



Caring and Sharing

A publication of the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency
East Central University — Ada, Oklahoma

Fall 2019 Edition

ECU SE Child Care

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www.ecok.edu/ccrra/

ECU Child Care Resource and Referral

Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us at
ECU Child Care Resource and Referral.



Safety: our #1 priority.....

We have all heard "But I just turned my back for a second...." and can relate that a second is all a child needs to try something new or to run the other way. It doesn't matter the age or the training a child has received about danger, they will still try something new. This is why we must be prepared.

The list of safety issues is long, and although we have all received training on how to keep our children safe, it never hurts to get a reminder of things that could go wrong.



Toy Safety -

- *Choose well designed, age appropriate toys.
- *Watch for sharp edges and points or small parts that can become a choking hazard.
- *Read the label to be assured toys are non-toxic and can be washed or cleaned.
- *Avoid or carefully select toys that propel objects or that are electric.
- *Store toys in containers or bins that do not have hinges or holes that can pinch little fingers or store them on low, sturdy shelving that encourages children to put their toys away after play.
- *Sanitize toys at the end of each day, if not more often.



Fire Safety-

- *Have a phone at hand to call for help if needed.
- *Have a fire extinguisher available.
- *Change smoke detector batteries. Test them often.
- *Have a clear evacuation plan and a safe gathering place. Inform parents where the safe gathering place is.
- *Teach children where to find all emergency exits.



Continued on Page 5

Contact Information for You

Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD)
1-888-446-7608 www.cecpd.org

Oklahoma Professional Development Registry
www.okregistry.org

Warmline — 1-888-574-5437
free telephone consultation for child care providers — covers
behavioral and health related topics
<http://warmline.health.ok.gov/>

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care
Statewide — Brittany Pagel
1-866-343-3881 or 405-225-9395 www.okhighered.org/scholars
Pathway to CDA — Gina McPherson
1-866-343-3881
www.okhighered.org/scholars

Child Care Services County Offices
Carter Co. (580) 490-3600 Murray Co. (580) 622-2186
Garvin Co. (405) 238-6461 Okfuskee Co. (918) 623-3100
Johnston Co. (580) 371-4000 Pontotoc Co. (580) 310-7050
Love Co. (580) 490-3600 Pottawatomie Co. (405) 878-4000



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



Oklahoma Right Start Infant/Toddler Project

Do you want to improve quality?

We will help improve your infant toddler care by building strong relationships between the children and their providers at no cost.

Benefits for your program:

- * Receive 30 hours of coaching by infant toddler specialist
- * Build an effective learning environment
 - * Receive resources related to family partnership
 - * Receive \$500 program stipend upon completion
 - * Receive \$500 teacher stipend upon completion

Your program must:

- * Provide care for infants and toddlers
- * Be OKDHS Licensed at a 1-Star Plus or higher (3-Star requires a waiver)
- * Have an active subsidy contract
- * Have staff working at least 30 hours a week with infants and toddlers

Call to sign up today!

1-800-862-5593 or 1-580-559-5327

Ask for Lindsay Christian

For more information go to

www.oklahomachildcare.org



SAVING TIME • SHARING COSTS • INCREASING QUALITY

What's new with Shared Services?

The accolades keep coming in as more child care centers and home-care providers sign up to receive the benefits of being a Shared Services member.

Not only does the center reap the benefits, but individual teachers can also see significant savings in costs, time, and access to areas, such as medical care. The lesson plans available to providers are complete, detailed and cover a large variety

of topics. Do you want to know how your classroom is producing? **New** to Shared Services is a Classroom Assessment Tool. Check out the website for more topics to help teachers provide quality care.

As Directors, we know that our teachers are the greatest assets we have. Shared Services provides many tools to help in creating job descriptions, complete training, evaluate job performance and improve communication between teachers and families, as well as, communication between co-workers. The website has much more information regarding employee benefits.

