

ECE Insider

From the Directors Desk

No one is a stranger to stress. While some levels of stress can be positive, we also know that constant stress without supports can lead to toxic environments and relationships as well as a decline in overall mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing.

All Kentucky families experience stressful times and/or situations and Kentucky child care providers are in unique positions to be a line of defense when families need guidance and support. We encourage all child care providers to spend time learning about Kentucky Strengthening Families and the Six (6) Protective Factors that we can support families with implementing.

Please join us for our DCC Provider Townhall on May 9th at 1:00 PM EST to learn more about steps you can take to ensure you are supporting not only families in your communities, but other early child care professionals too!

If you are not already signed up for the DCC ListServ, please send your name and preferred email to: DCCListServ@ky.gov to ensure you receive the DCC Provider Townhall Registration Information.

As always, thank you for going above and beyond for Kentucky children and families. Everyone at the Division of Child Care is grateful and appreciative of the work you do!

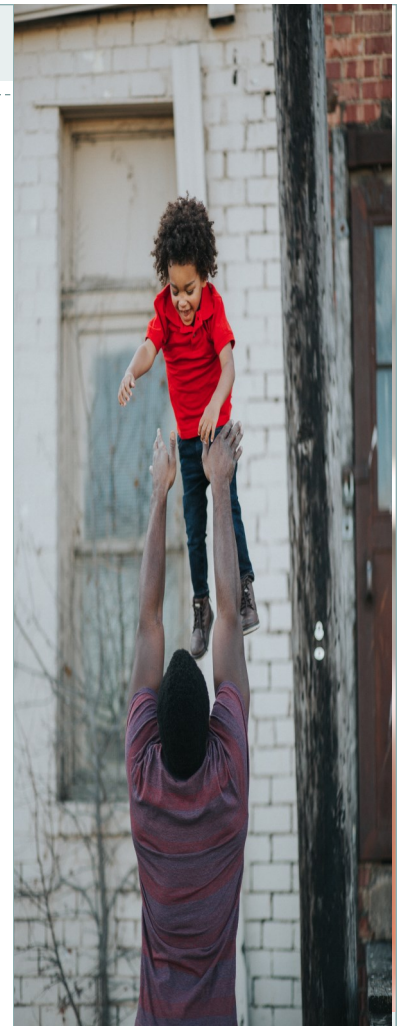
Sincerely,
Andrea Day
Director of the Division of Child Care

Directors and Administrators

Mother's Day is May 14th! We all know this day to be traditionally all about MOM! While celebrating mothers is the intention behind Mother's Day, remember that not all children have a traditional mother figure in their lives.

As you begin planning your center and classroom celebrations, keep in mind the important mother figures that play roles in the lives of the children in your care. Consider the fact that some children don't have a mother in their life, whether they may have lost their mother or maybe they do not have a relationship with their mother. When planning a celebration for Mother's Day, try to figure out which adult(s) the child has a special bond with and include them in your planned activities.

Support your teachers to learn more about the family structures of the children they care for so they can also adjust classroom activities accordingly. Ask the parent or guardian who is the person they are closest to and make every effort to include all children and families in your wonderful celebrations!



IMPORTANT DATES

- Early Childhood Mental Health Month
- National Foster Care Month
- May 5th – Cinco de Mayo
- May 6th – Derby Day
- May 9th – DCC Provider Townhall
- May 12th – National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day
- May 14th – Mother's Day
- May 16th – National Take your Parents to the Playground Day
- May 29th – Memorial Day
- May 31st – National Save your Hearing Day



Family Engagement and Community Resources

As we discuss Strengthening Families this month, we encourage you (and your program) to research the ‘Concrete Supports’ you can provide to families as a component of your program. There are many local and statewide resources you can provide to families at no cost. These can be active conversations surrounding concerns, or community boards and pamphlets available for families to take whenever they may be in need. This can also benefit you within the KY All STARS program in Domain C5!

Statewide resources may include Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants, KY Early Intervention System/First Steps, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, and more! Local resources may include a local Health Department or Community Services building, programs like United Way, food pantries, shelters, and others.

