

ECU CCRR

The Official Newsletter of the South-Central Child Care Resource and Referral Program at East Central University

OKLAHOMA PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL READINESS

The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness was created in 2003 by House Bill 1094. Legislation formed the agency in an effort to support families and children from birth to five years old.

On June 1, 2022, the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Agency became part of Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness. This formed an even stronger source of support for child care providers throughout Oklahoma. It has been a positive move for ECU's South Central CCRR, and we now have even more resources and opportunities to serve our providers.

We are still the same Child Care Resource and Referral team and look forward to continuing to serve the south central providers in all ways possible.



**LEAH LYON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**GEORGIANNA SULLIVAN,
CHILD CARE COACH**

**ANGEL PATTERSON,
BUSINESS CONSULTANT**

**PAMLA ARMSTRONG,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

**LINSDAY CHRISTIAN,
CC COACH, INFANT TODDLER**

**BETHANY WALLING,
PROJECT SPECIALIST**



WORDS TO LIVE BY

*by Pat Montgomery, Clonlara School
Founder*

"Not enough can be said about the importance of play. It is the life's breath of learning."



ECU CCRR welcomes all new providers in our area!

We are so happy to serve you:

Alycia Napier, Allen, OK;
Amber Clark, Okemah, OK;
Immanuel Baptist Church, Davis, OK; and LCSJ Latta, Ada, OK.



ECU CCRR has so many fun FREE bulletin board kits available. To see all the kits offered, visit www.facebook.com/ECUCCRR/photos_albums/! If you want one made that is not offered, send your idea or photo to parmstrong@ecok.edu. We are always looking for inspiration and new designs!

REMEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Six Ideas for Family Child Care Providers

from the National Association for the Education of Young Children

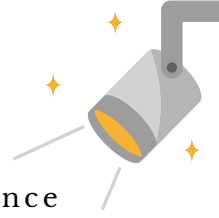
- **Regular Physical Exercise** - "I started doing yoga with a co worker after work. We worked in an infant toddler classroom, and at that time had a very challenging kiddo. That was over 12 years ago. Now I teach yoga, because it was so effective for me." - Amanda, Infant Specialist
- **Take time off** - "I take off two weeks per year." - Tara, Director
- **Connect with your spiritual side through meditation or prayer** - "I get up, take care of myself, listen to a sermon, and pray." - Tamara, Owner/Provider
- **Further your education** - "I always found taking training and reading in the field really reenergized me when I got in a rut, and it helped me do my job more easily and with greater confidence." Hazel, Consultant
- **Develop resilience** - "I have always personally 'forced myself' to put self-care at the top of my list, as we all know, we cannot give what we do not have!" - Maureen, Owner/Director
- **Add something new** - "I add new toys/centers, etc. or change up the room when I start feeling burnt out. It makes me excited again about my classroom." - Tara, Director

**SELF-CARE IS
EMPOWERMENT**





EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Lindsay Christian has been with ECU CCRR since November 2018, working with providers in the South Central region. Lindsay works specifically with infants, 1s, and 2s providers. She enjoys working with providers in relation to understanding child development, solutions for challenging behaviors, promoting language development, creating lesson/activity plans, promoting social-emotional development, and offering developmentally appropriate book and learning material ideas for the classroom.

Lindsay grew up in Ada, and attended Byng Schools. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood from OU in 2005 and with her Master's in School Counseling at ECU in 2021. Lindsay and her husband share four amazing children; two 14 year old boys, a 10 year old daughter, and 6 year old daughter.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Georgiana and Lindsay are here to help you apply for a new QRIS rating and to implement the Pyramid Model in your center or home.

They are available to help with a number of other topics including:

