

# ECU CCRR

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



**Happy Holidays  
from South  
Central (ECU)  
CCRR!**

*We wish you a very  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year! We  
look forward to serving  
you in 2023.*

*Georgiana, Angel,  
Pamla, and Lindsay*



**LEAH LYON,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**ANGEL PATTERSON,  
BUSINESS CONSULTANT**

**GEORGINA SULLIVAN, CHILD  
CARE COACH**

**PAMLA ARMSTRONG,  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

**BETHANY WALLING,  
PROJECT SPECIALIST**

**LINDSAY CHRISTIAN,  
CC COACH, INFANT TODDLER**

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

*by Buddie, the Elf*

*"The best way to spread Christmas  
cheer is singing loud for all to hear."*





ECU CCRR welcomes all new providers in our area!

We are so happy to serve you:

Mandy Enox, Sulphur, OK;  
Jennifer Mead, Purcell, OK;  
and JacQuelyn Harjo,  
Wewoka, OK.



ECU CCRR has so many fun FREE bulletin board kits available. To see all the kits offered, visit [www.facebook.com/ECUCCRR/photos\\_albums/](https://www.facebook.com/ECUCCRR/photos_albums/)! If you want one made that is not offered, send your idea or photo to [parmstrong@ecok.edu](mailto:parmstrong@ecok.edu). We are always looking for inspiration and new designs!

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS FOR TEACHERS

### 7 Positive New Year's Resolutions for Teachers

from [www.teachstarter.com/us/blog/positive-new-years-resolutions-for-teachers-us/](http://www.teachstarter.com/us/blog/positive-new-years-resolutions-for-teachers-us/)

1. **Resolve to Say No** - While all teachers are asked to do a lot, it's worth noting that research has shown that women are less likely to say "no" at work than their male colleagues.
2. **Resolve to Make Work-Free Time** - Don't let work leak into your important time with family, friends, or just time for yourself
3. **Resolve to Make Actual Me Time** - Prioritizing time for yourself at least once a week can be incredibly beneficial to your mental and physical health.
4. **Resolve to Ask for Help** - Whether it's turning to your teacher team for a much-needed pep talk, turning to teachers on social media for ideas, it's OK to throw up the white flag once in a while.
5. **Resolve to Set Achievable Goals** - If you're looking for a new year's resolution that includes change in your classroom or your structure, make sure you aren't putting too much pressure on yourself.
6. **Resolve to Not Take It Personally** - Giving others grace allows us to separate the attack from the person's situation and end up giving ourselves grace while we are at it.
7. **Resolve to Forgive** - if you're looking to make a New Year's resolution, resolving to let go of disagreements and misunderstandings you've had with students and colleagues can lift a huge weight off your shoulders.



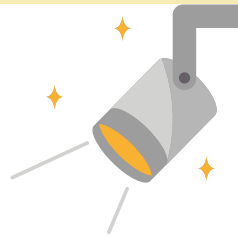
Resolutions



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

In October, Angel Patterson celebrated her 1-year anniversary as the Business Consultant for ECU CCRR. Angel works primarily with directors and owners for Providers in the South Central Region. Over the last year, Angel's main focus has been on getting Brightwheel, a management and interaction software designed for childcare, started in centers and homes across our 11-county region. Productivity, accounting, staff development, office organization, and creativity are among the many things Angel has helped directors with over the past year.

Angel has lived in Oklahoma all her life. She graduated from Fox High School, then attend East Central University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Angel has been married to her husband, Deriek, for 25 years and together they have 3 children, Carter, Cooper and Ava. Carter will graduate from ECU this coming May and hopes to pursue a career as a wrestling coach. Cooper, a senior at Ada High School, is active in football, basketball and golf. Ava, a junior at Ada High School, is involved in cheer, performing arts and golf. Angel LOVES being an "Ada Cougar Mom," and you will find her at any of her kids activities, cheering them on. She also loves to travel with her husband.



## HOW CAN WE HELP?

Georgiana and Lindsay are available to help in any way needed in your home or center. Topics they are available to help with are:

- implementing issues addressed on your Stars Needs Analysis
- lesson/activity planning
- transition planning
- classroom engagement
- parent engagement
- active supervision
- room arrangement and setting up centers
- on-site observations
- outdoor learning and physical activities
- new teacher training
- routines and scheduling
- nutrition
- implementing the Pyramid Model
- behavioral and guidance issues
- trauma
- social-emotional development
- language development
- brain development

**You don't just  
teach, you  
INSPIRE!**

Angel is here to assist the with the business side of your center or home daycare. She can offer support aimed at improving quality to providers through coaching and professional development in areas such as:

