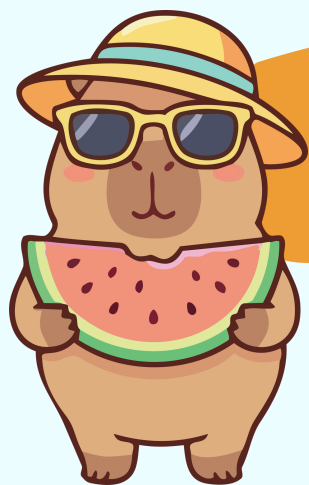


SUMMER 2026



Hello Summer!

SC CCRR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome Summer!

Summer is here, bringing longer days, brighter sunshine, and endless opportunities for learning through play! This season is the perfect time to explore the outdoors, make new discoveries, and create meaningful connections with the children and families we serve. As we embrace the summer months, we encourage you to take advantage of everyday learning opportunities—whether it's observing nature, enjoying water play, reading under a shady tree, or simply slowing down to enjoy the wonder and curiosity that summer inspires. In this edition, you'll find resources, ideas, and updates designed to support you throughout the season. Thank you for the important work you do each day to nurture young learners and help them grow.

Wishing you a summer filled with joy, adventure, and plenty of memorable moments!

Happy Summer from the South-Central CCR&R Team!

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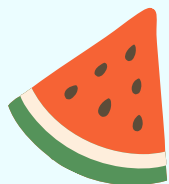
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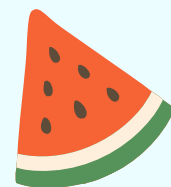


SC CCRR is located on the campus of
East Central University
1100 E. 14th St. Ada, OK 74820





TRAININGS



Thrive Network | Free childcare
resources in Oklahoma

Making Policies

PRACTICAL

Presented by Jessica Colungo

When: July 11th

Time: 9am - 1pm

Where: ECU CCRR

Project

LEARNING TREE

Presented by Dusti & Nicole

When: August 1st

Time: 9am - 1pm

Where: ECU CCRR

Social Emotional

LEARNING

Presented by Kim Quinn

When: Sept. TBD

Time: 9am - 1pm

Where: ECU CCRR



**CALLING ALL
CHILD CARE
ADMINISTRATORS!**

Join us for an inspiring leadership
experience with Beth Cannon



Sept. 18, 2026

Strengthening leadership and
business practices

Also Coming This Fall

Tax Preparation Support & Training for Child Care Centers

Tulsa – Nov. 3, 2026

McAlester – Dec. 8, 2026

Chickasha – Nov. 5, 2026

Enid – Dec. 10, 2026



**South-Central
Center Directors
Save the Date!**

**Training Opportunities
for Center Directors!!**

Beth Cannon led courses

- 2 spots Manuals to Modules
- 2 spots Learn to Lead

COMPLETELY FREE!

**Contact
Jessica
Colungo for
more info!**

SAFE SLEEP TRAINING

Coming to a Location Near You! 



Join us for an upcoming Safe Sleep Training and learn best practices for creating safe sleep environments for infants in your care.



2026 TRAINING SCHEDULE



Ardmore Area

June 23, 2026

Time: 12:30–2:30 PM



**Chickasaw Nation
Staff Development**

**July 2026 –
Event Full and Closed**

Date & Time:
July 20, 21, 22, 23



Shawnee – @ Cougar Care
42400 Garrett's Lake Road
Shawnee, OK 74804

August 2026

Date & Time: TBA



Ada First Baptist Church
521 S Broadway Ave
Ada, OK 74820

September 2026

Date & Time: TBA



Purcell City Library
919 N 9th Ave
Purcell, OK 73080

October 2026

Date & Time: TBA

TOPICS INCLUDE

- ✓ Oklahoma Safe Sleep Requirements
- ✓ Reducing the Risk of SIDS and Sleep-Related Infant Deaths
- ✓ Creating Safe Sleep Environments
- ✓ Communicating Safe Sleep Practices with Families



REGISTRATION INFORMATION



Registration details
will be shared soon.

