



Caring and Sharing
 A publication of the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency
 East Central University – Ada, Oklahoma
Summer 2020 Edition

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



What are some of our most precious resources in a child care facility? Yep, its our **teachers**. And for our **home care providers and directors**, that includes you!



We all recognize that we could not make it without dedicated staff who show up every day ready to make a child’s life brighter and easier. But what keeps them going? Sometimes it’s the simple things. One of my favorite motto is “little things do make a big difference”.

Like children, adults need some down time too. We all reach our breaking point from time to time and need to recognize the signs for when someone needs to step away. Difficulty concentrating, irritability, fatigue and sadness all could be an indication that a break is needed.

Don’t you feel good when someone pays you a compliment? We all do. It is so easy to show someone how much they are appreciated. A smile, compliment or friendly hello can be a positive start to the day. Recognition lets us know we are valued. Posting teacher’s photos and bio information near an entrance. Honoring someone for length of service, special credentials, or significant accomplishments let’s others, including parents, see the dedication that staff puts forth for the children.

As humans, we are a community based society. Create that community or family within your facility by bringing everyone together occasionally. A pot luck dinner or adult field trip my be just the ticket to helping bonds grow with each other. Kinships give us all someone to talk to after a stressful day, when we need new ideas or feedback on handling a situation or just a needed support system. Home care providers might want to consider planning a fun event with other providers in your area. What better way to share ideas, compare common issues and create a bond with others.



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Oklahoma Child Care
 RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



OKLAHOMA
 Human Services

Contacts and Resources

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) 490-3659
Garvin Co. (405) 238-6461
Johnston Co. (580) 622-2186
Love Co. (580) 490-3659

Marshall Co. (580) 622-2186
McClain Co. (405) 238-6461
Murray Co. (580) 622-2186
Pontotoc Co. (580) 310-7071

Locating Quality Child Care
1-800-438-0008

Office of Background Investigations
1-800-347-2276

OK DHS Child Care Services
1-844-834-8314

Reaching for the Stars
Misti Denton-Serving counties East of I-35
1-800-225-9868 Misti.Denton@okdhs.org
Tiffany McPherson-Serving counties West of I-35
1-800-884-1582 Tiffany.Mcpherson@okdhs.org

Pottawatomie Co. (405) 912-2068
Okfuskee Co. (918) 752-2078
Seminole Co. (405) 214-4147

RESOURCE ROOM/LENDING LIBRARY

We are still at it! We have added four more [bulletin board kits](#) to the list and have plans to make more. However, if you would like one designed for a special occasion or have an idea for one you would like, just let us know. We will do our best to replicate it. We get lots of ideas from Pinterest and can re-create most. [Die cuts](#) are also popular, being used in room displays and art projects. We have over 200 shapes available, in 4 inch, 10 inch and minis. We have the letters of the alphabet in both capital and lower case, numbers and have now added a few words to the list. (see the photos below) Tell us what you need, how many and what colors and we will cut them for you. Best of all, **we will mail or deliver to you free of charge!**

As you can see below, we have a **Happy Birthday** board and a **Welcome** board. We chose a few shapes we liked for them but there are so many to choose from we had a hard time deciding. Tell us what you want and we will include them. Our **Meet the Crew** board is great for any time of the year, as is our **We Are All a Different Shade of the Same Color**. All can be customized with names so let us know how many children you have so we can send enough.

Have you thought about checking some things out of our lending library? Summer is a great time to do that, as we have lots of [outdoor activities](#). Kids love to try new things and you can borrow from us to present a new topic, try out something before you buy it or just offer something new for awhile. And, yes, we deliver these also. We are updating our lists and creating some new [activity sets](#) where you can borrow a group of related activities. One delivered last week was for a “game day” for outside. It consisted of a parachute, yard dice, an egg and spoon game, an obstacle course, and hula hoops. We have [music activities](#), consisting of such items as rhythm sticks, drums, a tambourine, and rain sticks. Need [STEM activities](#)? We have those too! Again, just let us know what you would like to check out and we will get it to you. We have lots of other items, including [books, CDs, DVDs, and cassettes](#) for both children and training providers, and [theme boxes](#).

