



Great Plains Child Care Resource & Referral Center



Third Quarter 2017

Inside this Issue...

2 Toy Safety

5 Fingerprinting

7 Training Calendar

8 Scholarship

Leadership Academy



Great Plains CCR&R Staff

Amber Cuyler
Program Manager
580-695-6999

Rachel Myrko
Child Care Consultant
405-250-3360

Amanda Thompson
Program Assistant
1-888-878-4417

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:30-5:00
Friday: 8:30-3:00
888-878-4417

Elgin Office Hours
Weds: 1-5pm
&
By appointment

www.gpcrr.org

CECPD's Leadership Academy I – Class XXXI featured three graduates from the Southwest Oklahoma region! Pictured L to R are Billie Crispin, Director of Learning Tree Preschool (Weatherford), Amber Cuyler, Program Manager for GPCCRR & JoAnn Gray of Grace Day Child Development Center (Altus).

The purpose of Leadership Academy is to provide Directors & Administrators with leadership skills necessary to enhance the quality of child care in the state of Oklahoma. Participants complete 47 hours of formal training over a 6 month time period. Training topics included: Communication, team building, ethics, leadership traits/behaviors/characteristics, advocacy, mentoring, coping with change, discipline, best practices in early childhood administration and other leadership concerns.

If you would like to be considered for acceptance into the next Leadership Academy class, contact Alice Moore at CECPD.

Tis (& always is) The Season for Toy Safety

It's that time of the year again. With so many new toys on the market, it's easy for parents to forget toy safety in the rush to finish holiday shopping. The good news is that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have already prevented many unsafe toys from hitting the shelves and toy recalls have dramatically declined overall. Unfortunately, many toys can still be dangerous when used improperly or by younger children.

A new report by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) found that an estimated 185,500 children under the age of 15 were treated in emergency departments for toy-related injuries in 2015.

Children under the age of five accounted for nearly half of these injuries. Cuts, scrapes, and bruises were the most common toy-related injuries, with most injuries affecting the head or face. Out of a total of 50 categories of toys, non-motorized scooters were involved in one out of every four injuries.

There are several things to keep in mind when shopping for toys for children:

Age-appropriateness

Not all "safe" toys are safe for all children—what's safe for your oldest child may still pose a danger to your youngest. Always follow the age recommendations and read the warnings on toys to check for safety hazards. Teach your older children to keep their toys away from their younger siblings.

Safety Gear

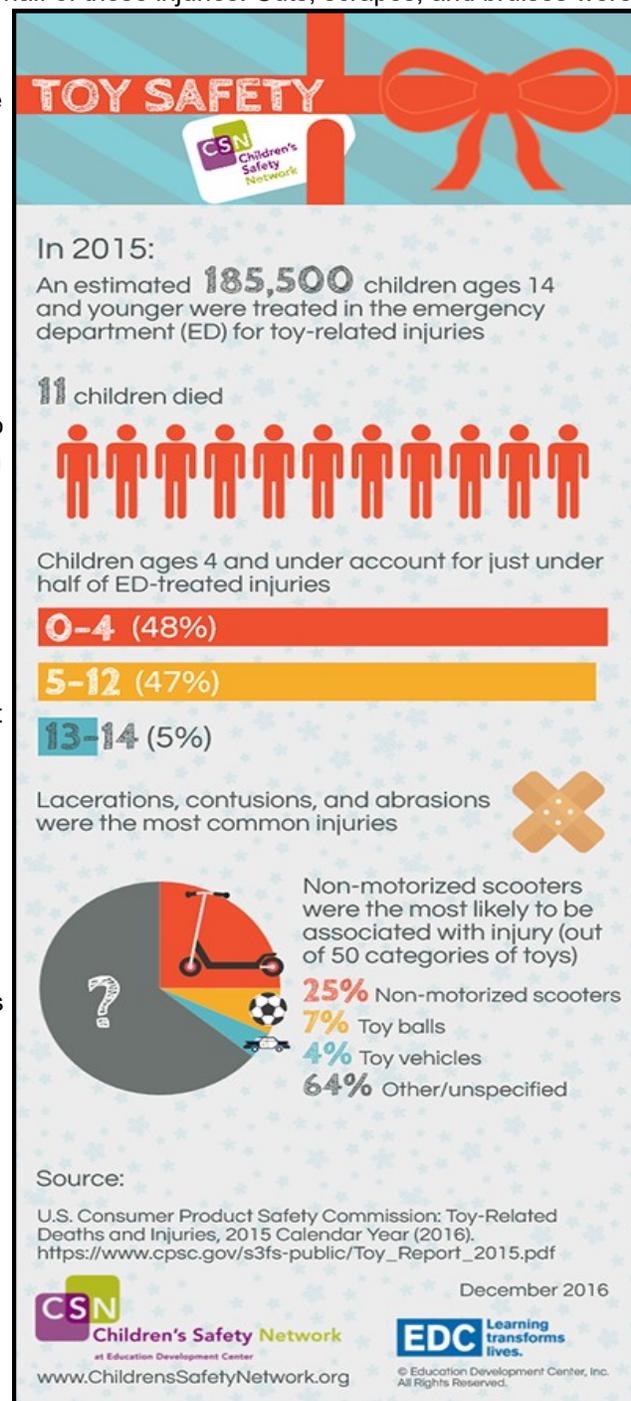
When buying bicycles, skateboards, scooters, skis/snowboards, and similar toys, buy the proper safety gear as well. Make sure helmets are fitted properly. Most helmets should be replaced at least every five to ten years and after an impact.

