



Great Plains Child Care Resource & Referral Center



Fourth Quarter 2018

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OKLAHOMA CCDF STATE PLAN

The draft of the Oklahoma CCDF State Plan and the 2018 Child Care Services Surveys have been posted to Child Care Services website, <http://www.okdhs.org/services/cc/Pages/ChildCare.aspx>. The home page also includes the links to the Child Care Services Parent Survey and Child Care Provider Survey. Survey results will provide additional information that will be incorporated in the 2019 State Child Care Plan. The survey will take 10-15 minutes and is voluntary and anonymous. Both surveys are available in English and Spanish and each have a QR code for easier access. In addition, a paper copy of the survey may be requested by contacting linda.whaley@okdhs.org. Please share this information with families who have young children in child care.

Deadline for survey completion is 6pm April 23, 2018.

These are links to surveys:

Families: English <https://surveys.okdhs.org/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=m62K665> Spanish <https://surveys.okdhs.org/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=922K8o7> Providers: English <http://www.okdhs.org/services/cc/Pages/ProvidersEducators.aspx>

Spanish <https://surveys.okdhs.org/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=922K9o7> The above links may be copied and pasted to access the different documents. Thank you for your help.

Great Plains CCR&R Staff

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

Cache Office Hours
By appointment

www.gpcrr.org

*Education is the most powerful weapon
we can use to change the world.*

Nelson Mandela

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!**



APRIL IS NATIONAL
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH

Important Dates

April 22nd– Earth Day
May 5th– Cinco De Mayo
May 13th– Mother’s Day
May 19th– Armed Forces Day
May 28th– Memorial Day

June 14th– Flag Day
June 17th– Father’s Day
July 4th– Independence Day
July 22nd– Parent’s Day
September 3rd– Labor Day

Allergy season is here!

Along with drastic changes in weather--it being cold one day, and hot the next--you may notice more runny noses, coughing and sneezing among children. Germs spread especially easily between children when they place things in their mouth and then share them with their peers. Therefore, it is essential that cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting practices are in line with recommended best practices to protect the health and well-being of every child. As you know, cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting reduce the risk of illness by decreasing the growth and spread of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and mold.

What is the difference between Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting?

Cleaning is the physical removal of germs (bacteria, viruses, or fungi), dirt, and other organic material by scrubbing with water and soap or detergent. It is the most useful method for removing germs from surfaces. When selecting eco-healthy cleaning products choose from those that are certified by 3rd parties such as Green Seal, EcoLogo, and EPA's Safer Choice

A sanitizer is a product that reduces germs to a safe level, as judged by public health standards. Sanitizing is appropriate to use on inanimate surfaces and products such as: food contact surfaces, toys, and pacifiers. Disinfecting destroys or inactivates most germs on non-porous surfaces like: diaper changing tables, counter tops, door handles, toilets, and other bathroom surfaces. It is important that you clean a surface with soap and water first, before sanitizing and/or disinfecting it. Since sanitizing and disinfecting agents kill germs they are considered pesticides. As such, when they are needed, it is important to select only those products registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The majority of U.S. child care facilities use bleach, a known chemical irritant, to sanitize and disinfect, because it's familiar, easily accessible, economical and, when used correctly, effective. However, bleach can cause irritation to the lungs and skin if not used and/or diluted properly. Fortunately, bleach is not the only product that sanitizes and disinfects.

What are other alternatives to bleach?

Many parents and guardians are concerned with respiratory difficulties and skin irritation associated with bleach exposure, and thus, they seek alternatives for sanitizing and disinfecting. Products with hydrogen peroxide as the active ingredient can be used as alternatives to bleach. Hydrogen peroxide breaks down to water and oxygen and does not leave harmful residues nor introduce irritating fumes into the air. There are also a few botanical-based disinfectants available that are EPA registered and fragrance free. Some of these may cost a little more than their counter parts, but the price difference are typically negligible.

