



Caring and Sharing

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

Spring 2020 Edition

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



A child's life is like
a piece of paper
on which every person
leaves a mark.



When I began putting this newsletter together three weeks ago, I could never have imagined what our country, in fact the whole world, would be facing today. Times are uncertain but what we are now realizing is that we, as part of a great nation, are there for each other. When a need arises, we all step up to help in whatever way we can.

The ECU Child Care Resource & Referral staff take our hats off and offer our thanks to all those heroes out there that are going above and beyond to help America heal. Whether it be physically, emotionally, or financially, our nation will come together with our gifts and talents to support each other through this crisis.

Heroes are found everywhere throughout our communities. Our health care workers and first responders are giving everything they have to help those who have become ill. Truckers are on the roads day and night to assure that we have food, medicines and other items needed to sustain us. Employees in the stores are working tirelessly to restock and assist those in need of supplies. Churches, volunteers and teachers, are developing creative methods of helping others. To try to make a complete list of heroes would be futile, as there are too many to mention.

However, the ones we want to recognize today are **YOU**, our child care providers. You have provided, and will continue to provide, a safe and loving environment for our young children. Many of you have had to temporarily close your doors, while others are adapting to new and more stringent requirements. Whichever the case, we know you are moving forward to prepare for the days to come.

We don't know what the future holds or how long it will be before things get back to normal. I suspect it will be a "new normal", as our world will be forever changed. We, the CCRR staff, want to say a huge thank you to each of you for sharing your talents and opening your hearts to make differences in the lives of the little ones. Whether it be during this crisis or after it is behind us, we want you to know we are available to assist in any way we can. Please remember we are here for you.

We hope you will share this newsletter with all your teachers. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Georgiana, Lindsay and Pamla

As you know, regulations, laws and requirements concerning COVID-19 are changing as quickly as we are notified of them. The Oklahoma State Department of Human Services is working tirelessly to notify us so that we, in turn, can notify you. Email is the fastest way for us to do this. Therefore, if you are receiving this newsletter via mail, but now have an email address, please notify us immediately so that we can update our files in order to get information to you in a more timely manner. My email is parmstrong@ecok.edu. You can also find up-to-date information from your licensing specialist or on the OSDH website at CORONAVIRUS.HEALTH.OK.GOV.

Stay safe and healthy!



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

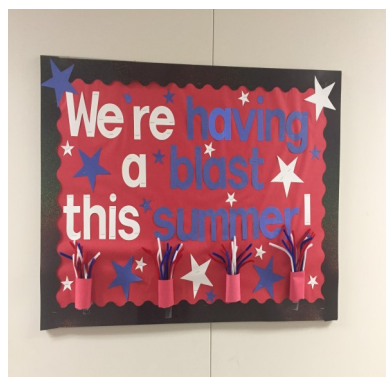
Free, Free, Free!!!! What is? Our die cuts and bulletin board kits. We are continually adding more kits to the list of those available and have even custom made some for folks with a specific need and idea. Jenni has stayed busy creating and putting together kits for many of our providers. Die cuts are also popular, being used in room displays and art projects. We have over 200 shapes available. 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!**

Before we know it the summer months will be here and a few of our seasonal bulletin boards are *America the Beautiful (for the 4th of July)*, *We're Having a Blast This Summer* and *Our Class is in Full Bloom*. *A Star is Born* can be used anytime. If you are interested in receiving kits or die cuts, let us know and we will prepare them for you. (If you order *Our Class is in Full Bloom*, please let us know the number of flowers, birds, and butterflies you need for your class.) Do you have a theme in mind that we don't have? Tell us and we will do our best to create the kit.

We do laminating for \$.50 per foot. Our film is high quality and ensures your items are well protected.

Don't forget our Lending Library. We have books, DVDs, CDs and cassettes for children and training, as well as, theme boxes, STEM activities, games and other fun items the kids will love. These can be borrowed free of charge at any time. If we are coming your way we will deliver those also.

Call us at 1 800-862-5593, ext 873 or 580-559-5768 or email parmstrong@eok.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 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



OK Shared Services provides assistance to all Oklahoma Child Care Providers in ways you may not think about. Not only does it provide lesson plans and other teaching aides but they can help you with cost savings, medical and insurance benefits, classroom assessment tools, form templates, help with job descriptions and training, communication skill development tools, employee benefits and more. *(The ECU CCRR staff regularly use 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.)*

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.



Reaching for the Stars

Congratulations to the following providers for increasing her Star rating during the first quarter of 2020!

Natosha Shelton 1 to 2

Remember, Star ratings do make an impact. 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.



Welcome New Providers!

Introducing four new providers joining the South Central region. Welcome!

Little Stars Child Development Center, LLC, Ada

The Coop Academy, Stratford

Journey's Daycare, Ardmore

Krystal McKee, Pauls Valley



MAKING READING AND CRAFTING FUN

The Very Hungry Caterpillar is the perfect book to read in spring! Here is a list of great crafts to make the book come alive for the kiddos!

Follow us on Facebook at ECU Child Care Resource and Referral for this and more great resources, tools and ideas.



This craft by: [PLAYIDEAS.COM](http://www.playideas.com)

Tutorial:

http://www.playideas.com/25-hungry-caterpillar-crafts-preschoolers/?fbclid=IwAR2N-AxRzxD9fS2M2A6-EptFhXUw6He-IOvAE6nLFEhG4NokuDEcT_Kux8rg



Training is a huge success!

ECU CCRR was host to 75 participants attending a training workshop, Dedication is not "Dead"ication. Presented by well known authors and consultants, Dr. Jane Humphries and Kari Rains, participants received information and ideas for rejuvenating and strengthening their caregiving skills. Examples of current day child care issues gave providers insight on dealing with children in various situations. Attendees also participated in interactive training methods while enjoying a variety of activities. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness and ECU CCRR, participants were treated to training not often available. We thank those of you who were able to attend and make this workshop a huge success. Hopefully, we will be able to offer more like this in the near future.



APRIL-JUNE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Most are FREE or have only a small registration fee.

CECPD Professional Development Innovations Project (All Formal Training)

Trainer: TBD Cost: Free

World Health Day (April 7)

Let's Get Physical: Movement and
The Young Child

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 6-9 pm

Mental Health/Early Intervention Month (May)

Building Positive Relationships in
The School-Age Classroom

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6-9 pm

National Safety Month (June)

Positive Guidance: Helping Children
Learn Self-Discipline

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6-9 pm

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

Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers and Two's
(Event ID: 254525)

Saturdays, June 20 and 27, 2020 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: TBD

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.

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

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>

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 Specialist 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 - \$1200, 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](mailto:gacook@mscok.edu) or

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

FINGERPRINTING NOW 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.