Talking Points

- Early Educator Central is a website jointly administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, and Office of Head Start. The project promotes infant-toddler educators gaining degrees and credentials using existing federally funded resources. You can visit the site at https://earlyeducatorcentral.acf.hhs.gov/

- The multifaceted site supports not only infant-toddler educators, but also the entire infant-toddler workforce, with federally funded resources for administrators, trainers and coaches, professional development (PD) system leaders, and more.

- The site provides an index of coursework to support infant-toddler educators, who include center- and home-based/family child care teachers. The coursework offered on the site is at little or no cost and is continuously added and updated.

- The site also links to infant-toddler development course content that higher education institutions can use within their associate degree program.

- The site also provides resources for others with key career roles in early learning, including administrators of early childhood programs, trainers and coaches, higher education professionals and coursework developers, and PD system leaders.

- The site has many exciting resources, including the Coaching Companion. This free online observation tool helps teachers, coaches, education managers, and faculty develop individualized coaching plans and provide focused observations. Teachers can upload videos of their own practices and allow their administrators, coaches, trainers, or faculty to view them and provide feedback.

- Another exciting resource on the site is the systems-based PD cost analysis brief. This brief assists system planners in understanding and budgeting for the costs associated with helping infant-toddler educators, as
well as other early childhood professionals, gain degrees and credentials.

- The site also offers model articulation agreements that highlight the different approaches to articulation, and provides essential perspectives about choices and strategies for developing strong articulation agreements. Resources related to articulation of noncredit training to college credit, articulation of entry-level credentials to an associate degree, and articulation of associate degree credits toward bachelor’s degree attainment are provided.