OK Shared Services program was rolled out in January 2019 to give child care providers, in both centers and homes, increased access to a variety of services and opportunities while saving time and money. One free year of membership is granted to all Oklahoma providers. Membership fees for subsequent years are minimal and the savings being offered are great.

The Shared Services website is still being updated but the wait will be worth it. New features and functionality will be introduced and there will be even more tools and resources. OK Shared Services is funded in part by OKDHS Child Care Services, Potts Family Foundation, Tulsa Educare, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma and the Shawnee Tribe. If you haven't had the opportunity to check out this amazing program, you may do so at www.oksharedservices.org. Information provided by Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association, Inc.

Scholars Program Granting Stipends

Valued from \$800 to \$1200

Since the end of the fall 2018 semester the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care program has been awarding stipends to eligible scholars as follows:

- ◆ Certificate of Mastery, Infant/Toddler Certificate of Mastery, or Director's Certificate of Mastery: \$800
- ◆ Associate of Science, Associate of Arts, or Associate of Applied Science in child development or early childhood education: \$1000
- ◆ Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in child development or early childhood education: \$1200

Contact Brittany Pagel, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Scholarship Specialist, at (405) 225-9395 or bpagel@osrhe.edu or see www.okhighered.org/scholars for more information.

\$ 600 Stipend Available

The Oklahoma Registry Certificate of Achievement and Stipend Program is now offering a \$600 stipend to qualifying providers meeting eligibility requirements. In addition to the Oklahoma Right Start Infant/Toddler Certificate of Achievement stipend, the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Care Services now offers an Oklahoma Registry Preschool Certificate of Achievement stipend and an Oklahoma Registry School-Age Certificate of Achievement stipend. Providers may receive more than one stipend, however, only one per year is allowed. The program is designed to recognize and reward the specialized professional development achievement of providers, to encourage teachers and directors to obtain additional focused formal professional development to improve the quality of care for children, and to increase positive outcomes experienced by children. Eligibility requirements can be found on CECPD's website at www.cecpd.org.

**On-Site Assistance Available for Your
Family Child Care Home or Child Care Center Classroom**

Please call 580-559-5768 or email us for the following services:
Georgiana Sullivan geolsul@ecok.edu

On-site Assistance includes:

- ◆ Observation and suggestions for new teachers or those needing new ideas or lesson plans.
- ◆ Room arrangement, transitions, equipment inventory, nutrition, outdoor learning, physical activity, and behavior and guidance.
- ◆ Understanding of basic child development and building relationships with families.
- ◆ Information on the Reaching for Stars Quality Improvement program.
- ◆ Assisting Directors/Owners with professional development plans and policies, contracts, handbooks, signing up on the Registry (okregistry.org) and registering for membership with OK Shared Services.

We also offer help over the phone and by email. Give Georgiana a call or send her an email.

Reaching for the Stars



The Reaching for the Stars Program began in 1998 and continues with the same goals today as then. They are to:

- Increase the education and competency levels of child care providers, thereby improving overall quality.
- Raise DHS reimbursement rates, thus increasing the availability of subsidy care.
- Provide a system for parents to evaluate the quality of child care.

Star ratings do make an impact. We have 83 1 Star, 4 1+ Star, 87 2 Star and 21 3 Star programs in our region. Thank you to all who participate. If you would like assistance in obtaining or increasing your star level, we are here to help. Often it is only a matter of the completion of paperwork. Just give us a call or email.



It's a success! The summer reading program, created by Georgiana Sullivan, Child Care Consultant, received high praise from each of the participating child care centers teachers. From STEM projects to developing creative and small and large motor skills, the children continued asking for more. Their excitement was evident as they gathered around her, ready for the new project, when she arrived. The program will extend into fall and spring. If you want to have your classroom participate, give Georgiana a call and she will gladly add you to the schedule.



Letting your Families Help You.