- Marketing
- Enrollment/Intake Family Engagement
- Budgeting/Strategic Cost Modeling/Financial Management
- Rates/Fees & Collections/Revenue
- Leadership/Time Management
- Human Resources
- TA with Brightwheel for participating programs



## 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

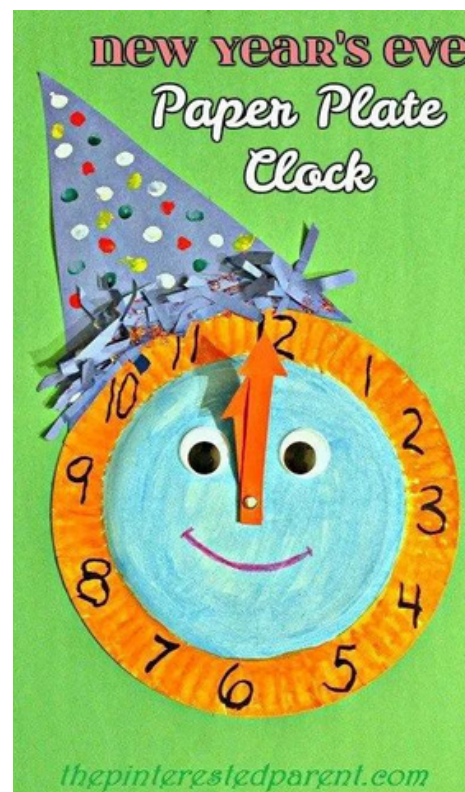
We have several new items in our lending library inventory, including two light boards and resource materials for all ages to use with them. Along with the new items, we have 51 theme boxes and many activity boxes and general inventory items for indoor and outdoor play, STEM activities, social-emotional 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!



*You just found the  
Easter Egg!  
Send an email to  
[parmstrong@ecok.edu](mailto:parmstrong@ecok.edu)  
noting this page and that  
you found the Christmas  
Easter egg to be entered  
into a drawing to win a  
prize! Deadline to enter is  
January 2nd.*



Make this fun New Year's Eve clock with the kiddo by clicking the photo below for instructions and supplies!



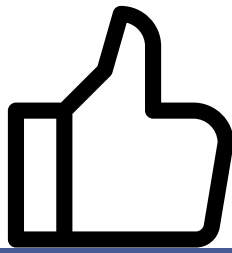
## LAMINATING

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. Search ECU Child Care Resource and Referral on Facebook or click below to be taken to our page.



Congrats to the contest winners this quarter! Remember to check the ECU CCRR Facebook page and your email for more opportunities to win!

## 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.

### 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).



*ECU CCRR has several opportunities to enter our MANY giveaways. Don't miss out on your chance to win fabulous goodies for your classroom, center, or home daycare!*



# QUALITY RATING & IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM



**Quality Care for Every Child!**

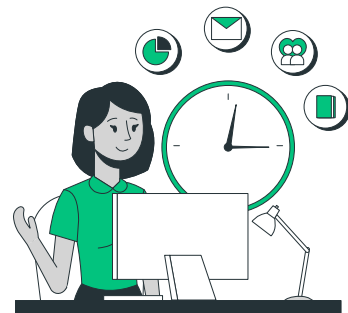
**Remember, we are here to assist you!**

November 30, 2022, was the deadline for applying for recertification in the new QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) implementation. Note: providers can still apply for Stars or Stars increases; however, the incentive option is no longer available.

The past five months have been busy ones for providers and coaches alike, but it was worth the effort as nearly 2900 providers statewide made applications for participation in Stars. Although many providers are awaiting their Needs Assessments, many of those who submitted by the deadline have already received word of their approval.

Coaching and TA will not cease as Lindsay, Georgiana, and Angel continue to be available to assist you in satisfying your Needs Assessment requirements. Call or email if you have questions or to request assistance. Our phone numbers are (580) 559-5768 (general office number), Lindsay (580) 559-5327, Georgiana (580) 559-5304 and Angel (580) 559-5629. We are ready to help in any way needed.

## IMPORTANT!



## QRIS STAFF

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.

**Amanda Rietz, Stars Outreach Specialist, Southwest Region**

**E-mail: [Amanda.Rietz@okdhs.org](mailto:Amanda.Rietz@okdhs.org)**

**Phone: (405) 837-9199**

Beckham, Caddo, Cleveland, Comanche, Cotton, Garvin, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Lincoln, McClain, Murray, Stephens, Tillman, Washita, Oklahoma counties

**Tiffany McPherson, Stars Outreach Specialist, Southeast Region**

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

**Phone: (918) 348-8518**

Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Johnston, Latimer, Leflore, Love, Marshall, McCurtain, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Seminole, Tulsa counties.



# OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE GRANTS AVAILABLE



Click on the photo below to make this fun snowman snack for the kiddos!



