second survey in late 2024/early 2024. Parents/caregivers' survey responses will help us learn more about how the resources may have affected children's social and emotional development and their relationships with their child's teacher. Parents/caregivers will receive a \$30 gift card for completing each survey. Only one parent or guardian may participate per family.

7.

What should I do if I have more questions?

If you have any questions about the research study, you may contact the outreach lead [NAME AND CONTACT INFO].

You can also visit our website: [URL and QR code]