Button Batteries and Magnets

The small, powerful magnets found in magnetic building sets and desk toys can be lethal when ingested. While some of these products have been recalled, similar items are still on the market. Button batteries (can cause internal chemical burns in less than two hours when ingested. These batteries can be found in some games, toys, musical cards, watches, and flashing shoes. Make sure to keep these away from young children.

Recalls

You can also subscribe to the CPSC Product Recall list to keep track of toys that have been pulled from the market because of safety issues.



Safe Sleep Trainings

January 12th 6:00-8:00pm

The Learning Tree
817 N. 7th
Weatherford, OK 73096

No Registration Required.

For more information or questions contact Kathryn Eckhardt @ 580-331-1900

January 24th 6:30-8:30pm

Busy Bees Learning Center
225W.S. Boundary
Walters, OK 73572

No Registration Required.

For more information or questions contact Jennifer Stover @ 580-251-8341

January 30th 6:00-8:00pm

Great Plains Medical Ctr Conf. rm. B
1801 W. 3rd St.
Elk City, OK 73644

No Registration Required.

For more information or questions contact Joannie McNeill @ 580-328-5546

January 31st 6:30-8:30pm

Great Plains Technology Center
4500 SW Lee Blvd.
Lawton, OK 73505

No Registration Required.

For more information or questions contact Jennifer Stover @ 580-251-8341

February 6th 6:30-8:30

Grady County DHS
1707 West Frisco
Chickasha, OK 73018

No Registration Required.

For more information or questions contact Jennifer Stover @ 580-251-8341

February 13th 6:30-8:30

KC's Kid Care
413 Mulberry
Duncan, OK

No Registration Required.

For more information or questions contact Jennifer Stover @ 580-251-8341

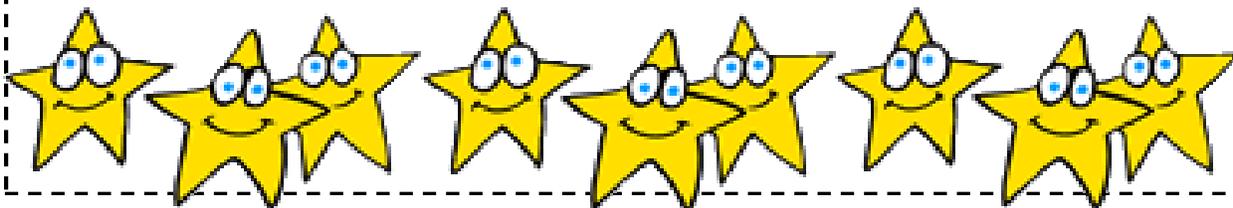
Free Technical Assistance

**Did you know we offer one-on-one
Technical Assistance in your Family Child Care Home or Center
Classroom?**

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- * Room Arrangement
- * Stars Applications
- * Behavior and Guidance
- * Creating Policies/Handbooks
- * Communication with Families
 - * Customer Service
- * Marketing Your Child Care Business
 - * Story Time Strategies
 - * Transition Ideas
- * Color Photos of your Interest Centers for Labeling
 - * Equipment Inventory
 - * Die Cut Services
- * Eco Friendly Environment Assessment
 - * Guidance on NAFCC Accreditation
 - * & Much More!

**We also offer consultations over the phone and email.
We are here to help!**



Important Dates

- January 16th– Martin Luther King Day
- February 2nd– Groundhog Day
- February 12th– Lincoln’s Birthday
- February 14th–Valentines’s Day
- February 20th– President’s Day
- March 12th– Daylight Savings Time
- March 17th– St. Patrick’s Day
- April 1st–April Fool’s Day
- April 14th–Good Friday
- April 16th–Easter



OBI Live Scan Office & Mobile Unit Fingerprinting Instructions

The Office of Background Investigations pleased to announce that we are now providing fingerprinting services to DHS applicants!