There are still several grants available from the Oklahoma Human Services-Child Care Services department. If these are applicable or of interest to you, check the November 2022 edition of the DHS Child Care Services newsletter for details. The link to apply or to check the status of ANY grant is <https://bit.ly/okchildcaregrants> then hit “home” to be directed to the Grants Management page. Grants currently available are:

**EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS GRANT**-designed for providers who are looking to expand their service to be able to serve exceptional needs children. Open August 10, 2022, through July 2024 or until budgeted funds are depleted.

**CHILD CARE DESERT GRANT**-for new programs wishing to start a child care center or child care home business in designated desert areas OR for existing programs currently serving children that would like to expand their capacity in identified counties.

## Make New Year's Eve Fun for ALL Ages!

New Year's crafts are a great way to celebrate the coming of 2023 in the classroom. Have a celebration featuring kid friendly, holiday-themed snacks (click the underlined text to find some great recipes) and then cap of the party by making these fun crafts! Click the photo to the right to find a whole list of great craft ideas. Let's have a wonderful 2023!!



# 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) 301-5874

Office of Background Investigations  
1 (800) 347-2276

QRIS (Stars)  
Amanda Rietz  
[Amanda.Rietz@okdhs.org](mailto:Amanda.Rietz@okdhs.org)  
Tiffany McPherson  
[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 Stars application and 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, Heather McLean, 580.387.7412
- 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](mailto: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, Lynetta Robins, 405.382.9751
- 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

## *Oklahoma Registry Certificate of Achievement and Stipend Program*

The Certificate of Achievement & Stipend Program is funded by Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services and is designed for providers who work in licensed child care facilities. The Stipend Program is a collaborative effort to validate the achievement and expertise of providers and serve as a symbol of their professional accomplishment.

The specific goals of this program are:

- Recognize and reward the specialized professional development of child care providers
- Encourage Teachers, Directors, and Family Child Care Homes to obtain additional focused, formal professional development to improve the quality of care for children.
- Increase overall positive outcomes experienced by children in child care.

We are currently offering SEVEN different Areas of Concentration for the Certificate of Achievement and Stipend Program!

Infant Toddler    Preschool    School Age    Quality Child Care  
Childhood Resiliency    Better Business in Family Child Care  
Healthy Children in Child Care



## REGISTER FOR SHARED SERVICES

If you have not done so already, please register for [OK Shared Services](https://www.oksharedservices.org/utility-pages/register/)! The resources are invaluable.

About Shared Services: The Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association and The Oklahoma Department of Human Services Child Care Services partner to provide the OK Shared Services knowledge hub to early care and education professionals across the state.

Shared Services provides the right tools at your fingertips. From classroom management, and nutrition to policy templates and compliance guidance, Shared Services has all the resources need to make your child care center or home day care a success! Register today by visiting:  
<https://www.oksharedservices.org/utility-pages/register/>.



## A LETTER FROM MISTI DENTON

Good afternoon providers,

I want to take a moment and introduce myself and the OKDHS QRIS team as well as inform you of the monitoring plan for the Stars program in 2023.

My name is Misti Denton and I am the new QRIS Program Administrator. I have been with DHS for 23 years and 18 of those years have been spent in Child Care Services. I look forward to serving in this new role. At the bottom of this email is the QRIS team breakdown and contact information.

Our team has been very busy processing Stars applications and requests for certifications during this re-launch period. We are pleased to announce that we have processed close to 2,500 Stars applications and there are a little over 400 programs who are new to QRIS! It is so exciting to know so many of you have made the commitment to provide high quality child care to the children of this state. I'm sure everyone can agree with me when I say that the goal is for ALL children to have access to quality child care. We want all programs to be successful in meeting this goal.

Therefore in 2023, the Star monitoring reviews will be an opportunity for licensing to review the Stars criteria with you. This will be a time for consulting and providing resources when needed. The Stars monitoring reviews will be discussion visits only and criteria violations will not be documented. Numerous, repeated or serious non-compliances with minimum licensing requirements will be documented for the last 24 months. We believe giving grace over the next year will give you time to truly understand and implement the Stars criteria. The expectation is that all criteria will be met by January 2024 when full monitoring will resume.

If you did not get your Stars application or request for certification submitted during the re-application period, you can still submit a request for a higher Star level at any time. Please note your request may not be processed or reviewed until March 1, 2023. This will allow us time to finish processing all requests received during the re-application period. Here is the link to apply and submit your request: [OKDHS Child Care Services QRIS Application Portal](#).

Thank you for your hard work and dedication and for making a difference in the lives of Oklahoma children. We want to wish you a Happy Holiday season and we look forward to working with you in the New Year!



**Do you wanna build a snowman!?!**

Click the picture on the left for 28 great winter crafts to make the coldest days indoor the most fun for the kiddos!

