

SOUTH CENTRAL CHILD CARE RESOURCE and REFERRAL AGENCY



East Central University - Ada Oklahoma
Winter 2021 Newsletter

ECU SC CCRR Staff

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www.ecok.edu/ccrra/

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









OUR NEW BUSINESS CONSULTANT IS HERE!

On October 1st, we welcomed our new Business Consultant Specialist, Angel Patterson, to our ECU Childcare Resource & Referral team. Born and raised in Fox, Oklahoma, Angel graduated from East Central University with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Upon graduating from college, Angel started working as a Case Manager for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Pottawatomie and Seminole Counties. After a few years, she was promoted to Executive Director and thoroughly enjoyed helping grow an organization designed to mentor at-risk children. Angel was part of the development team that eventually incorporated Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Oklahoma. After many years of dedicated service to Big Brothers/Big Sisters and with three young children at home, Angel made the decision to become a stay at home mom. During this time, she started a home-based business and, while creating success for herself, Angel also mentored and trained other entrepreneurs on how to grow their own businesses as well. Having a love for children, Angel also worked at Good Shepherd Preschool in Ada, Oklahoma and enjoyed using unique and fun ways to teach children in her 3 year old class. Angel brings a wide range of experience to the Childcare Resource and Referral Center which makes her a great fit for this position.

Angel has been married to her husband, Deriek, for 24 years and together they have 3 children, Carter, Cooper and Ava. Angel loves being an "Ada Cougar Mom" and you will find her at any of her kids sporting events, cheering them on.

When asked what she is most excited about in her new found role as a Business Consultant Specialist, Angel relied "I am super excited to help people. It's my passion. I love helping people find resources they are unaware of and/or helping people find success by making small, but meaningful, changes. I can't wait to get in the field and starting meeting new people!"

WELCOME to our ECU CCRR Team Angel!!!!



This year Child Care Consultant, Georgiana Sullivan, and Infant Toddler Specialist, Lindsay Christian, have been busy visiting child care homes and centers as they observe, train, coach and share all they have a large range of topics and issues.

Both ladies are certified *Safe Sleep* trainers and can bring this training to you. Georgiana has developed other formal trainings, including Building Positive Relationships with Children, Circle Time and Room Arrangement. Lindsay and Georgiana are also excited to help you 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
- STARs application and implementation
- routines and scheduling
- nutrition
- transitions

They can also address issues such as:

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

Basically, they can meet any need you may have and would love to work with you.

Contact Georgiana at <u>geolsul@ecok.edu</u> or (580) 559-5304 or Lindsay at <u>linbchr@ecok.edu</u> or (580) 559-5327.

Resource Room

In the blink of an eye 2021 is nearly over and 2022 is right around the corner. Before we know it, New Years, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter will be here. We have added five new bulletin board kits to our list. Check out Sending You A Llama Love, Kindness is Golden, No Shem, Our Class Rocks, HOPPING INTO KASTER and Egg-cited for Easter below. March is Dr. Suess' birthday and we have a couple of bulletin boards recognizing it also. For a full list of FREE bulletin board kits available and photos of each go to our Facebook page or our website at https://www.ecok.edu/current-students/student-services/centers-programs/child-care-resource-and-referral-agency. If we don't have a kit available that meets your needs, 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.































(2022)

Check out a few of our personalized and laminated *PLACEMATS* made to fit with your lesson theme or the holiday.



Lending Library

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. Check these out and, remember, we pick up and deliver. Contact us for availability.

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 at 1 800-862-5593, ext. 873 or 580-559-5303 or email parmstro@ecok.edu to place an order for any services from the Resource Room or the Lending Library. If you need an updated list of offerings, we can email them 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. If you need a weekend appointment, we can arrange that also. Just give us a call! **NOTE: our offices will be closed Dec. 20 – Jan. 3**

How we have helped.....

"Resource and Referral at ECM is the place to go when you need to laminate items, die cut, create with cricut, teaching kits. But there's more. Need help finding trainings, classroom and teaching advice, the staff there are ready to assist you in any way they can. If they don't have the answer they will help you find it. Always happy to help you. Stop on by.

