

# ECU CCRR

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



**OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE  
RESOURCE & REFERRAL**

*ECU CCRR staff with Ada Mayor Randy McFarlin announcing the Week of the Young Child proclamation in April.*

**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 anonymous*

“Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write, and count. Childhood is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace which is right for each individual child.”



ECU CCRR welcomes all new providers in our area! We are so happy to serve you: Kayli Richardson; M&M Home Childcare; Chey's Child Care; Brittan Gann; Jill Smith Child Care: Little Friends Home; and Crossroads Youth and Family Services, Inc. Seminole Head Start.



ECU CCRR staff attended Invest N' Kids Day (INK) Day at the Oklahoma Capitol on April 6th to advocate for early childhood education! Advocates and child care professionals from around the state gathered to voice how important a quality early childhood education is to Oklahoma's young children and to the Oklahoma economy.

## TRAINING DAY

The South Central Child Care Resource and Referral staff hosted a training/QRIS Q&A event on the East Central University campus in Ada. The event, funded by Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness, was a Regional Reconnect opportunity for providers. Dr. Regina Robertson provided a three-hour formal training entitled It Takes a Team. Her interactive presentation was a hit with the 37 providers, four DHS Licensing personnel and four SC CCRR staff who attended. The training touched on a variety of topics including communication, personality types, working with children and parents with disabilities, and teamwork.

Upon arrival, attendees received a number of resource materials, including a visual schedule chart, a tote bag containing items to be used in the classroom, and either a stress ball or fidget pop-it used for the give-away portion of the event. Throughout the day, drawings for door prizes were done and every person attending went home with over \$200 worth of resource materials. After lunch, the grand prize drawings took place then participants were offered the opportunity to speak with licensing personnel. Seven complete learning centers were given to be used in the classroom, including one for Art, Blocks, Literacy, Science, Multi-Cultural, Infant, and Crafts. The kits were valued between \$300 and \$500 each.

Evaluations for the event were excellent and providers commented on how much they appreciated being given the opportunity to receive quality, free training, getting to interact with one another in person, the chance to visit with licensing professionals, as well as to be provided breakfast, lunch, and wonderful resources.

See photos of the event on the following page.







## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Georgiana Sullivan has been with ECU CCRR since February 2017, working with providers in this region. She has completed formal and informal training but her main focus is in-person technical assistance - assisting with room and center arrangement, behavior issues, lesson plans, and schedules as well as providing additional resources needed.

Georgiana has lived in Ada 47 years and attended Ada schools and Byng High School. She graduated from ECU with a bachelor's and master's degree. Georgiana has been married for 25 years and has 3 daughters, ages 23, 21, and 11.

## 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](http://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!



**GLITTER SEA SHELL**  
*Picture Frame*  
onelittleproject.com

Click on the pic above to make this fun summer 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](mailto: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.



*ECU CCRR's Facebook page is full of fun crafts and recipes.*

*Click on the pic to make this fun snack for the kiddos!*



## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Most are FREE or have only a small registration fee.

You must pre-register for all training at [www.okregistry.org](http://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

Our Infant Toddler Child Care Coach, Lindsay Christian, and Child Care Coach, Georgiana Sullivan, are certified Safe Sleep trainers and would be happy to come to your facility or a facility near you to provide this formal training. Contact either of them if you are interested. Also, several Self-Paced Web Based courses are available to meet the Oklahoma Child Care Services-Licensing requirement for safe sleep training. See the CECPD website for a full list of options and descriptions. The link to register may be found at [www.okregistry.org](http://www.okregistry.org).

### 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](http://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](http://www.okregistry.org).

