



Great Plains Child Care Resource & Referral October Newsletter

Autumn Adventures and Provider Connections



Enroll Your Program in the Oklahoma Strong Start Program:

To ensure your employees can access this new benefit, we need your help in enrolling your child care program as a participating provider.

To qualify, your program must:

- Be currently licensed by OKDHS as a child care facility
- Have an active subsidy contract with the State of Oklahoma
-

Submit an application using the button below, and be approved based on established policies



We're excited to hit the road for the GPCCRR Road Trip 2025–2026! ☐☐

Follow us on Facebook to see where we've been and where we're headed next across Southwest Oklahoma!

Apply Today!!!

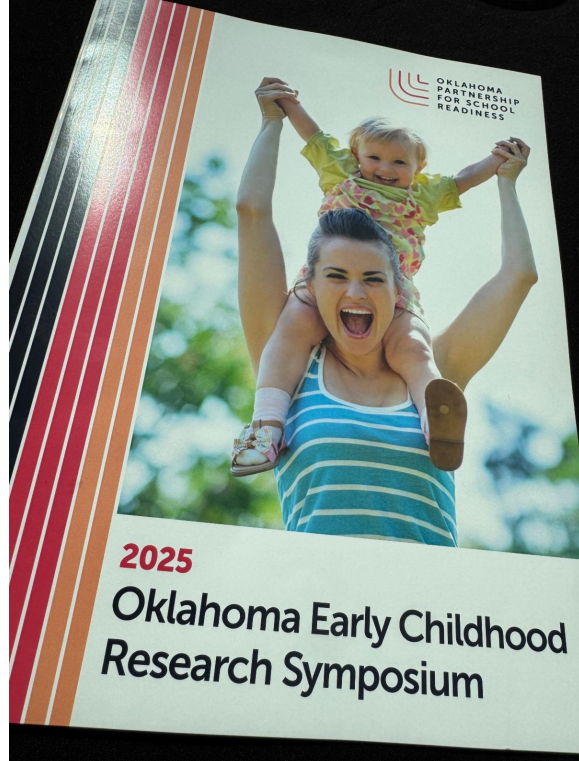
We know the early childhood field has faced incredible pressure in recent years. This program is one way we are working to ensure that those who care for Oklahoma's youngest children can access the care and support they need for their own families — helping you keep your staff, serve your community, and stay in the profession you love.

The GPCCRR team has been soaking up inspiration and ideas at the Oklahoma Early Childhood Symposium! We love connecting with other early childhood professionals from across the state and bringing new tools, strategies, and motivation back home to Southwest Oklahoma. **#GPCCRR**
#EarlyChildhood
#ProfessionalGrowth



WHY JOIN THE THRIVE NETWORK?

The Thrive Network provides free resources, professional development and peer connection for Oklahoma home child care providers and



**Registration is now open for
OKAEYC members, to our
Leadership Symposium
November 8th, 2025**

Don't miss your chance to attend the OKAEYC Leadership Symposium, "From Vision to Action". OKAEYC members can register NOW for the event. Early bird registration open for members through September 19th. General registration will be opening on September 20th. Join fellow educators and industry leaders at this important event to enhance your skills and network with others in the field. Only 50 spots available, Don't wait!

Secure Your Ticket Now

This year's Leadership Symposium is all about turning great ideas into real-world impact. Whether you're leading a team, managing a program, or growing your organization's presence, strong leadership depends on practical skills you can use every day. This year's sessions will focus on building essential tools in communication, marketing, collaboration, and more. Join us as we move beyond theory and

prospective providers. While you take care of working Oklahomans' families, we take care of you, supplying the support and guidance you need to be successful.

BENEFITS

- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Executive Level Membership
- NAFCC Accreditation Self-Study Kit with trained mentor support
- Free Telehealth and Teletherapy for you, your family and your assistants
- Access to specialized trainings like the Pyramid Model Community of Practice
- Subscription to shared services
- Subscription to Brightwheel (child management software)
- Monthly newsletter
- Monthly trainings tailored towards family child care home providers

Help Oklahoma Thrive - Support working parents and your community by becoming a child care provider today!