We can do laminating for \$.50 per foot. Our film is high quality and ensures your items are well protected. We can laminate items you email for us to print, bring or mail to us.

Call us at [1 800-862-5593](tel:18008625593), ext 873 or [580-559-5768](tel:5805595768) or email parmstrong@ecok.edu to place an order for any of the services above. If you need an updated list of offerings, we can email the lists to you. Our office hours are 8-5, M-F, however, we are sometimes all involved in off-site travel. Please call ahead to be sure we are open. If no answer, leave a message and we will return your call upon our return.



**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, suggestions and demonstrations 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 and teachers 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.



At last count Oklahoma had nearly 900 registrants for membership with OK Shared Services! What is Shared Services? This program provides assistance to all Oklahoma child care providers in a variety of ways. Not only does it provide lesson plans and other valuable teaching aides but your membership can benefit with cost savings, medical and insurance benefits, tele-med access, classroom assessment tools, form templates, help with job descriptions and training, communication skill development tools, employee benefits and more. (The ECU CCRR staff regularly uses OK Shared Services when ordering materials through Lakeshore and Discount School Supplies. The savings allow us to purchase even more items for our Lending Library and Resource Room.)

A monthly newsletter provides up-to-date information on a large variety of topics relevant to child care. These topics may include safety, dealing with trauma (very relevant during these times), interaction with parents, and much more.

The OK Shared Services program began 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 service is second to none. If you as a center, or individual teacher, haven't signed up, do so now. (Directors, please share this program with all of your teachers and workers. They are all eligible for membership.)

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.

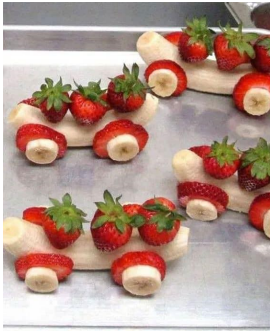
Information provided by Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association, Inc.



Check out these posts and more added daily on the **ECU Child Care Resource and Referral Facebook**

Page

STRAWBERRY BANANA CARS-SO COOL!



Crafty Morning
(Source Unknown)



Make Sunday supper on the grill with these affordable recipes!

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/collection/cheap-grilling-ideas/>



TASTEOFHOM.COM
55 CHEAP GRILLING IDEAS YOU NEED TO TRY BEFORE SUMMER ENDS



Crafting With Things in the Kitchen

What a cute craft to go with a great book - **Rainbow Fish!**



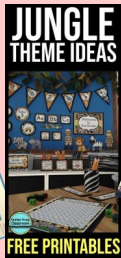
Kids art, craft and activity ideas- Messy Little Monster

Rainbow Fish—made using cupcake liners and a paper plate!

<https://www.messylittlemonster.com/2020/06/rainbow-fish-paper-plate-craft.html>



Are you looking for new ideas? Do you need activities for older kids this summer? Georgiana has been busy posting these and lots more on **Pinterest**. They are easy to look up and saves you time to plan without having to do the search. Click on this link to follow our **ECU Child Care Resource and Referral Pinterest page** <https://www.pinterest.com/cresource/>. New pins added daily. And remember, we have **MANY** of the items shown in our Lending Library and Resource Room.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO MR. DAN SMITH OF **HOME MAID BETTER**, OKLAHOMA CITY, FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION OF 275 GALLONS OF DISINFECTANT SOLUTION FOR OKLAHOMA'S CHILD CARE PROVIDERS. HE, AS WELL AS OCCRRA, APPRECIATE YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE CHILDREN.



REALIZING THAT CLEANING SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO FIND, HE WANTED TO TAKE A LITTLE OF THE BURDEN OFF DURING DIFFICULT DAYS.

PAMLA, GEORGIANA AND LINDSAY DELIVERED MORE THAN 30 GALLONS OF THE DISINFECTANT TO THE 62 PROVIDERS IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION WHO INDICATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN RECEIVING THE DONATED PRODUCT.