Having this information available to families at their fingertips helps with bridging access gaps and creating a more equitable opportunity for families to receive the assistance they (or someone they know) need.

“Strengthening Families is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs, and communities in building five key Protective Factors.” - Center for the Study of Social Policy

Summer Programming

Warm weather is here! Sunshine is a welcome visitor after a chilly, rainy winter! Remember that your summer programming can be just as fulfilling as your “standard” school year curriculum. Take opportunities to engage in water activities and utilize outdoor facilities. There are a plethora of ideas on how to beat the heat during the summer months while still getting in critical outdoor time!

Water safety is key with all children; be sure to actively supervise ALL water sources during the summer months. Utilize shady areas to schedule messy activities outdoors, rather than in the classroom. Plan picnics or snack times outdoors and provide plenty of water. Teachers may be able to do extra activities like water or chalk painting, rock painting, or nature-scape play using outdoor materials.

Remind families to send in weather appropriate changes of clothes and sun protection items like hats and sunscreen. Remember, you must have a permission form on file for sunscreen application per 922 KAR 2:120. Allergy warning: Some sunscreen brands contain nut/tree nut ingredients. Please advise parents to check labels if you have a child in your classroom with an allergy.

An example permission form is linked here: <https://www.childcareawareky.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Section-9-Medication-4-Release-Form-Sunscreen.pdf>

Early Care and Education Professionals: Training Reminder and Opportunity

Training hours for most employees will need to be completed by June 30th, 2023!

Check your Training Record Report on ECE-TRIS to ensure you have met your required training hour goals. If you have trouble accessing or understanding your report, check in with your Director.

If you’re looking for training, please refer to the Calendar/Approved Trainings selection on ECE-TRIS or submit Requests with 30 days’ notice to be approved.

Free Training Opportunity

The Department of Public Health, with funding from the State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant through the CDC, is offering a free, ECE-TRIS approved training program called Go NAPSACC.

The program guides you through trainings and action plans related to Early Childhood health and nutrition practices which align with our Health & Safety Standards regulations 922 KAR 2:120.

Please see the attached flyer for additional information, and if your center is interested in participating.



Summer Health and Safety Regulations

922 KAR 2:120. Child-care center health and safety standards Section 7. First Aid and Medicine.

- (5) The child care center shall keep a written record of the administration of medication, including:
- (a) Time of each dosage
 - (b) Date;
 - (c) Amount;
 - (d) Name of staff person giving the medication
 - (e) Name of the child; and
 - (f) Name of the medication
- (6) Medication, including refrigerated medication, shall be:
- (a) Stored in a separate and locked place, out of the reach of a child unless the medication is:
 - 1. A first aid supply and is maintained in accordance with subsection (1) of this section;
 - 2. Diaper cream, sunscreen, or toothpaste. Diaper cream, sunscreen, or toothpaste shall be inaccessible to a child;

Reference Link: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/922/002/120/>

922 KAR 2:120. Child-care center health and safety standards Section . Premises Requirements.

- (28) Bodies of water that shall not be utilized include:
- (a) Portable wading pools;
 - (b) Natural bodies of water; and
 - (c) Unfiltered, nondisinfected containers

Reference Link: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/922/002/120/>

Additional Resources

Division of Child Care
<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dCBS/dcc/Pages/default.aspx>

Division of Regulated Child Care (DRCC)
<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/drcc/Pages/default.aspx>

Kentucky Strengthening Families
<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/ecdb/Pages/kvsf.aspx>

Kentucky Connect the Dots
<https://www.kentuckyvccchc.org/connect-the-dots>

Child Care Aware Tips and Tools
Sunscreen Release Example
<https://www.childcareawareky.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Section-9-Medication-4-Release-Form-Sunscreen.pdf>

Division of Child Care (DCC)

WEBSITE
[HTTPS://WWW.CHES.KY.GOV/AGENCIES/DCBS/DCC/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX](https://www.ches.ky.gov/agencies/dCBS/DCC/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX)

MAILING ADDRESS
275 E. MAIN ST. 3C-F FRANKFORT, KY 40621

PHONE
(502) 564-2524