

Great Plains Child Care Resource & Referral Center



First Quarter 2021

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Great Plains CCR&R Staff

Amber Cuyler
Program Manager
580-695-6999

Rachel Myrko
Child Care Consultant
405-250-3360

Lisa Earls
Infant Toddler Specialist
580-726-3383

Kristie Jackson
Program Assistant
1-888-878-4417

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

Cache Office Hours
By appointment

www.gpccrr.org

Ya'll ready for a Road Trip?



More Information coming soon Ya'll Hear

Beginning August 1, 2020, there will be significant changes to the Certificate of Achievement and Stipend Program. Please read the following information carefully:

1. Training hours will remain at 30 hours (rather than 40 hours) indefinitely.
2. You can now receive two (2) stipends in a one-year period (not calendar year).
3. Participants no longer need to have their director complete the employment verification form.
4. In lieu of the employment verification form, participants must send a copy of a current pay-stub.
5. There is no longer a child care subsidy requirement to participate in the program.
6. Participants will print their own Certificates of Achievement. You will receive an email when your certificate is awarded. The email will inform you of the area of concentration that was awarded and give you instructions on how to print the certificate.

Should you have any questions, please contact CECPD.

Due to the various COVID-19 school district plans for the fall semester, OKDHS will continue to approve school age children (who normally qualify for the blended rate) with a weekly rate. To assist child care providers, school age children who attend part-time will be reimbursed at a full time rate. For children who need before and after school care, 4 swipes per day will be required. There will not be any changes to absent day policies. Children must attend the minimum number of full time days in the month in order to receive absent day payments. (Part-time days paid at a full time rate do not count towards the minimum number days required for absent day payments.) Accurate time and attendance must continue to be recorded on the POS machine in order to prevent an overpayment.

Child care programs that have school age children completing online learning are eligible to claim payment for those times.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD: OKDHS is offering TECHNOLOGY GRANTS!!! This does NOT HAVE TO BE REPAID - you can use it for tablets/laptops for the school-aged children in your program!

We've heard from SEVERAL local providers, (centers & FCCHs) who've already received CHECKS! It's a quick turnaround if you qualify - but you better apply fast - when the \$\$\$\$ is gone, it's gone ya'!!!!

Grant Application Information for the Childcare Technology Grant:

As a formal strategy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the State of Oklahoma, OKDHS has built a set of 'True North' investment priorities for federal stimulus funds (CARES Act Funding) including 'promoting educational engagement and prevention of learning loss and regression during periods of school recess related to COVID.'

As a result of this priority, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services is pleased to offer technology grants to school-aged childcare providers. These technology grants will promote equity for children who lack access to technology outside of school, but also to be prepared for distance learning in the event that there is an interruption in the upcoming school year due to a potential rise in impact of COVID-19 in the fall/winter.

Basic eligibility criteria include, but may not be limited to:

*Funding is limited to school aged childcare providers who are both licensed by the State of Oklahoma and accept childcare subsidy.

Maximum grant amounts are based on licensed capacity of each center:

Licensed capacity

< 25 = \$1000

25 - 100 = \$2000

> 100 = \$3000

-Funding cannot be used for ongoing needs such as monthly internet expenses.

-Providers will be required to enroll children in the state's online learning platform (as it becomes available) and work with students towards academic achievement during the summer and/or if there is a school

Reopening Guidance for Child Care

Public Health Considerations for reopening child care during the COVID-19 pandemic

The purpose of this tool is to assist directors and administrators in making reopening decisions regarding child care programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to check with state and local health officials and other partners to determine the most appropriate actions while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community.

Should you consider reopening?

- Will reopening be consistent with applicable state and local orders?
- Are you ready to protect children and employees at [higher risk](#) for severe illness?
- Are you able to screen children and employees upon arrival for symptoms and history of exposure?

Are recommended health and safety actions in place?

- Promote [healthy hygiene practices](#) such as [hand washing](#) and [employees wearing a cloth face covering](#), as feasible.
- Intensify [cleaning](#), [sanitization](#), [disinfection](#), and ventilation.
- Encourage [social distancing](#) through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups, if feasible. For family child care, monitor distance between children not playing together and maintain distance between children during nap time.
- Adjust activities and procedures to limit sharing of items such as toys, belongings, supplies, and equipment.
- Train all employees on health and safety protocols.

Is ongoing monitoring in place?

- Develop and implement procedures to check for [signs and symptoms](#) of children and employees daily upon arrival, as feasible.
- If feasible, implement enhanced screening including temperature checks and symptom monitoring for children and employees who have recently been present in areas of high transmission.
- Encourage anyone who is sick to [stay home](#).
- Plan for the possibility of children or employees experiencing symptoms or becoming sick.
- Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures.