OBI opened a Live Scan office in the Sequoyah Building, located in C-26, on July 1, 2016. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 8:00 am until 5:00pm.

The OBI Mobile Fingerprinting Unit will visit 15 county DHS offices each month, to assist DHS applicants obtain fingerprinting services. Please beware that these counties may change, as new vendor sites are opened in areas currently under served by Live Scan vendor sites. Hours of operation are Monday – Thursday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Current Mobile Unit Schedule will be shared when it is available.

Criminal History Background Checks are a two part process:

1. Schedule an appointment for fingerprinting at www.identogo.com or 1-877-219-0197.
2. Submit a criminal history review request form electronically at <https://bidspublic.okdhs.org>. (*This link only works on Non-DHS network computers. To access this form from a DHS network computer use: <https://lro.prod.okdhs.int/requestinternal.aspx>)

Office of Background Investigations Contact Information:

Main phone line: **1-800-347-2276**
Child Care Unit e-mail: OCCSbackground@okdhs.org
Child Welfare Unit e-mail: OBICW@okdhs.org
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 268935
Oklahoma City, OK 73126



Registry Update

The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD) and the Oklahoma Professional Development Registry (OPDR) have made a few changes to better serve child care programs and participants of the Registry.

CECPD has added a page to the website that is specifically designed to help child care program directors! It is the **Director's Chair** and is a resource for director's/organizations. It includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) that the Registry staff receive along with some "how to" videos. Please feel free to check it out by visiting <https://cecpd.org/en/provider-programs/oklahoma-registry-information-copy/directors-chair/>.

CECPD's website has an updated brochure that includes the Copper level recently added to the Oklahoma Director's Credential. You can find it on the Forms section located at <https://cecpd.org/en/provider-programs/oklahoma-registry-information-copy/forms/>.

The Registry is now sending an email regarding a participant's incomplete application status to the director or the person listed as the contact in the OPDR for the licensed facility. This has helped director's to keep on top of their staff's PDL/ODC statuses.

If you have additional questions, contact staff at cecpd@ou.edu or 888-446-7608 or 405-799-6383

Do you need training hours?

Check out Early Childhood Investigations Webinars!

You can have 6 hours of "informal" training per year. These webinars are FREE & 1.5 hours each. The best part about these webinars:

1. They are all recorded, so you can search the archives, find a topic that interests you and listen. At the end of the webinar, there is a link to print the certificate!
2. The topics are FABULOUS - all Early Childhood Education related.
3. The presenters are FABULOUS - all ECE or Business professionals from all over the country.
4. If you don't have time to take advantage of the live webinars (1pm-2:30pm every Wednesday). Choose a recorded one and listen ANYTIME ANYWHERE!
5. Did we mention...they are FREE?!

www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/presentations

Training Calendar

Date	Cost	Training or Conference	Location	Contact
1/24	Free	Safe Sleep Event ID: 213054	Walters, OK	For more information view training at www.okregistry.org
1/28-3/4	\$40	Conscious Discipline 3 Part Series Event ID: 208465 (Minimum of 10 participants)	Elgin, OK	For more information contact Amber Cuyler @ 580-726-2172 or www.okregistry.org
1/30	Free	Safe Sleep Event ID: 213054	Walters, OK	For more information view training at www.okregistry.org
1/31	Free	Safe Sleep Event ID: 213107	Elk City, OK	For more information view training at www.okregistry.org
2/6	Free	Safe Sleep Event ID:	Chickasha, OK	For more information view training at www.okregistry.org
2/11-3/9	\$40	Conscious Discipline 3 Part Series Event ID: 212071 (Minimum of 10 participants)	Marlow, OK	For more information contact Rachel Myrko @ 580-726-2172 or www.okregistry.org
2/11-2/25	\$20	Early Learning Guidelines;Infant/Toddler Event ID: 212556	Lawton, OK	For more information contact Tracy Hinton @ 580-532-6318 or at www.okregistry.org
2/13	Free	Safe Sleep Event ID:	Duncan, OK	For more information view training at www.okregistry.org
Ongoing	\$15	Literacy In Action-Learn to Read Through the Environment Event ID: 133108	Web-based	For more information contact CECPD @ 877-380-7177 or www.okregistry.org
Ongoing	\$5	Art for Young Children Event ID: 186189	Web-based	For more information contact Mary Kaye Hopper @ 405-643-3248 or www.okregistry.org
Ongoing	Free	2016 Revisions to Child Care Licensing Requirements Event ID: 190539	Web-based	For more information view training at www.okregistry.org
Ongoing	Free	2016 Revisions to Out of School Time Licensing Requirements Event ID: 190542	Web-based	For more information view training at www.okregistry.org
Ongoing	\$25	Pediatric CPR/First Aid Blended online/classroom Event ID: 195718	Web-based	For more information contact Amber Cuyler @ 580-726-2172 or www.okregistry.org
Ongoing	\$30	Building Positive Relationships Event ID: 194099	Web-based	For more information contact Camiley Constantine @ 404-325-2225 or www.okregistry.org
Ongoing	\$30	Challenging Behavior: Reveal The Meaning Event ID: 194101	Web-based	For more information contact Camiley Constantine @ 404-325-2225 or www.okregistry.org
Ongoing	\$15	The Values Book	Web-based	For more information contact Marissa @ 281-494-4489 or www.okregistry.org