– QUESTIONS? –



**Stormi McCrate @
South-Central Child Care
Resource & Referral**
📞 580-559-5304
✉ Smccrate@ecok.edu



East Central University
Ada, Oklahoma



**SOUTH-CENTRAL
CCR&R**
Child Care Resource & Referral



Supporting safe sleep practices for Oklahoma's youngest learners.



ECU CCRR will now be offering monthly Safe Sleep Trainings!!
Watch your email for more information!

POWER of PLAY

We were excited to host another Regional Reconnect for South Central providers! Our Power of Play workshop, led by Dr. Erin Casey, offered three formal hours packed with fun, interactive learning and practical ideas that participants can put into action right away.

Providers explored how imaginative play supports children's learning, social-emotional development, and self-regulation, while also promoting adult well-being. Through hands-on activities, meaningful discussions, and real-world strategies, attendees left inspired and equipped to bring more creativity, play, and imagination into their classrooms in ways that are both meaningful and manageable.



Summer Activities

Click the picture to find out more!



Shared Services

Needing ideas for fun activities or lesson plans?

Shared Services has you covered!
They have a variety of ideas for multiple curriculum areas including:

Outdoor Play

Nutrition

Theme-Based Lesson Plans

Emotional Regulation

Anti-Bias Education

Nature-Based Learning

Click on the area you want to learn more about!



BEAT THE HEAT

- Offer water frequently throughout the day.
- Schedule outdoor play during cooler morning hours.
- Watch for signs of overheating.



SUN SAFETY

- Encourage families to provide sunscreen.
- Use hats and shaded play areas whenever possible.
- Reapply sunscreen according to program policy.



WATER PLAY REMINDERS

- Maintain active supervision at all times.
- Empty water tables and containers after use.
- Follow licensing requirements for water activities.



HEALTHY SUMMER SNACKS

- Serve refreshing fruits and vegetables.
- Keep children hydrated with water.
- Try watermelon, berries, cucumbers, and oranges.



EXPLORE NATURE

- Go on nature walks.
- Create outdoor scavenger hunts.
- Observe insects, birds, and plants.



SUMMER LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

- Sidewalk chalk activities
- Bubble science experiments
- Sensory bins with summer themes
- Outdoor art projects



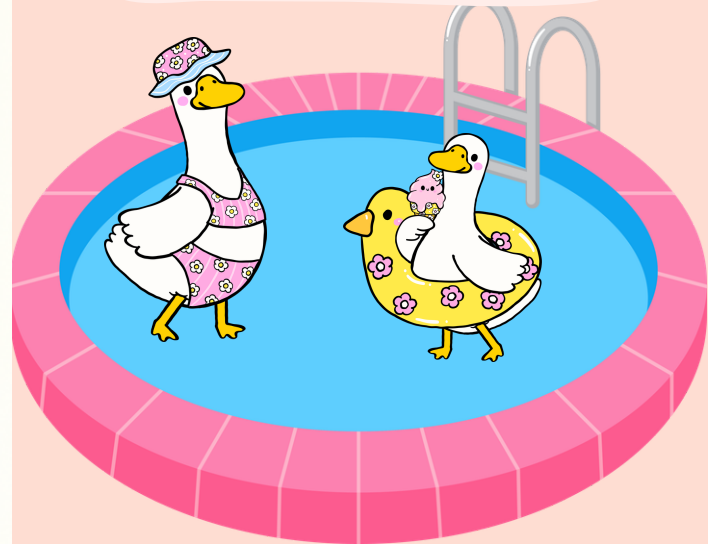
QUICK SUMMER CHECKLIST

- ☐ Check playground surfaces for heat
- ☐ Inspect outdoor equipment daily
- ☐ Review emergency weather procedures
- ☐ Keep first aid supplies stocked
- ☐ Communicate summer reminders with families

Have a safe, healthy, and playful summer!