# QUALITY RATING & IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM



**Quality Care for Every Child!**

The relaunch time has come for Oklahoma's Quality Rating and Improvement System and we are excited! This is a very exciting time for our child care professionals and Oklahoma's children. Below are some reminders as we transition to the new system:

- Level 1+ is being removed and levels 4 and 5 are being added.
- In general, the old Star levels are moving up to the next level using a blend of old criteria and some new criteria.
- Programs have 2 options when applying:
  - Online application - This option requires completion of the online application verifying the program meet the Star level they are applying for. When choosing this option, programs complete the online application and submit required documentation to verify required criteria are being met.
  - Transitional application - This option allows programs to opt out of the complete application process. If this option is selected, effective 1-1-23 programs' Star level will be automatically transitioned to the next level up from their current Star level (i.e. 1+ transitions to 2, 2 transitions to 3, 3 transitions to 4). Programs choosing the Transitional Application will not be eligible for the incentives.

To select this option programs will email [QRIS@okdhs.org](mailto:QRIS@okdhs.org) with subject line "Transitional Application" and license number. They will indicate in the email that they are requesting a transitional application and their current Star level.

- The online application process will begin on June 1, 2022. Programs will have six months to complete their applications which must be submitted before Nov. 30, 2022. During this time, programs will continue to operate and receive subsidy reimbursement at their existing Star level.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, all new Star levels will become effective.
- There are amazing incentives that will be issued during this reapplication timeframe. In order to receive all the incentives, programs must apply and submit a complete request for certification by 11/30/2022.
- Helpful resources are available for every section of QRIS criteria at [www.cecpd.org](http://www.cecpd.org) under the Resources tab.
- Child care coaches are available to programs who receive a preliminary Star level of 1-3. Programs may request to work with an OKDHS and Oklahoma Resource and Referral child care coach to assist with creating individualized goals and action plans to improve quality to reach higher Star levels.

If you have questions or assistance is needed, please contact your Licensing Specialist, the Call Center (405-521-6177), a Stars Outreach Specialist, or a Coach. We would be happy to help, as we want this to be successful for everyone!



# QRIS STAFF

## Quality Care for Every Child!

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.

**Misti Denton, Stars Outreach Specialist – East**

**E-mail: [Misti.Denton@okdhs.org](mailto:Misti.Denton@okdhs.org)**

**Phone: (918) 344-4368**

**Fax: (918) 207-4632**

Adair, Atoka, Bryan, Cherokee, Choctaw, Coal, Craig, Creek, Delaware, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Kay, Latimer, Leflore, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mayes, McCurtain, McIntosh, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Payne, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Rogers, Seminole, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington counties

**Tiffany McPherson, Stars Outreach Specialist – West**

**E-mail: [Tiffany.McPherson@okdhs.org](mailto:Tiffany.McPherson@okdhs.org)**

**Phone: (918) 348-8515**

**Fax: (918) 752-2090**

Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cimarron, Cleveland, Comanche, Cotton, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Garvin, Grady, Grant, Greer, Harmon, Harper, Jackson, Jefferson, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Love, Major, McClain, Murray, Oklahoma, Roger Mills, Stephens, Texas, Tillman, Washita, Woods, and Woodward counties.

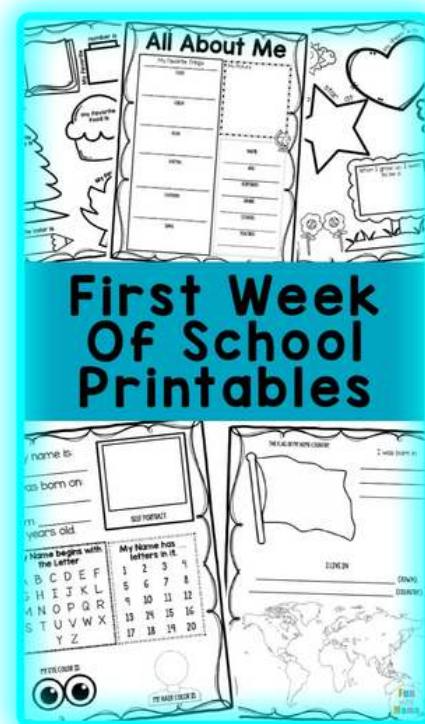
## QRIS CHANGES

Major Changes will include and address:

- Five level system
- Alternate pathway to national accreditation
- Continuity of care
- Master teacher graduated ratio
- Staff retention • QRIS Orientation training
- Curriculum and lesson planning
- Transitions
- Family partnership
- Professional development

Provider supports:

- Online application
- Financial incentives
- Coaching services
- Training videos
- ECE business training and assistance



Back to school is just around the corner! Here is a great resource with lots of FREE printables to celebrate the kiddos return.