Ada Ross, Monte Vista Academy, Ada

Congratulations to all the winners of drawings we have held this quarter. Watch our Facebook page and your email for more opportunities to win!



and more
added bi-weekly on the ECU
Child Care Resource and
Referral Facebook page.

Gingerbread Christmas Candy Train



https://www.itsalwaysautumn. com/how-to-make-a-christmascandy-train.html

By Fun Crafts for Kids









For this and more go to

https://www.goodhousekeeping. com/foodrecipes/g33298538/sunday-

By Good Housekeeping



dinner-ideas-





https://www.messylittlemons ter.com/2019/11/winterbucket-list-printable.html

By Messy Little Monster



Are you looking for new ideas or do you need activities for older kids? Georgiana has been busy posting fun activities on Pinterest. They are easy to look up and saves you time to plan without having to do the search. Click on the ECU Child Care Resource and Referral Pinterest page at

<u>https://www.pinterest.com/cresource/</u>. New pins are added weekly. And remember, we have MANY of the items needed, including die cuts, in our Lending Library and Resource Room.

Welcome to our new providers and new openings!



Reaching for the Stars!



Congratulations to the following for increasing their STAR rating:

Shan Petties, Mighty Warriors (1 to 1+)

Star ratings do make an impact. If you would like assistance in obtaining or increasing your star level, give Georgiana or Lindsay a call at (580) 559-5768 or email them at aeolsula ecok.edu or linbchra ecok.edu.

ATTENTION! Email <u>parmstro@ecok.edu</u> and say "enter me" in the subject line to have your name entered to win a prize! Deadline to enter is January 10, 2022.

Fun Days Ahead in 2022

January	February	March
5-Bird Day	3-Read Aloud Day	1-Pig Day
13-Rubber Ducky Day	4-Wear Red Day	2-Dr. Suess Day
15-Hat Day	9-Pizza Day	3-World Wildlife Day
17-Martin Luther King Day	14-Valentine's Day	4-Dress in Blue Day
18-Winnie the Pooh Day	17-Random Kindness Acts	6-Dentist Day
19-Popcorn Day	20-Love Your Pet Day	12-Plant a Flower Day
21-Squirrel Appreciation	22-Yoga Day	14-Learn About Butterflies
23-Pie Day	23-Pink Day	17-St· Patrick's Day
24-Peanut Butter Day	26-Tell a Fairy Tale Day	25-Waffle Day
25-Opposite Day	27-Strawberry Day	26-Purple Day
31-Backward Day	27-Polar Bear Day	26-Earth Day

Source: https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/2022 and

https://en.wikipedia.ort/wiki/List of observances in the United States by presidential proclamation



Remember we have lots of die cuts, activities, projects, placemats, cubbie tags, bulletin boards and resources relevant to these days.



















<u>QRIS Stars Outreach Specialists</u> 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

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: <u>Tiffany.McPherson@okdhs.org</u>
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.



Notes from your Stars Outreach Specialist

Positive Teacher-Child Interactions

"Research indicates the ways teachers interact with children is crucial in determining how children develop over time." (Curby and Brock, 2013.

Every time an early childhood teacher and a child interact it is an opportunity to build a positive relationship. A child that feels connected to their teacher will view the classroom as a safe learning environment. A child who has negative interactions with their teacher will view the classroom as an unsafe learning environment.

Some things we know from research about positive teacher-child relationships:

They help children develop secure relationships with other adults.

They help children develop good peer relationships.

They influence a child's social and emotional development.

They reduce the frequency of behavior problems.

They help children develop positive self-esteem.