- Monitor child and employee absences and have a pool of trained substitutes as well as flexible leave policies and practices. For family child care, if feasible, have a plan for a substitute caregiver if provider or a family member in the home gets sick.
- Be ready to consult with the local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area. (See <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>)

OKLAHOMA COVID-19 Child Care Providers Guidance

No matter the rate of infection in a community, every child care program should have a plan in place to protect staff, children, and their families from the spread of COVID-19.

Require sick children and staff to stay home

- Communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick.
- Communicate to staff the importance of being vigilant for symptoms and staying in touch with facility management if or when they start to feel sick.
- Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who come to the child care center sick or become sick while at your facility are sent home as soon as possible.
- Keep sick children and staff separate from well children and staff until they can be sent home.
- Sick staff members should not return to work until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation.

Have a plan if someone is or becomes sick

- Plan to have an isolation room or area (such as a cot in a corner of the classroom) that can be used to isolate a sick child.
- Be ready to follow CDC guidance on how to disinfect your building or facility if someone is sick.
- If a sick child has been isolated in your facility, clean and disinfect surfaces in your isolation room or area after the sick child has gone home.

If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
- Immediately notify your local child care licensing specialist. If a facility has trouble reaching the local specialist, contact Child Care Services within the Department of Human Services state offices for assistance: 405-521-3561 or toll free: 1-844-834-8314.
- Wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
- Cleaning staff should disinfect all areas (offices, bathrooms, playground, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.



- If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.

Return to Work

- Employees who test positive for the virus or have a member of their household test positive will be required to be isolated and prohibited from returning to the child care program until meeting the CDC requirements for being around others.
 - Individuals who believe or know they had COVID-19, and have had symptoms, may not be around others until all the following conditions have been met:
 - 3 days with no fever
 - Symptoms improved
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared
 - Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, but have had no symptoms, may not be around others until **10 days** have passed since being tested.
 - Individuals who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 may not be around others until **14 days** after exposure.

Child care programs open during the COVID-19 pandemic should address these additional considerations

- Implement [social distancing strategies](#).
- Serve each child individual meals and snacks to avoid the sharing of utensils. Do not serve family style meals.
- Intensify [cleaning and disinfection efforts](#).
- Modify [drop off and pick up procedures](#).
- Implement [screening procedures upon arrival](#).
- Maintain an adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety.
 - Plan ahead and recruit those with child care experience to ensure you have a roster of substitute caregivers who can fill in if your staff members are sick or stay home to care for sick family members.
- When feasible, staff members and older children should [wear face coverings](#) within the facility. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.



Social Distancing Strategies

Work with your local health officials to determine a set of strategies appropriate for your community's situation.

Continue using preparedness strategies and consider the following social distancing strategies:

- Limit persons accessing an operation as best as possible to operation staff; persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, state child care licensing staff, and Department of Human Services' Family and Protective Services staff; professionals providing services to children; children enrolled at the operation; and parents or legal guardians who have children enrolled and present at the operation.
- If possible, child care classes should include the same group each day, and the same child care providers should remain with the same group each day. If your child care program remains open, consider creating a separate classroom or group for the children of healthcare workers and other first responders. If your program is unable to create a separate classroom, consider serving only the children of healthcare workers and first responders.
- Cancel or postpone special events such as festivals, holiday events, and special performances.
- Consider whether to alter or halt daily group activities that may promote transmission.
 - Keep each group of children in a separate room.
 - Limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising.
 - If possible, at nap time, ensure that children's naptime mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Consider placing children head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and/or have child care providers come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive. Your plan for curb side drop off and pick up should limit direct contact between parents and staff.

As the COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, child care providers should stay in communication with a local licensing specialist for guidance.



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.

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.

Important Dates

July 26th– Parents Day

September 7th– Labor Day

September 11th– Patriots Day

September 13th– Grandparents Day

September 16th– Stepfamily Day

September 17th– Citizenship Day

September 25th–Native American Day

October 12th– Columbus Day

October 16th– Bosses Day

October 17th– Sweetest Day

OK Shared Services

Here you will find forms,
handbooks, policies, savings and more.
With just a few clicks you can save time, reduce costs and
improve quality.



Join now for **FREE**

<https://www.oksharingservices.org/default.aspx>

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!**

Daily Practices to Protect the Children in Your Care



Keeping your child care facility clean is vital for the health, safety and well-being of children and you. One of the most important steps you can take to reduce the spread of germs (i.e. bacteria, viruses and fungi) is keeping your environment clean throughout the day.

Choose and properly use the right products to help prevent illness every day!

Always look for the EPA registration number on the product label to verify you are using a product that sanitizes or disinfects.

To clean means to physically remove dirt, germs and debris from a surface by scrubbing, washing and rinsing. It is done using soap or detergent and water.

To sanitize means to apply a product that kills 99.9% of the germs identified on its label.