THANK YOU MR. SMITH!!!!



JULY –SEPTEMBER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Most are FREE or have only a small registration fee.

DUE TO COVID-19, NEW ON-SITE TRAININGS HAVE NOT BEEN SCHEDULED. CEDPD CONTINUES TO DEVELOP TRAININGS TO BE READY WHEN THESE CAN BE SAFELY DELIVERED. WATCH YOUR EMAIL, OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR THE CECPD REGISTRY FOR INFORMATION AS IT IS RELEASED.

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.

Safe Sleep Training

Several Self-Paced Web Based courses are available to meet the Oklahoma Child Care Services-Licensing requirement for safe sleep training. See CECPD website for a full list of options and descriptions. The link to register may be found at www.okregistry.org

ELG Training

None scheduled at this time.

Other Formal Training

None scheduled at this time.

Watch your email, our Facebook page or the CECPD Registry for new 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

FINGERPRINTING AVAILABLE in ADA

Rolling Hills Hospital has now opened a full-time fingerprinting site in Ada. The Office for Background Investigations has recognized Rolling Hills as an approved site. To schedule an appointment at Rolling Hills, the applicant must register on-line at www.identoGo.com. Prepayment is preferred. No cash accepted.

For instructions on how to get an applicant enrolled in the mobile unit, send an email to OBICC@okdhs.org asking for instructions on how to do so.

Oklahoma Right Start Infant/Toddler Project

Do you want to improve quality?

The Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, will begin making modifications to the Oklahoma Right Start Infant/Toddler Project, effective July 1, 2020. All Infant/Toddler Specialists are currently receiving extensive training to be ready when the July session begins. Those currently participating in the program will continue to be served as their program is completed.

Lindsay Christian, our Infant/Toddler Specialist, will provide updated information concerning the program as soon as she is trained. Regardless of the platform used, we remain committed to helping improve your infant toddler care at no cost. Stay tuned for more details.

Do you have staff interested in taking college classes and earning money while doing so? Check out the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care program offered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

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 Child-care 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.

Stipends Available

Stipends are available through the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Program, valued from \$800-\$122, for eligible scholars as they earn one or more credentials. Credentials can be earned toward CDA, CCP, CoM, SACoC, DCoC, DCoM, an Associate Degree or a Bachelor's Degree.

For more information about career tech, other community colleges and assessment scholarships, visit our website at [www/okhighered.org/scholars](http://www.okhighered.org/scholars) or call your local Campus Connection listed below or contact

[Brittany Pagel, OSRHE Scholars Program Coordinator, at 866-343-3881 or 405-225-9395 bpagel@osrhe.edu](mailto:bpagel@osrhe.edu)

Murray State College—Child Development Courses

[Contact: Gabby Cook, Scholar Coordinator, at 580-387-7412 gacook@mscok.edu or](mailto:gacook@mscok.edu)

Seminole State College — Child Development Courses

[Contact: Lauren Anderson, Scholar Coordinator, at 405-382-9751 l.anderson@sscok.edu](mailto:l.anderson@sscok.edu)

Programs available at Carl Albert State College, Connors State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Murray State College, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Northern Oklahoma College, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma State University-OKC, Redlands Community College, Rose State College, Seminole State College, Tulsa Community College, and Western Oklahoma State College

On March 11, 2020 the Novel Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. On March 13, 2020 a national emergency was declared in the United States concerning the COVID-19 Outbreak. Since that time regulations, mandates, declarations and updates have been issued almost daily, if not weekly. Child care was declared an essential business critical to keeping the United States functioning in uncertain times.

We all looked to the *Oklahoma Department of Human Services* for guidance on various options including safety regulations, reporting issues, finances, subsidies, and guidelines for staying open and reopening. The well-being of staff and the children in your care is a primary concern, therefore strict guidelines on reopening were issued June 17, 2020.