STRONG CHILD CARE. BRIGHTER FUTURES.
Thank you for all you do for Oklahoma's children and families!



Families needing help?



MEET PEANUT!



*HE HAS BEEN
WORKING ON
SOMETHING BEHIND
THE SCENES AND HE
CANNOT WAIT TO
SHARE IT WITH YOU!*

ECU SC-CCRR'S

MISSION:

to ensure all
oklahoma
families have
access to quality
child care through
community-based
resource and
referral services



**Don't forget to
follow us on
Facebook:
@ECUCCRR**



business corner

"Successful providers don't just care for children—they understand their income, expenses, and profits. Taking time to review your finances each month helps you make informed business decisions."

Tom Copeland

Tom Copeland's Taking Care of Business Blog!

Provider Update Forms



Sweet Upates = Sweet Rewards

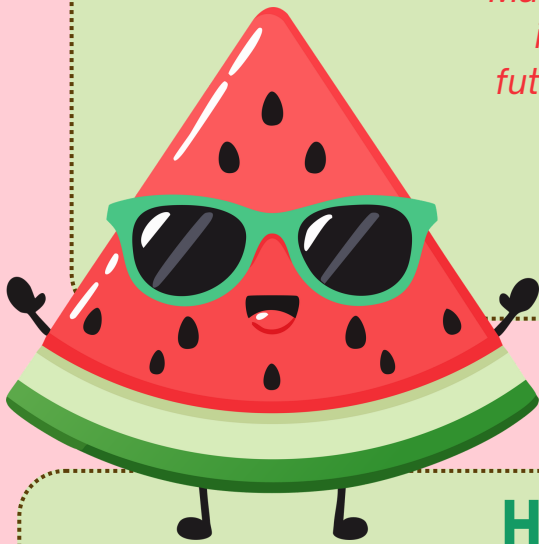


Complete your Update Form for a chance to WIN exciting resources!

Make sure your program's information is up-to-date so you do not miss future emails about chances to WIN!!



Scan to complete TODAY!



HELPFUL RESOURCES

Warmline:

okwarmline.org

CECPD:

cecpd.org/

DHS locator:

oklahoma.gov/okdhs/contact-us/dhsofficelocations.html

QRIS:

oklahoma.gov/okdhs/services/child-care-services/qris.html

Scholars:

okhighered.org/scholars/

ECU CCRR:

<https://www.ecok.edu/current-students/student-services/centers-programs/child-care-resource-and-referral-agency.php>

OSPR:

<https://www.okschoolreadiness.org/>



WE'RE HERE *to help!*

WHAT WE CAN PROVIDE:

Need a helping hand?

We're here to support you and your program every step of the way.

From training, technical assistance, classroom and administrative coaching to lesson plan help, visual aids, challenging behaviors assistance, daily schedules and routines, special needs assistance, transition assistance, theme boxes, and Brightwheel assistance, we've got resources to help your program grow, thrive, and succeed!

- Technical Assistance

- Training

- Classroom & Administrative Coaching

- Room Arrangement

- Lesson Plan Help

- Challenging Behaviors Assistance

- Daily Schedules & Routines

- Visual Aids

- Special Needs Assistance

- Transition Assistance

- Theme Boxes

- Brightwheel Assistance

- Home Provider Networking Opportunities

- Revisions of Staff Handbook and Policies

- Staff-Retention Assistance

- Enhance Learning Centers

- Observations with Feedback



Contact your Child Care Consultant
TO GET STARTED!

Click here to visit our website!

View our die cut list and available theme boxes.
Call or email us if you have any questions. We are always happy to help!





RESOURCE CORNER

for Child Care Programs



LOOKING FOR SUPPORT?

Explore these trusted resources for health, licensing, advocacy, and professional support designed specifically for Oklahoma child care programs



Telehealth for Child Care Professionals

Getting to a doctor can be hard when your work day is dedicated to caring for children. Now, child care professionals, their employees, and their dependents can seek medical advice anytime, anywhere without a copay!