For a complete training calendar of classes/events across the state go to www.okregistry.org

For online child care professional training go to www.smarthorizons.org/naccrra/okrr/

For more information on Pathways to CDA contact Vicki Rexroat at 888-302-9050 or 405-643-3247.

For More Information about scheduling a CPR/First Aid Class in your area: Contact Amber Cuyler @ 580-695-6999. For already scheduled classes in your area contact the local American Red Cross, hospital, or county health department for dates, times & costs.

Your future starts here...



FREE college entry assistance for adult learners who are potential first-generation college students, have financial need, and want to enroll at a career technology center or a 2- or 4-year college

UCO CARES

*UCO Center for Academic Support,
Resource Development, Economic Stability,
& Student Success*

Services

- College Transition & Admission Assistance
- GED/High School Equivalency Test Prep
- Individualized Learning Plans
- College Enrollment Assistance
- Financial Aid Information
- Academic Advisement
- Career Exploration
- Mentor Guidance

Eligibility

You are eligible if you:

- Are a U.S. Citizen or National
OR
- Are a Permanent Resident
AND
- Are at Least 19 Years Old
AND
- Are Not Currently Enrolled in College
AND
- Do Not Have a Bachelor's Degree

Contact Us Today!

Phone: (405) 974-2731

Email: ucocares@uco.edu

Web: www.uco.edu/ucocares



Safe Kids - Child Passenger Safety

Lawton

January 11

Comanche County Health Department
1010 South Sheridan

Ada

May 24

Pontotoc County Health Department
2330 Arlington Street

Oklahoma City/Bethany

February 4

Children's Center Rehab Hospital
6800 Northwest 39th Expressway

Tulsa

June 10

Schusterman Campus
Learning Center
4502 E. 41st Street

Tulsa

March 22

Tulsa County Health Department
5051 S. 129th East Avenue

Woodward

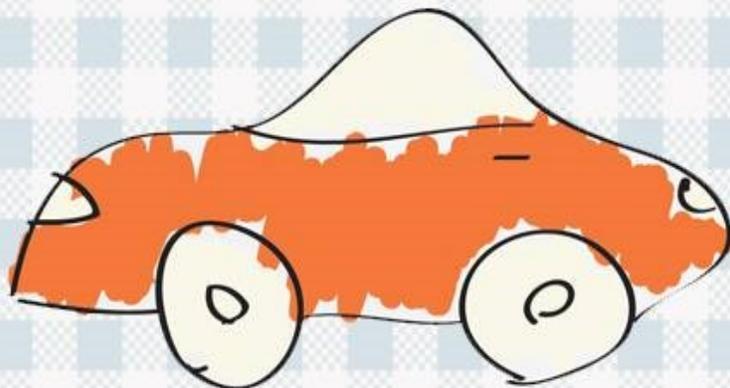
April 7

Woodward County Health Department
1631 Texas Avenue

Oklahoma City/Moore

May 10 & June 21

Center for Early Childhood Professional Development
1801 N. Moore Avenue



Toll-Free Child Care Referral Line!

1-800-438-0008

If you are a provider and have received phone calls from families searching for child care but have no openings, please share this number.

The referral line representative can help families narrow their search to other possible providers. If you are a community contact and hear of any friends or co-workers needing child care, please refer them to this number. It is free, completely confidential, and a wonderful service for both providers and families.

Congratulations on Your Recent Star Level Increase!

We are Proud of You! Keep Reaching for the Stars!