We all know that our children are our greatest asset and finding quality child care for them is one of the top goals a parent will have. Parents know what they want and their feedback can help to strengthen your program tremendously. Whether it is offering new ideas or identifying areas that may need improvement, a survey can provide valuable feedback. Below are two links to a sample family survey that you can download and adapt for your specific home or center.

https://www.oksharedservices.org/family_survey.aspx

https://www.oksharedservices.org/family_survey.aspx

Check out these links, as well as much more, with your Shared Services membership.

Do you have staff interested in taking college classes? Check out the [Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Program](#)

What Is the Scholars Program?

The Scholars Program awards scholarships to eligible child care professionals to complete coursework in the area of child development or early childhood education, as well as the Child Development Associate (CDA) and Certified Childcare Professional (CCP) Credential Assessment. These scholarships enable child care providers in Oklahoma to improve their skills through education, receive an educational stipend, and continue the availability of quality child care in local communities.

Mission Statement

The Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Program ensures that eligible child care professionals in the state of Oklahoma have an opportunity to attend a technology center or community college to further their education while earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, Certificate of Mastery, Director's Certificate of Completion, and/or an associate degree in child development or early childhood education.

Murray State College—Child Development Courses

Contact: Amy McCain, at 580-387-7411 amccain@mscok.edu or

Brittany Pagel, Scholar Coordinator at 866-343-3881 or 405-225-9395

Seminole State College — Child Development Courses

Contact Brittany Pagel, Scholar Coordinator at 866-343-3881 or 405-225-9395



Are you interested in getting a bachelors degree related to Early Childhood?

For information on our Family & Consumer Sciences (Early Care) program at East Central University, please visit www.ecok.edu/FCS or contact Ms. Jan Long at jmlong@ecok.edu or Ms. Darcy Tessman at dtessman@ecok.edu. You can also call them at 580-559-5743.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Most are FREE or have only a small registration fee.

You must pre-register for all training at www.okregistry.org. Please register early to prevent the class from being cancelled for low registration numbers. We have had to cancel several trainings because of lack of participation. Participants will be notified if the class is cancelled for any reason.

CECPD Professional Development Innovations Project (All Formal Training)

Trainer: Juanita Hall

Cost: Free

National Bullying Prevention Month (October)

Recognizing and Responding to Bullying (2 hrs)

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 6 pm to 8 pm

National Homeless Youth Awareness Month (November)

Homelessness and Young Children: Dealing with Trauma (hrs TBA)

Thursday, November 21, 2019 6 pm to TBA

Universal Human Rights Month (December)

Guidance Matters: Challenging Behaviors and the Role of the
Preschool Teacher (hrs TBA)

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 6 pm to TBA

Poverty in America Awareness Month (January)

Homelessness and Young Children: Education and Services (hrs
TBA)

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 6 pm to TBA

International Boost Self-Esteem Month (February)

Encouraging Peer Interactions in Preschool (hrs TBA)

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 6 pm to TBA

National Nutrition Month (March)

Cornerstones of Quality: Safety, Health, and Nutrition (hrs TBA)

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 6 pm to TBA

Math Awareness Month (April)

Math in the Preschool World (coming soon) (hrs TBA)

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 6 pm to TBA

Mental Health/Early Intervention Month (May)

Creating a Positive Social Emotional Climate in Infant/Toddler
Care Settings (hrs TBA)

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6 pm to TBA

National Safety Month (June)

Child Care Emergency Preparedness (hrs TBA)

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6 pm to TBA

ELG Training

Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers and Two's

(Event ID: TBA)

Saturdays, November 9 and 16, 2019 9 am to 4 pm

Must attend both Saturdays to receive credit.

Location: SC Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (located on the East Central University campus, Ada OK)

Trainer: Juanita Hall

Cost: \$20 per person, 14 Hours FORMAL Training

This course counts toward the STARS requirement for Early Learning Guidelines (ELG). See CECPD website for full description.