HOW IT WORKS

Talk directly with a physician or licensed mental health professional on your schedule, anytime, anywhere within minutes by phone, video, or mobile app - 24/7/365



TELEMEDICINE

24/7 access to a board-certified doctor for non-emergency care for your employees and their families anywhere, and anytime in order to get help with many common conditions, including: cold & flu, fever, rashes, asthma, allergies, sports injuries, sore throat, and more.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Unlimited use, no per-call fees or co-pays
- Services are completely confidential and available to employees and their dependents.
- Prescriptions called into your local pharmacy



TELETHERAPY AND MENTAL HEALTH

24/7 access to a experienced therapists, counselors, psychiatrists and behavioral health specialists to support many common issues, including: alcohol and substance use, stress, life changes, trauma, and more.



This publication was made possible by grant number 90TP0094-01-00. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.



Health Resources & Links



Explore health resources for child care providers and the children in their care. Topics include physical activity



Visit Website



Laws, Rules, Standards, and Licensing

Find Oklahoma child care regulations, licensing requirements, and important compliance information.



Visit Website



Make Your Voice Count!



Visit Website



Want to help shape the future of child care in Oklahoma? Get involved in advocacy efforts that support children, families, and the early childhood workforce. Your voice can help create positive change for years to come.



Why Participate?

- ✓ Encourages a love of reading
- ✓ Helps prevent summer learning loss
- ✓ Motivates children with fun rewards
- ✓ Supports family engagement in literacy

Summer is the perfect time to nurture a lifelong love of reading! Whether children are listening to stories with their families, exploring books independently, or participating in community reading programs, every page turned helps build important language, literacy, and school readiness skills.

To help families keep the reading momentum going throughout the summer months, we've highlighted several exciting opportunities below, including Usha Vance's Summer Reading Challenge, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and Pizza Hut's BOOK IT!® Summer of Stories Program.

These programs offer engaging ways to encourage reading, provide access to quality books, and even reward children for reaching their reading goals.

We encourage providers to share these resources with families and incorporate reading into everyday activities.

Together, we can help children discover the joy, adventure, and lifelong benefits that books provide!

Happy Reading and Happy Summer!



OKLAHOMA
PARTNERSHIP
FOR SCHOOL
READINESS



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library sends children from birth to age five a free book every month, setting them up for success in school and life.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is available across most of Oklahoma. Not yet enrolled?

[Click Here to Sign Up!](#)



Turn Reading Time into Pizza Time!

Pizza Hut's BOOK IT!® Summer of Stories program helps families keep children engaged in reading while earning rewards along the way!

Children ages 4–12 can participate by setting reading goals through the BOOK IT! app.

When monthly reading goals are met, children can earn a FREE Personal Pan Pizza® from participating Pizza Hut locations.

Learn More

BOOK IT! Program Website
<https://www.bookitprogram.com>

Summer of Stories Information
<https://www.bookitprogram.com/programs/summer-of-stories>

Happy Reading!

Let's make this a summer filled with stories, imagination, learning, and of course—pizza!



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

SECOND LADY USHA VANCE

Dear Future Summer Readers,

Every book you open is an adventure – whether you are exploring new places, meeting new characters, or learning something new. A whole summer of reading fun is waiting just for you!

This summer, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's founding, we are excited to invite all children (K-8) to join in the Second Lady's 2026 Summer Reading Challenge. Participants will read and track 12 books of their choice between June 1 and September 4. Every book counts!

When you finish your 12 books, ask your parents/guardians to let us know, and we will send you a personalized certificate, an America 250th anniversary-themed bookmark, and a special link to receive a prize! You will also be entered for a chance to visit our nation's capital and the White House with a chaperone. Terms and conditions apply.

Where will your next book take you? We can't wait to find out!

Usha Chilukuri Vance
Second Lady of the United States
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/read/>

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Usha Chilukuri Vance.