Some simple but effective ways to nurture relationships:

Nonverbal gestures such as a warm smile, a wave hello, or a reassuring touch

Greet each child at the door by name

Use a calm tone of voice and body language that welcomes the child

Recognize children's temperaments as well as their likes and dislikes

Have back and forth conversations with children about things that interest them

Acknowledge a child's effort

Tell the child how much he or she was missed when the child misses a day

Read a child's favorite book to the whole class

Reference:

Curby, T.W. & Brock, L.L (2013). Teachers' Emotional Consistency Matters for Preschool Children Retrieved from http://curry.virginia.edu/uploads/resourceLibrary/CASTL-Research_Brief-Curby_et_al._ (2013)_EED.pdf





PROPOSED QRIS (STARs) CHANGES

(Source: Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services Sept 21 Newsletter)

The QRIS requirements are part of Oklahoma Administrative Code and any changes to our QRIS criteria must go through this process, including Governor approval. While our effective date is pending, here is a broad look at what we can share at this time:

Background:

- The QRIS changes were designed by the QRIS Standing Subcommittee, a group of child care providers representing all types of licensed child care programs in Oklahoma and CCS staff.
- This group was very thoughtful to conduct extensive research and obtain input from stakeholders.
- The QRIS Standing Subcommittee had several goals as they worked on this restructure: increase provider participation and commitment to continuous quality improvement, simplify paperwork process, develop criteria that can be monitored, change to a five level system, and no or low cost to the child care industry.

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

ATTENTION! Email <u>parmstro@ecok.edu</u> and say "enter me" in the subject line to have your name entered to win a prize! Deadline to enter is January 10, 2022.

JANUARY-MARCH 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.

Safe Sleep Training

Our Infant Toddler Specialist, Lindsay Christian, and Child Care Consultant, 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.

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.okrigistry.org.

Other Formal Training

We have no scheduled trainings at this time. However, Georgiana has three prepared to deliver upon request and can develop others covering topics relevant to your needs. The three approved and ready to be delivered are Room Arrangement, Circle Time and Building Positive Relationships with Children. If you have specific training needs or would like to have these specific topics presented, contact her so that she can get approval to offer a session. Trainings can be offered in your area.

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.

The Scholars Program-What is it? Scholarships are available to eligible child care professionals completing coursework in the area of child development or early childhood education, as well as, the Child Development Associate (CDA) and Certified Childcare Professional (CCP) Credential Assessment. These scholarships are designed to 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.

Stipends are available through the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Program and are valued from \$800-\$1200 for eligible scholars. Credentials can be earned toward CDA, CCP, CoM, SACoC, DCoC, DCom, and Associate Degree or Bachelor's Degrees. More than one stipend may be earned.

For more details on the program or participating Career Techs or colleges, visit www/okhighered.org/scholars or call your local Campus Connection listed below.

Bailey Maxey, OSRHE Scholars Program Coordinator at (866) 343-3881 or (405) 225-9395 bmaxey@osrhe.edu OR Murray State College-Heather McLean, Child Development Courses Coordinator at (580) 387-7412 OR Seminole State College-Lynetta Robins, Child Development Courses Coordinator at (405) 382-9751

Programs are available at many other community colleges in Oklahoma. Contact Bailey Maxey for information.

Contacts and 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

www.okdhs.org/childcare 1 (800) 347-2276

Oklahoma Professional Development Registry

www.okregistry.org

Child Care Services County Offices

Carter Co. (580) 490-3600 Garvin Co. (405) 238-6461 Johnston Co. (580) 618-6256 Love Co. (580) 490-3600 Marshall Co. (580) 618-6256

(405) 238-6461 or (405) 248-8069 McClain Co.

(580) 618-6256 Murray Co. Pontotoc Co. (580) 310-7050

Pottawatomie Co. (405) 301-5874 or (405) 962-8394

Okfuskee Co. (918) 777-8029 Seminole Co. (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 Tiffany McPherson-serving counties west of I-35

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

1 (580) 387-7412

Seminole St College—Lynetta Robins

1 (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/



Human Services Child Care Services



STABILIZATION GRANT INFORMATION

The second cycle of the ARPA Child Care Services grant closed November 30, 2021. Payments are being processed now. Watch your email for information on the opening of the third cycle sometime in mid-spring. If you did not apply for the first two cycles, the link to apply for the next round is http://okdhs.org/childcaregrants.

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

*********FUN SNOWMEN TREATS****

(Cheese sticks, pizza, donuts, cookies)









Over 900 members now participate in Oklahoma's Shared Services and take advantage of savings monthly. If you haven't already signed up for membership with Shared Services, we encourage you to do so immediately to begin saving today. It's easy and the SC CCRR office is excited to help. Just give us a call at (580) 559-5768.