# CONTACTS & RESOURCES

Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD)  
1 (888) 446-7608 [www.cecpd.org](http://www.cecpd.org)

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

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

Oklahoma Professional Development Registry  
[www.okregistry.org](http://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  
Misti Denton (serving counties east of I-35)  
1 (800) 884-1582  
[Misti.Denton@okdhs.org](mailto:Misti.Denton@okdhs.org)  
Tiffany McPherson (serving counties west of I-35)  
1 (800) 884-1582  
[Tiffany.Mcpherson@okdhs.org](mailto:Tiffany.Mcpherson@okdhs.org)

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care  
[www.okhighered.org/scholars](http://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 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, Bailey Maxey, 405.650.0090
- 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, Bailey Maxey, 405.650.0090
- 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](mailto:warmline@health.ok.gov)

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



# CECPD STIPEND PROGRAM

The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD) Oklahoma Registry Certificate of Achievement and Stipend Program awards \$600 to individuals who qualify when they meet professional development in specific areas of concentration.

Be on the lookout after the first of the year for two additional stipend opportunities to be included. These will include Business Practices for Family Child Care Homes and Physical Activity and Nutrition.

Currently there are five targeted areas of PD for achieving this award:

- Childhood Resiliency
- Infant/Toddler
- Pre-School
- School-Age
- Quality Child Care



To learn more about this program and to see if you qualify visit:  
<https://bit.ly/CECPDStipendOpportunity>



## FILL YOUR OPEN POSITIONS THRU SHARED SERVICES

If you have not done so already, please register for [OK Shared Services](#) so you can start posting your open positions!

- The May and June CCS Newsletters will have additional information.
- Child care services will promote and advertise the child care profession through public service announcements and social media campaigns.

If you have already registered for Shared Services, you can register for the OK Early Care & Learning Jobs platform and start posting your open positions today! All job openings will automatically be posted to eight major job boards.





## A Message from the Office of Background Investigations (OBI)

### Individual Notices:

- OBI is updating our systems.
- Due to these updates, QE's with CHRRP Portal access may now find Individual Notifications in your Portal results.
- No action is required for the program on these notifications.
- OBI sends the Individual notice to the individual's home address by USPS.
- However, if an individual states they have not received the Individual notice from OBI and/or moved shortly after submission of the background check request, the QE may share the Individual notice with the individual.

### 5 year rechecks:

- Don't panic, we have plenty of time!
- The first 5 year re-assessments are not due until November 1, 2022!
- The first 5 year re-assessments will only be required for individuals who have been working in the same program for 5 years, since November 1, 2017.
- OBI is not accepting any 5 year rechecks/reassessments at this time.
- 5 year rechecks will be required to be submitted to OBI as a "5 Year Recheck", request type.
- A child care employment background check request will not be counted as a 5 year recheck.
- If you have changed programs, within a 5 year window-you have already had your criminal history re-assessed; and your 5 year recheck clock starts over.
- OBI will contact the industry in the summer of 2022, with instructions to begin submitting 5 year re-assessments—several months before the deadline.
- Programs that are anxious to be prepared for these rechecks, may prepare a list of staff that will require a 5 year recheck in November 2022 or thereafter.
- Remember, the very first 5 year rechecks will only be required for individuals that have been at the same program-without a break in employment-from November 1, 2017 through November 1, 2022.

### Incomplete submissions:

To assist OBI in returning background checks timely, please:

- Please double check all Background Check Requests for accuracy, before submitting the request.
- Verify that the individual's current legal name is listed and spelled correctly.
- Verify that all names/aliases the individual has used during their lifetime, are listed and spelled correctly.