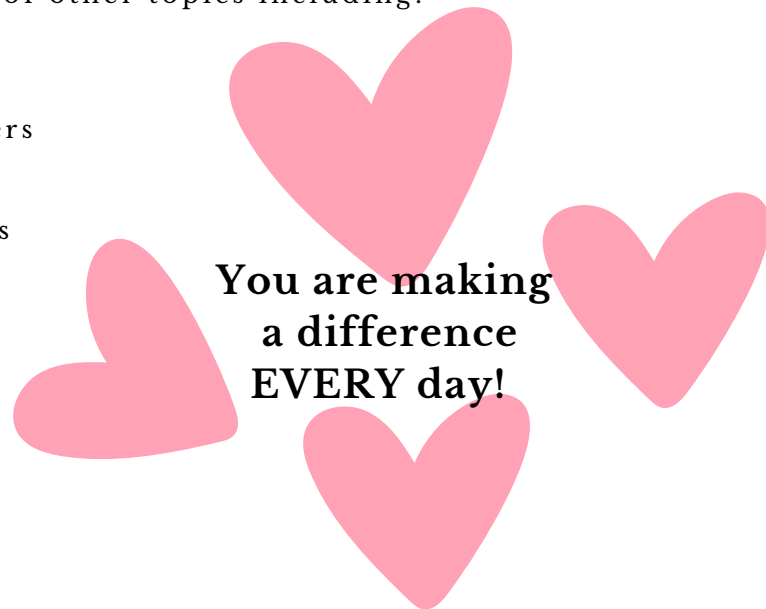
- classroom engagement
- parent engagement
- active supervision
- room arrangement and setting up centers
- on-site observations
- lesson/activity planning
- outdoor learning and physical activities
- new teacher training
- routines and scheduling
- nutrition
- transitions

They can also address issues such as:

- behavioral and guidance issues
- trauma
- social-emotional development
- language development
- brain development

Angel is here to assist the with the business side of your center or home daycare. She can assist by:

- Offering support aimed at improving quality to providers through coaching and professional development.
- Supporting providers in the creation of budgets and strategic cost modeling.
- TA with Brightwheel software to help support and strengthen child care programs. Any Provider can apply for Brightwheel by requesting a Business Consultant on the new QRIS application.



RESOURCE ROOM

For a full list of FREE bulletin board kits available and photos of each go to our Facebook page or our website at ecok.edu/current-students/student-services/centers-programs/child-care-resource-and-referral-agency. If we don't have a kit you want, send us a photo or topic and we will put a kit together for you.

We also have over 200 die cuts available and will be glad to cut and send to you or you are welcome to come cut them yourself. Let us know colors and number needed.

LENDING LIBRARY

We have several new items in our lending library inventory, including two light boards and resource materials for all ages to use with them. Along with the new items, we have 51 theme boxes and many activity boxes and general inventory items for indoor and outdoor play, STEM activities, social-emotional activities, sensory items, books, learning kits, music and rhythm activities, infant/toddler items, games, manipulatives, DVDs and CDs, training items and much more. Remember, we pick up and deliver!



Congrats to the contest winners this quarter! Remember to check the ECU CCRR Facebook page and your email for more opportunities to win!



Click on the pic above to make this fun Halloween craft with the kiddos!

LAMINATING

Laminating is FREE! You are welcome to come do it yourself or let us do it for you. You can email what you want laminated or drop it by to us.

CALL US TODAY!

Call us at 580-559-5303 or email parmstro@ecok.edu to place an order for any services from the Resource Room or the Lending Library. Our office hours are 8-5, M-F; however, call before stopping by as we are sometimes on the road. If you need a weekend appointment that can be arranged.

Don't forget to follow ECU CCRR on Facebook! Click below to be taken to our page.



*You just found the Easter Egg!
Send an email to
parmstrong@ecok.edu noting this
page and that you found the
Halloween Easter eggs to be entered
into a drawing to win a prize!
Deadline to enter is October 17th.*

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.

ELG Training
Two Self-Paced Web Based ELG trainings are being offered by CECPD. Both are fourteen hour courses and the cost is \$20 for each. One is for Infants, Toddlers and Twos and the other is for Children Ages 3-5. These will meet the Oklahoma Child Care Services licensing requirement. See the CECPD website for a full list of options and descriptions. The link to register may be found at www.okregistry.org.

Other Formal Training
We have no scheduled trainings at this time.

Watch your email, our Facebook page or the CECPD Registry for new additions. Self-Paced Web-Based Training may be found at www.okregistry.org.



ECU CCRR can personalize any clothing item for you classroom, center, or home daycare. Just provide the clothing item and design idea, and we can do the rest!

QUALITY RATING & IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM



Quality Care for Every Child!

THE STARS PROGRAM-Are you ready?

Implementation of the new QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) is over half way complete and we want to be sure you meet the deadline for application well ahead of the November 30, 2022, deadline. As of September 30, over 1500 requests for certification have been received statewide, which means many of you still have a bit of work to do.

Step 1 is completing the application process, but it doesn't end there. Step 2 is the certification process and we are here to help you complete it. The program incentives are fantastic and you don't want to miss out on those. There will be no exceptions to the November 30 deadline to receive the incentives so don't wait to start working your application and certification.