To disinfect means to apply a product that kills nearly 100% of the germs identified on its label.

| LOCATIONS | BEFORE EACH USE | AFTER EACH USE | DAILY |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Food | | | |
| Food preparation surfaces | Clean, Sanitize | Clean, Sanitize | |
| Eating utensils & dishes | | Clean, Sanitize | |
| Tables & highchair trays | Clean, Sanitize | Clean, Sanitize | |
| Countertops | | Clean | Clean, Sanitize |
| Food preparation appliances | | Clean | Clean, Sanitize |
| Mixed use tables | Clean, Sanitize | | |
| Child Care | | | |
| Teething toys | | Clean | Clean, Sanitize |
| Pacifiers | | Clean | Clean, Sanitize |
| Hats | | | Clean |
| Door & cabinet handles | | | Clean, Disinfect |
| Floors | | | Clean |
| Drinking fountains | | | Clean, Disinfect |
| Toilet & Diapering | | | |
| Changing tables | | Clean, Disinfect | |
| Potty chairs | | Clean, Disinfect | |
| Handwashing sinks & faucets | | | Clean, Disinfect |
| Countertops | | | Clean, Disinfect |
| Toilets | | | Clean, Disinfect |
| Diaper pails | | | Clean, Disinfect |
| Floors | | | Clean, Disinfect |

Daily Practices That Matter...

- 1 Wash your hands often
- 2 Understand the difference between **cleaning**, **sanitizing** and **disinfecting**
- 3 Choose the right product(s) for the job
- 4 Read, understand and follow instructions for time between using and rinsing products
- 5 Never mix products unless the label indicates that it is safe to do so
- 6 Store products in a locked location that children cannot access
- 7 Call the Poison help line at (800) 222-1222 if an accidental exposure occurs

For more information:

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)
California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
American Cleaning Institute (ACI)

References:

Antimicrobial Pesticide Registration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
<http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/antimicrobial-pesticide-registration>

Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Third Edition.
<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/>



Training Calendar

(Many trainings are being cancelled and some rescheduled, some not. It's changing daily.)

| Date | Cost | Training or Conference | Location | Contact |
|---------|---------|---|-----------|---|
| 7/25 | \$55 | Pediatric CPR/First Aid 2-year Certification Event: 260603 | Cache, OK | For more information contact Amber Cuyler at 580-695-6999 or www.okregistry.org |
| 8/29 | \$55 | Pediatric CPR/First Aid 2-year Certification Event: 260814 | Cache, OK | For more information contact Amber Cuyler at 580-695-6999 or www.okregistry.org |
| 10/24 | \$55 | Pediatric CPR/First Aid 2-year Certification Event: 260815 | Cache, OK | For more information contact Amber Cuyler at 580-695-6999 or www.okregistry.org |
| 11/14 | \$55 | Pediatric CPR/First Aid 2-year Certification Event: 260816 | Cache, OK | For more information contact Amber Cuyler at 580-695-6999 or www.okregistry.org |
| 12/12 | \$55 | Pediatric CPR/First Aid 2-year Certification Event: 260817 | Cache, OK | For more information contact Amber Cuyler at 580-695-6999 or www.okregistry.org |
| Ongoing | \$30 | Behavior and Guidance Short Term Event: 223812 | online | For more information contact Caddo Kiowa @ 405-643-3249 or www.okregistry.org |
| Ongoing | \$37.50 | Director Responsibilities, Skills & Attributes Event: 223803 | online | For more information contact Caddo Kiowa @ 405-643-3249 or www.okregistry.org |
| Ongoing | \$10 | Brain Power: Cognitive Development in Infants Event: 224267 | online | For more information contact Prosolutions @ 800-939-9694 or www.okregistry.org |
| Ongoing | \$10 | Brain Power: Cognitive Development in Toddlers Event: 224270 | online | For more information contact Prosolutions @ 800-939-9694 or www.okregistry.org |

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

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

Definition of a Child Care Provider

Child Care Pro-vi-der (child'kâr prô vid'er)n. chef, baker, janitor, sock and shoe finder, coat buttoner, boot fitter, bottle washer, grocery shopper, diaper changer, protector, dish washer, nose wiper, vegetable pusher, floor sweeper, waiter, story teller, playground attendant, PE teacher, activity director, driver, zoo keeper, inspector, aerobics instructor, tutor, entertainer, therapist, manager, derby instructor, performer, bookkeeper, self-esteem builder, teacher, helper, well wisher, nurse, traffic controller, noise controller, life saver, thinker, problem solver, engineer, designer, counselor, safety instructor, arbitrator, creator, inventor, companion, musician, historian, technician, dietitian, athlete, beautician, fire marshall, analyst, artist, dentist, scientist, biologist, technologist, accountant, manicurist, receptionist, environmentalist, pharmacist, hygienist, speech therapist, reader, builder, informer, composer, supervisor, author, navigator, peacemaker, friend. ..

Author Unknown