WE HAVE ADDITIONAL ELG TRAININGS SCHEDULED on February 22 & 29, 2020 and June 20 & 27, 2020. Watch the Registry for details.

Safe Sleep Training

Online Courses: Safe Sleep Environments for Child Care Providers

(Event ID: 248482) Register by October 15, 2019

(Event ID: 248483) Register by November 7, 2019

(Event ID: 248481) Register by December 12, 2019

Must pre-register at <https://ccs-ok-safesleep051619.eventbrite.com>.

Link may be found at www.okregistry.org

Trainer: Tammy Maus Cost: \$15 per person 2 Hours FORMAL Training

This training meets the Oklahoma Child Care Services-Licensing requirement for safe sleep training. See CECPD website for full description.

Other Formal Training

(See CECPD Registry for details.)

None scheduled at this time. Watch your email, our Facebook page or the CECPD Registry for late additions.

Self-Paced Web Based Training courses may be found at www.okregistry.org

Informal training may be obtained through webinars.
www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com

Care Courses has online courses that meet Oklahoma's training requirements.
www.carecourses.com

If you are in need of additional training, visit CECPD's website at <https://www.okregistry.org>

RESOURCE ROOM/LENDING LIBRARY

We have a new bulletin board kit to add to our list! We now have twelve available and more in the works. Do you have a theme in mind that we don't have? Tell us and we will do our best to create the kit. Remember these are all **FREE !!!!**

Need something laminated? The cost for this service is \$.50 per foot. Our laminating film is high quality and ensures your items are well protected.



We have over 200 die cut patterns available and plan to order more to add to the inventory soon. We will cut them and mail or hand deliver to you free of charge. Tell us what you need, how many you want, and what colors and we will get them to you.

Call us at 580-559-5768 or email parmstrong@ecok.edu to place an order. Need an updated list of offerings? Check out our website or we can email them to you.



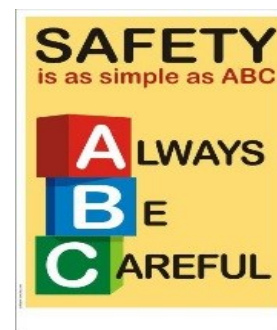
Outdoor Play-

- *NEVER leave children alone outdoors. Keep direct attention on the children at all times. Avoid the use of a cell phone, if possible.
- *Teach children to stay away from the street and to ask for help should a toy roll into it.
- *Keep the outdoor play area clean and clear of objects that could harm a child.
- *Fence play areas and be sure all gates and latches are secure.
- *Require children to use helmets when riding tricycles, bicycles, skates or other ride-on toys.
- *Inspect playground equipment for broken, worn or missing parts. Be sure it is anchored well.
- *Cover sandboxes when not in use.
- *Provide shaded areas for hot days.
- *Teach children to stay away from the front and back of swings and provide a soft surface around swings and other playground equipment.



Indoor Areas-

- *Be sure furniture is sturdy and cannot be pulled over. Keep rugs and mats secure on the floor.
- *Arrange the room where you can see all children at the same time. Furniture can be arranged to discourage running and rough play.
- *Use shelving, bins and containers to keep the floor clear of tripping hazards.
- *Do not have plants that could be poisonous to children.
- *Clean up spills immediately.
- *Keep electric cords hidden and not accessible. Cover all electrical outlets.



General Safety-

- *Teach children proper handwashing techniques. Workers should use these also.
- *Follow food guidelines in purchasing, preparing, serving and storing.
- *Have written parental consent to administer medications with specific details. Keep medicines locked up.
- *Have emergency numbers for all children at your fingertips.
- *If transporting children, be sure all car seats are correctly installed. Buckle all children appropriately according to age and size requirements. Be sure staff are current on OKDHS requirements in regards to transporting children under the age of six.
- *Be sure all providers are trained in First Aid. They should also know proper diapering and toiletry rules.
- *If pets are around children, be sure they are gentle and properly trained.