Call or email us now if you have questions or to request assistance. Our phone numbers are (580) 559-5768 (general office number), Lindsay (580) 559-5327, Georgiana (580) 559-5304, Angel (580) 552-5629 or Pamla (580) 559-5303. We are ready to help in any way needed.



QRIS STAFF

QRIS Stars Outreach Specialists are available to answer any questions you may have regarding Stars Criteria or to assist you in applying for Stars or increasing your Star level. As requirements change, providers will be notified via email by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

Amanda Rietz, Stars Outreach Specialist

E-mail: Amanda.Rietz@okdhs.org

Phone: (405) 837-9199

Beckham, Caddo, Cleveland, Comanche, Cotton, Garvin, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Lincoln, McClain, Murray, Stephens, Tillman, Washita, Oklahoma counties

Tiffany McPherson, Stars Outreach Specialist

E-mail: Tiffany.McPherson@okdhs.org

Phone: (918) 348-8518

Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Latimer, Leflore, Love, Marshall, McCurtain, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Seminole, Tulsa counties.

OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE GRANTS AVAILABLE

Several grants are available from the Oklahoma Human Services-Child Care Services department. If these are applicable or of interest to you, check the September 2022 edition of the DHS Child Care Services newsletter for details. The link to apply or to check the status of ANY grant is <https://bit.ly/okchildcaregrants> then hit “home” to be directed to the Grants Management page. Grants currently available are:

STABILIZATION GRANT-Cycle 6 estimated to open October 1, 2022. Note a 5% increase available in this cycle only, in addition to a double payout amount.

WORKFORCE SUPPORT GRANT-Cycle 2 estimated to open October 1, 2022. Payments to recipients of Cycle 1 are being processed now. Child care employees are only eligible for one \$1000 bonus. Checks will be mailed directly to the child care provider.

EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS GRANT-designed for providers who are looking to expand their service to be able to serve exceptional needs children. Open August 10, 2022, through July 2024 or until budgeted funds are depleted.

CHILD CARE DESERT GRANT-for new programs wishing to start a child care center or child care home business in designated desert areas OR for existing programs currently serving children that would like to expand their capacity in identified counties.



OKDHS will continue to fund the American Rescue Plan through June 2023. See the September 2022 DHS Child Care Services newsletter for details.



Click on the photo above for some yummy and healthy Halloween snack ideas the kiddos are sure to LOVE!

CONTACTS & RESOURCES

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

Locating Quality Child Care -
1 (800) 438-0008

Oklahoma DHS Child Care Services -
1 (800) 347-2276
www.okdhs.org/childcare

Oklahoma Professional Development Registry
www.okregistry.org

Child Care Services County Offices
Carter County - (580) 490-3600
Garvin County - (405) 238-6461
Johnston County - (580) 618-6256
Love County - (580) 490-3600
Marshall County - (580) 618-6256
McClain County - (405) 238-6461 or
(405) 248-8069
Murray County - (580) 618-6256
Pontotoc County - (580) 310-7050
Pottawatomie County - (405) 301-5874 or
(405) 962-8394
Okfuskee County - (918) 777-8029
Seminole County - (405) 214-4147

Office of Background Investigations
1 (800) 347-2276

Reaching for the Stars
Amanda Rietz
1 (800) 884-1582
Misti.Denton@okdhs.org
Tiffany McPherson
1 (800) 884-1582
Tiffany.Mcpherson@okdhs.org

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care
www.okhighered.org/scholars
Statewide contact - Bailey Maxey
1 (866) 343-3881 or (405) 225-9395
Murray St College—Heather McLean
(580) 387-7412
Seminole St College—Lynetta Robins
(405) 382-9751

Pathway to CDA -
Bailey Maxey - 1 (866) 343-3881

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



CALL CENTER

The Child Care Services call center for Stars application and grant support is open Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 p.m. The phone number is (405) 521-6177.

SCHOLARS PROGRAM



The Scholars program promotes scholar success by empowering scholars to take responsibility for achieving their academic and professional goals.

Scholar coordinators:

- Provide support services and technical assistance.
- Help scholars navigate through the entire process, from the application for the scholarship, admissions and financial aid to credential completion.
- Provide academic and career advisement to ensure scholars' success.
- Provide guidance in exploring scholars' credential options to ensure compatibility with educational and professional goals.