Whether selecting a bleach product or a hydrogen peroxide-based or botanical-based product, make sure to always check the associated label to ensure that it is EPA registered. Additionally, it is vital that all product directions for sanitizing and disinfecting are followed closely. Finally, baking soda and dish soap mixtures, vinegar, and borax are great low-cost cleaners, but they do not kill germs well enough to be used to sanitize or disinfect.

Additional Resources

The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education has more information on cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting, as well as on alternatives to bleach:

<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/WebFiles/AppendicesUpload/AppendixJ.pdf>
<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/3.3>

FUN SALT AND WATERCOLOR PAINTING FOR PRESCHOOLERS

What you need:

- Pipettes
- Liquid watercolors
- White glue
- Paper



What to do:

1. Squeeze glue onto paper.

Can talk about how the glue is dancing

2. Then, spoon salt on top of the glue. You can also shake the salt. This In itself can be a fun activity.

3. Shake off excess salt.

4. Use the pipettes to transfer the liquid watercolors on top of the salt.

Can use more than one at a time.

5. As the salt absorbs the paint, and they both mix with the glue, an

Interesting texture appears.

6. Some children will want to poke and pull at the mixture, finding the feeling fascinating.

7. When finished, let thoroughly dry. Some of the salt might flake off if there was not enough glue.

Salt and Watercolors

Fun Process Art for Kids



TAKE ACTION!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. For the tenth year, communities are encouraged to “do 1 thing” for children – get involved by simply “**Building a Blue Ribbon Tree**” and displaying the trees during the month of April. The *blue ribbon* is the international sign for child abuse prevention and serves as a constant reminder that all of us have a responsibility in helping protect children.

Where do I participate?

Anywhere in Oklahoma

When do I participate?

It is recommended that “*Ribbon-ed Trees*” be on display before April begins or any time during the month of April. Everyone is urged to complete the official Tree Registry by sending in the registration card (next and no more than two photographs). Tree photos received by the deadline will be featured during a slideshow at the 25th Annual Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference (hosted by the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect) as well as a variety of other ways including the official 2018 CAP Month Scrapbook.

How do I participate?

Any community group or individual has the power to “**Do 1 Thing**” to promote child abuse prevention. “**Build a Blue Ribbon Tree for Kids**” with the rest of the state.

1. Select or construct a tree (if constructing – choose any materials)
 - a. If utilizing a ‘live’ tree, choose one that has high visibility;
 - b. If constructing a ‘unique’ tree, ***creativity appreciated and encouraged.***
2. Decorate tree with blue ribbons (store bought or home-made – *flagging tape works wonders*)
 - a. Hang ribbons on trees to represent any of the following:
 - The number of new babies born in your community;
 - The number of confirmed child abuse and neglect cases in your county;
 - Something significant to your agency, program, or community; (*i.e. number of families served by your program/agency*)
 - Or use the ribbons to show your community support for children in general; (*benefit of this selection – NO counting ribbons*)

For More information or to register your tree go to: [https://www.ok.gov/health/Community & Family Health/Family Support and Prevention Service/Office of Child Abuse Prevention/Child Abuse Prevention Awareness/Child Abuse Prevention Month Day \(April\) Activities/index.html](https://www.ok.gov/health/Community & Family Health/Family Support and Prevention Service/Office of Child Abuse Prevention/Child Abuse Prevention Awareness/Child Abuse Prevention Month Day (April) Activities/index.html)

**We are excited to share that the following items are now available on
CECPD’s website, accessible to providers
and anyone who is interested:**

Oklahoma Quality Child Care Program Scale: Self-Assessment.

A short (approximately 15 minute) video training is now available on CECPD’s website about the new self-assessment scale*. This video will help programs become familiar with how to use the scale and also assist them in understanding more about the Oklahoma Core Competencies as well as the program evaluation process required for Stars. Two Star programs (homes and centers) need to complete the self-assessment tool before November 1, 2018 prior to updating their program goals and then annually thereafter. (Please keep the completed document at your program for licensing staff to review.) Nationally accredited programs and Head Starts are not required to complete the self-assessment scale. The video training is voluntary and is located at www.cecpd.org in the Resources tab and under QRIS Video Training.