Although many child care homes and facilities were able to remain open, guidelines regarding reopening are applicable. Below is a link to the most recent OK DHS flyer which details issues related to COVID-19. If you need assistance as you find your "new normal" please contact us at 1-800-862-5593 or 580-559-5768 or email Georgiana at gsullivan@ecok.edu.

<file:///C:/Users/parmstro.ECU/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/98D51J6H/child-care-provider-reopening-6-17-20.pdf>

OKLAHOMA REGISTRY
Certificate of Achievement Stipend Program

AN UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR AT CEDPD:



Greetings Friends,

Beginning August 1, 2020, there will be significant changes to the Certificate of Achievement and Stipend Program. Please read the following information carefully.

1. Training hours will remain at 30 hours (rather than 40 hours) indefinitely.
2. You can now receive two (2) stipends in a one-year period (not calendar year).
3. Participants no longer need to have their director complete the employment verification form.
4. In lieu of the employment verification form, participants must send a copy of a current pay-stub.
5. There is no longer a child care subsidy requirement to participate in the program.
6. Participants will print their own Certificates of Achievement. You will receive an email when your certificate is awarded. The email will inform you of the area of concentration that was awarded and give you instructions on how to print the certificate.

Should you have any questions, please contact CECPD.

Warmest regards,
Susan J. Kimmel, Ph.d.

The University of Oklahoma
Executive Director
Center for Early Childhood Professional Development

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Follow this link to find out what the stipend program is if you have not participated in it before.

<https://www.cecpd.org/en/provider-programs/oklahoma-registry-certificate-of-achievement-and-stipend-program/>

This link is an FAQ which addresses the program and the new changes.

<https://www.cecpd.org/media/2020/06/30/Stipend%20Change%20FAQs%20Effective%208-1-2020.pdf>

CHILD CARE 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: WARMLINE@HEALTH.OK.GOV

GO ONLINE: [HTTP://WARMLINE.HEALTH.OK.GOV/](http://WARMLINE.HEALTH.OK.GOV/)

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Talk with someone as to why they became a teacher. Find out what their goals are. Reconnect to intention. Reflection helps us all find meaning in our work. Home care providers, you need this also. We need to be remember just how *special* we are.

An Employee Handbook, complete with clearly written policies, is a must. Like children, consistency and fairness is the key to avoiding conflict among people who work together.

Whether it be a new concept or idea, an addition of resources or change in policy, include those folks it affects in the process. Good communication is a key component to creating a positive environment. And when you and your teachers are happy, the children will follow the lead.



And speaking of resources, if possible, provide new ones occasionally. Additional learning tools in the classroom, access to training (maybe on the teachers work time) or upgrading a classroom are all well earned rewards for being a valued part of an organization.



OK, here's the biggie and this applies to directors and home care providers as well as teachers. TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF!!! Create a daily self-care routine, such as a daily walk, healthy eating or personal care. Take time out to find a quiet corner. Engage socially with colleagues and friends. Participate in hobbies such as reading, sewing, or cooking. These

are not luxuries; they are essential components to reward a job well done. And you ALL do a great job and are appreciated more than you will ever know.



Fun Days Ahead in 2020

July

- 13-French Fries Day
- 14-Shark Awareness Day
- 15-Gummi Worm Day
- 19-Ice Cream Day
- 20-Moon Day
- 22-Hot Dog Day
- 26-Parents,
- 26-Aunt & Uncle Day
- 29-Int'l Tiger Day
- 29-Rain Day

August

- 2-Sisters Day
- 3-Watermelon Day
- 10-World Lion Day
- 11-Play in the Sand Day
- 12-World Elephant Day
- 25-Banana Split Day
- 26-Dog Day
- 27-Burger Day
- 28-Bow Tie Day
- 30-Trail Mix Day

September

- 6-Read a Book Day
- 9-Teddy Bear Day
- 9-Quiet Day
- 11-Make Your Bed Day
- 15-Int'l Red Panda Day
- 16-Play Doh Day
- 18-Tradesman Day
- 18-Cheeseburger Day
- 20 Pepperoni Pizza Day
- 29-Heart Day