Purpose

The Southwest Thrive Communication Welcome Bags are designed to celebrate and equip new Southwest Family Child Care Providers who join the Southwest Thrive Network and who are actively engaging in professional growth. These bags promote connection, collaboration, and ongoing learning among Southwest Oklahoma child care professionals.

Eligibility

Providers will receive a Thrive Communication Welcome Bag once the following steps are completed:

1. Thrive Membership Form – Provider has officially joined the Thrive Network by completing the membership form.
2. Engagement Requirement – Provider has attended two Thrive-hosted trainings

Distribution

- Bags will be distributed during in-person Thrive events, provider visits, or mailed if necessary.
- Staff will track eligibility through Thrive registration and training attendance logs.
- A signed acknowledgment form (digital or paper) will confirm that bags are for professional use only.

Usage Guidelines

- Welcome bags and their contents are for use within your child care business to support professional development and program quality
- Items are not for resale or personal profit.
- Thrive branding and materials should be displayed or used in ways that align with the program's mission of collaboration and continuous improvement.



OPSR
CHILD CARE RESOURCES IS A DIVISION

Contact information: Athena Jarvis, Business Consultant
email: ajarvis@gncrrr.org phone: 888-878-4417





into action—equipping leaders at every level with the confidence, clarity, and strategies to lead with purpose.

[Learn More](#)

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Scholars Program

The Scholars program awards scholarships to eligible child care professionals to complete 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 enable child care providers in Oklahoma to improve their skills through education, receive an educational stipend.

More Information about Scholars

Did you know you qualify for FREE Telehealth and Teletherapy just for being a Child Care Professional?

Recently, our state agency, OPSR has launched FREE access to Telehealth and teletherapy benefits to ALL child providers, their employees, and their dependents through Shared Services.

If you are a Family Child Care Home please contact Athena Jarvis and she can help you through the process. AJarvis@gpccrr.org

This is an incredible opportunity and easy to sign up. Have staff and families that would like to sign up follow the link below.

The enrollment link for child care staff to



For training opportunities visit okregistry.org or click [HERE](#)

complete: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JK7K39V>.

For any questions or additional information needed, please utilize telehealth@okschoollreadiness.org.

You are welcome to reach out to CCRR staff and we will try to direct you as well.



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 copy!

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



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



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.

TELE THERAPY 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.



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Telehealth

Registration and Enrollment

How to participate in this free benefit:

Completed by CCR&R

1. At the beginning of the month, your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency will send out a registration [link](#) to all child care centers and homes.

Completed by Program Director

2. Program Directors will send the registration [link](#) to their employees.

Completed by Individual

3. Employees wanting to participate will use the registration link to indicate that they are interested in receiving this benefit. This is to register employees only. Participants who register by the 15th of the month will be eligible to enroll in the benefit starting the first day of the following month. For example, if someone registers on October 12, they will be eligible to enroll in the free telehealth benefit November 1. If someone registers on October 30, they will be eligible to enroll December 1.

Completed by OPSR

4. By the end of that month, OPSR will register you to receive these benefits.

Completed by Individual

5. Starting on the first day of the month after you have registered, you will receive an e-mail from Optima Benefits and Payroll, which will detail how you will complete enrollment to receive these benefits. It is during this enrollment time that you can sign up your dependents.

For questions, please e-mail telehealth@okschoollreadiness.org.



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Great Plains CCRR Staff



Rachel Myrko
Regional Director
rmyrko@gpccrr.org
405-250-3360



Lisa Earls
Infant Toddler Specialist
lisa@gpccrr.org
888-878-4417



Athena Jarvis
Business Consultant
aj Jarvis@gpccrr.org
405-480-0686



Jennifer Hunt
Child Care Consultant
jhunt@gpccrr.org
580-301-0131



Check www.OkRegistry.org for upcoming trainings and events

Okregistry

Be Sure to follow us on Facebook to follow our adventures, fun drawings and games, and keep to date on upcoming training and events



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Great Plains Child Care Resource & Referral | 901 South Broadway Ave. | Hobart, OK 73651 US

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