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,

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

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



Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA) has created an online provider portal that gives providers the freedom to update their child care program information for parents to view.

At no cost to you, this new Online Provider Portal (OPP) gives you the ability to maintain and update your program's information. As an early childhood professional, you play a key role in providing quality care and education for the children and families you serve. With this new Online Provider Portal (OPP) you can communicate this to families.

- * Update your information as often as you'd like (days and times open, rates, offerings and more)
- * Update your openings and the as of date (if you are full simply do not enter any openings)
- * Choose from a variety of fields that reflect your care, such as business policies and practices, activities and special services, curriculum and environment
- * Write a message to families about your exemplary care and what makes your care unique
- * Add up to 5 pictures to showcase your program to families

Please check out your new portal as soon as you can.

<https://stage.worklivesystems.com/program/23>

We'd love to hear what you think would make this a better marketing tool for your business. Send thoughts and suggestions to swilliams@oklahomachildcare.org

We Are Proud Of You!

Congratulations on Your Recent Star Level Increase!

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

- ◆ Lil Caterpillars– 2 Star
- ◆ Clinton Head Start– 2 Star
- ◆ Weatherford Head Start- Star

*GPCCRR 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!



Training Calendar

Date	Cost	Training or Conference	Location	Contact
4/10	Free	Making Your Job Easier: How Child Care Center Directors Can Use the OK Registry Event: 233522	Online	For more information contact www.okregistry.org
4/13	\$36	Pediatric Heart saver & First Aid Event: 229696	Chickasha, OK	For more information contact Dererk Black @ 405-222-7595 or www.okregistry.org
4/14-6/23	\$20	Focused Portfolios 1: Starting to Implement the Focused Portfolios Assessment Process Event: 233200	Weatherford, OK	For more information contact Alice Moore at 405-799-6383 or www.okregistry.org
4/18	Free	Safe Sleep Event: 233475	Lawton, OK	For more information contact Jennifer Stover at 580-251-8341 or www.okregistry.org
4/21	\$55	Pediatric CPR/First Aid 2-year certification Event: 233789	Cache, OK	For more information contact Amber Cuyler at 580-695-6999 or www.okregistry.org
4/21	Free	The Name Game: Using Children's Names as a Building Block for Literacy Event: 232275	Lawton, OK	For more information contact Tracy Hinton at 580-747-6396 or www.okregistry.org
4/21	\$10	Child Care Emergency Preparedness Event: 232273	Lawton, OK	For more information contact Tracy Hinton at 580-747-6396 or www.okregistry.org
5/4-6/8	\$20	Ok Early Learning Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers and Twos Event: 229278	Altus, OK	For more information contact Sheila Clark at 580-482-5020 or www.okregistry.org
5/5	\$55	Pediatric CPR/First Aid 2-year certification Event: 229367	Cache, OK	For more information contact Amber Cuyler at 580-695-6999 or www.okregistry.org
5/11	\$36	Pediatric Heart saver & First Aid Event: 229699	Chickasha, OK	For more information contact Dererk Black @ 405-222-7595 or www.okregistry.org
5/29	\$10	Encouraging Peer Interaction in Preschool Classrooms Event: 230010	Altus, OK	For more information contact Sheila Clark at 580-482-5020 or www.okregistry.org
6/2	\$55	Pediatric CPR/First Aid 2-year certification Event: 229369	Cache, OK	For more information contact Amber Cuyler at 580-695-6999 or www.okregistry.org
6/8	\$36	Pediatric Heart saver & First Aid Event: 229700	Chickasha, OK	For more information contact Dererk Black @ 405-222-7595 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.

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*

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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.

*When educating the minds of our youth, we
must not forget to educate their hearts*

-Dalai Lama