Not only does Shared Services save you money on purchases from participating vendors, but the variety of other services offered continues to grow. Benefits include:

- Clear policies
- Lesson plans
- Handbooks
- Teaching aides
- Classroom assessment tools and tips
- Parent handouts
- Checklists
- Form templates
- A monthly newsletter
- Training help
- Hiring and HR documents
- Medical and insurance benefits
- Cost savings (funds that can be put back into the program)

The first year of membership is free, with subsequent years being a minimal amount. If you are a center, please share this opportunity with your teachers and staff, as individual workers are also eligible for membership that will benefit them personally. 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. This information is provided by Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Inc.

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR MONTHLY EMAILED COPY OF THE DHS CHILD CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER? Much of the information previously shared via individual emails to providers is now being compiled into a monthly newsletter sent to you by OKDHS. Watch your emails for these important publications. If you are not getting the newsletter, be sure to sign up.



A Message from the Office of Background Investigations (OBI) October 19, 2021

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.

- Ensure that dates of birth and Social Security Numbers are entered correctly.
- Include information on any state the individual has lived in, or currently lives in, during the last 5 years.
- Remember that not only is this information required to conduct a comprehensive background check, but omitting required information for a background check could result in the individual being prohibited from employment.

A Message from the Office of Background Investigations (OBI) November 3, 2021

The Office of Background Investigations (OBI) has been conducting survey audits of all Qualified Entities (QE). The purpose of the survey is to verify compliance with QE standards as outlined in the Guide to Background Investigations. This audit is being conducted in phases by program type. We are currently in the process of sending Surveys to all Child Care Centers, however, we are preparing for the next phase of Child Care Homes.

OBI's QE Specialists are emailing the authorized recipient of each program a copy of the Guide to Background Investigations, as well as, the attached Non-Criminal Justice (NCJ) Security Awareness Training and NCJ Signature form. After a 2019 FBI audit, it was determined that all owners, authorized recipients, employees and household members with access and review are required to complete the NCJ Training to comply with QE standards. The NCJ Security Awareness Training is required to be completed every two years and failure or refusal to complete the training may result in termination of your program's QE status. If not already done so, required individuals of your program should review the NCJ Security Awareness Training. Sign and return the NCJ Signature form to OBI as soon as possible to verify compliance.

Please contact OBI with any question at OBICC@okdhs.org or contact OBI at 405-962-1735.

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 to: warmline@health.ok.gov/
Go online: http://warmline.health.ok.gov/

CECPD Center for Early Childhoo Professional Developmer

From the Director:

Dear Friends,

As we continue the Covid journey, I realize many of you may be overwhelmed and understaffed. Please know that CECPD is here to assist you in your professional development efforts. The following information will keep you upto-date on a few upcoming changes:

On October 4, 2021, the Oklahoma Registry began sending incomplete letters for the Professional Development Ladder (PDL) and the Oklahoma Director's Credential (ODC) **VIA EMAIL**. **Paper letters are no longer be mailed to the participant**. It is crucial that you check your email regularly for communication from the Registry. You can log into your Registry account and read the notes regarding your application. If you require a paper letter to be mailed, please contact the Registry staff.

Be sure you have access to the email address listed on your Registry account. If you need to change your email address, you will find instructions on the CECPD website (www.cecpd.org). If you cannot update your email, personal information, or employment on your Registry account, please submit a complete Participant Update
Form via email, fax or mail. Registry staff will update information as requested.

To locate the <u>Participant Update Form</u> go to <u>www.cecpd.org</u> under Provider Programs, Oklahoma Registry Information, Form. The form must include your name (first and last), last five digits of your social security number, date of birth, and signature with date, along with any information that needs to be updated. We cannot use forms that are missing the necessary information.

If you do not receive email communication for the Registry, please check your junk or spam folders. Please add <u>no-reply@okregistry.org</u> as a Safe Sender in your email.

Warmest regards,
Susan J. Kimmel, Ph.D., Executive Director

The University of Oklahoma Center for Early Childhood Professional Development

CECPD Stipend Program Opportunity

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