1Star+: Tammie Hogan from Lawton
2Star: Tiny Tornadoes from Clinton
2Star: Angels in Training from Sayre
2Star: Kami Tyler from Fletcher

*GPCRR offers free on-site consultation to help assess Stars Application readiness. Give us a call today and you too could be headed toward a new Star level!



4 Ways You Can Connect With Newly Appointed Officials

By Elizabeth Tish



Tempe, AZ Mayor Mark Mitchell poses with students of Broadmor Kid Zone

This month, elected officials around the country step into office. This is an important time to reach out to your newly elected officials and remind them of afterschool's role in your community, district or state. Offer to be a resource on the issue, and invite them to come see your program firsthand.

Not sure where to start? Here are some basic tips for reaching out to your representatives at all levels.

1. **Review statements**, platforms and media coverage to make sure you understand the winning candidate's position. Find a way to connect afterschool to their passion. Is their chief concern is creating jobs in your community? Tell them how afterschool offers workforce development opportunities.

Write the official to offer to be a resource on afterschool, and to set up a site visit to a local program. You can use our sample letter to get started. It is often helpful to provide information about the impact of afterschool in your community—and it's easy to do so with data points about afterschool in your state from the *America After 3PM* dashboard. Facts combined with relatable anecdotes can work together to create a strong narrative about the impact of afterschool. If you work with a program that receives 21st Century Community Learning Center funding, you should also be sure let them know about the impact it has.

Invite the official to visit an afterschool program. When Afterschool Ambassador Kim Templeman contacted Congressman Tom Cole to visit her program, she called and left emails with his office. A representative from his office visited her program, and then encouraged the Congressman to attend too! During his visit, Rep. Cole saw firsthand what afterschool looks like, and Kim was able to show him the direct impact of federal funds on her program. This type of personal interaction can help any official understand more of what you do and how you do it—whether they represent you on a federal, state or local level. Before the official leaves, make sure to give them materials to take back to their office so they can start making the case for afterschool. Check out our advocacy basics to learn more.

Stay in touch! After your visit, write the official to thank them for attending, and reiterate any points that you think are important for them to remember. You might also think about thanking them publicly, through social media or a blog about their visit. This is a good place to provide photos and stories, so those who aren't able to physically attend your program can see what it looks like as well. Don't forget to follow up, so that when you need support, you have a warm relationship to ask for it.

Want to make an impact while you're in the process of reaching out to officials? Contact Congress, sign the petition, or write your newspaper.

Like Us on Facebook!!

We are giving away prizes, posting new trainings, and updating information on our facebook page.

Please like us by following the link: www.facebook.com/gpcrr
and click on the LIKE button.

We are excited to utilize this form of social media to keep you informed with the most up-to-date information and to stay in contact.

Oklahoma Professional Development Registry

ALL licensed child care centers are **required** to be registered as direct care organization with the Oklahoma Professional Development Registry regardless of Star level. You can register online as a direct care organization or as an individual at <https://okregistry.org/>

If you have questions feel free to contact CECPD: Toll Free: 888-446-7608 or 405-799-6383

Helpful Numbers



Great Plains Child Care Resource & Referral: 1-888-878-4417

Provides parent referrals, provider training, technical assistance, library and more.

Reaching for the Stars: 1-800-522-2564

A child care rating system based on quality and education

Scholars for Excellence: 1-866-343-3881

Provides early childhood educational opportunities through scholarships for child care professionals .

Warmline: 1-888-574-5437

Offers free telephone consultation to child care providers on behavioral, health & safety, and care topics. Consultants can offer ideas and solutions and refer providers to appropriate services and resources with in their communities.

Center for Early Childhood Professional Development: 1-888-446-7608

Provides training and resources for individuals who work in licensed child care in Oklahoma .

OKDHS Child Care Services County Offices:

Beckham 1-800-225-0098, Caddo (405) 247-4000, Custer (580)-331-1900,

Comanche (580) 250-3600, Cotton & Stephens (580) 251-8300,

Grady 1-800-433-7073, Jackson, Kiowa, Greer, Harmon & Tillman 1-800-493-7974,

Jefferson 1-800-493-7981, Roger Mills (580) 885-7546 & Washita (580) 832-3391



Great Plains Child Care
Resource & Referral Center

901 South Broadway
Hobart, OK 73651
1-888-878-4417

*Sponsored by Great Plains Youth & Family Services
and OKDHS Division of Child Care*

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 6
Hobart, OK
NONPROFIT ORG

COMING SOON:

Online registration & payment for all GPCCRR classes!

95% of what a child learns is through direct experiences.