For more information or assistance, contact the scholar coordinator in your area:

- Carl Albert State College, Poteau, Idabel and Sallisaw, Verna Corley, 918.647.1252
- Connors State College, Muskogee, Bailey Maxey, 405.650.0090
- Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton, Bailey Maxey, 405.650.0090
- Murray State College, Tishomingo, Heather McLean, 580.387.7412
- Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami, Bailey Maxey, 405.650.0090
- Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa, Enid and Stillwater, Jayme Orgain, Scholar Coordinator, 405.762.9141, or Courtney Mikolajczyk, Scholarship Support Specialist, 405.372.2404
- Oklahoma City Community College, Quen Wilczek, qwilczek@osrhe.edu
- Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City, Jeff Rosson, 405.945.9168 or 800.560.4099
- Redlands Community College, El Reno, Karen Huett, 405.422.1286
- Rose State College, Midwest City, Jennifer Bachhofer, 405.733.7449
- Seminole State College, Seminole, Lynetta Robins, 405.382.9751
- Tulsa Community College, Tulsa, Melissa Caviness, Scholar Coordinator, 918.595.8024, or Cacey Cottom, Scholarship Support Specialist, 918.595.8280
- Western Oklahoma State College, Altus, Alejandra Tillman, 580.477.7892
- Career Technology Centers (Pathway), Bailey Maxey, 405.650.0090

WARMLINE

The Warmline for Oklahoma Child Care Providers offers free telephone consultation to child care providers on numerous topics of concern. Consultants refer providers to appropriate services and resources within their communities.

A consultant can help clarify a problem, provide information, help generate ideas and solutions, offer guidance on developmentally appropriate practices, provide referrals to meet individual needs and requests, direct providers to relevant resources to assist with a concern, and provide follow-up when needed.

Call: 1 (888) 574-5437

Email your questions to: warmline@health.ok.gov

Go online: <http://warmline.health.ok.gov/>



CECPD STIPEND PROGRAM

Oklahoma Registry Certificate of Achievement and Stipend Program

The Certificate of Achievement & Stipend Program is funded by Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services and is designed for providers who work in licensed child care facilities. The Stipend Program is a collaborative effort to validate the achievement and expertise of providers and serve as a symbol of their professional accomplishment.

The specific goals of this program are:

- Recognize and reward the specialized professional development of child care providers
- Encourage Teachers, Directors, and Family Child Care Homes to obtain additional focused, formal professional development to improve the quality of care for children.
- Increase overall positive outcomes experienced by children in child care.

We are currently offering SEVEN different Areas of Concentration for the Certificate of Achievement and Stipend Program!

Infant Toddler Preschool School Age Quality Child Care
Childhood Resiliency Better Business in Family Child Care
Healthy Children in Child Care



REGISTER FOR SHARED SERVICES

If you have not done so already, please register for [OK Shared Services](#)! The resources are invaluable.

About Shared Services: The Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association and The Oklahoma Department of Human Services Child Care Services partner to provide the OK Shared Services knowledge hub to early care and education professionals across the state.

Shared Services provides the right tools at your fingertips. From classroom management, and nutrition to policy templates and compliance guidance, Shared Services has all the resources need to make your child care center or home day care a success! Register today by visiting:
<https://www.oksharedservices.org/utility-pages/register/>.



FIVE-YEAR FINGERPRINT REASSESSMENT

On September 1, 2022, IDEMIA increased their rates, due to the rising cost to provide fingerprinting services.

Effective November 1, 2022, five year background check reassessments will be required and are due from the date of the last completed background check for all current employees. Use this link for more information regarding the due date for Child Care and Head Start programs: <https://adobe.ly/3LkbSZU> To help with the cost of reassessments, the cycle 6 Stabilization grant payment will be increased by 5%!

THE FIVE YEAR REASSESSMENT IS A TWO-STEP PROCESS

Select the following options:

- 1) The employee must submit a new set of fingerprints using the appropriate fingerprint reason code listed above. Register for fingerprinting at www.identogo.com.
- 2) An online five year reassessment background check request must be submitted to OBI.

Submit the request at <https://bidspublic.okdhs.org/>.

Request Category:

- a. Child Care Fingerprint Based
- b. Request Type: Child Care Five Year Reassessment
- c. Reason: Child Care Five Year Reassessment



DIY costumes are all the rage! Click on the photo to the left for a great list of costumes even the most limited DIYer can pull together!