

ECE Insider

From the Directors Desk

June 1st – June 7th is National CPR and AED Awareness week! The Division of Child Care is committed to supporting child care providers and their communities in Kentucky by encouraging anyone who works with young children to get certified in First Aid and CPR.

DCC has partnered with many training agencies throughout the state to provide YOU the opportunity to go beyond basic First Aid and CPR training and obtain your certification for FREE!

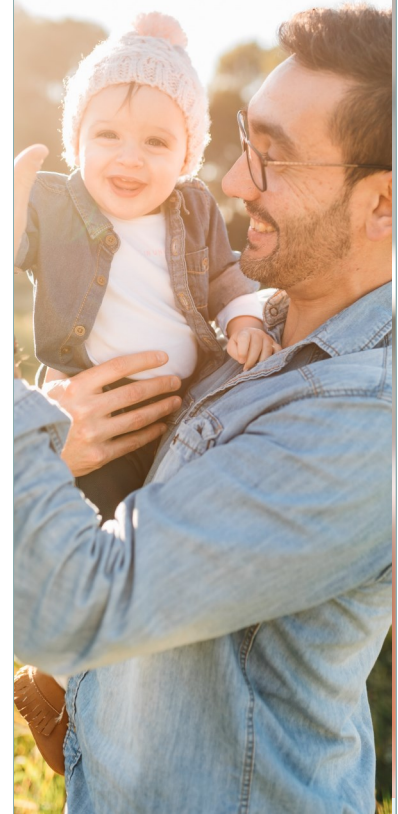
Early care and education professionals have one of the most important jobs out there and everyone at the Division of Child Care wants to support you. While we hope you are never in the position to need it, having the skills to save a life is vital when working with young children. Reach out to the CCR&R in your region or email Jessica.Abner@ky.gov to learn more about who you can contact for free First Aid and CPR Certification.

Sincerely,
Andrea Day
Director of the Division of Child Care

Directors and Administrators

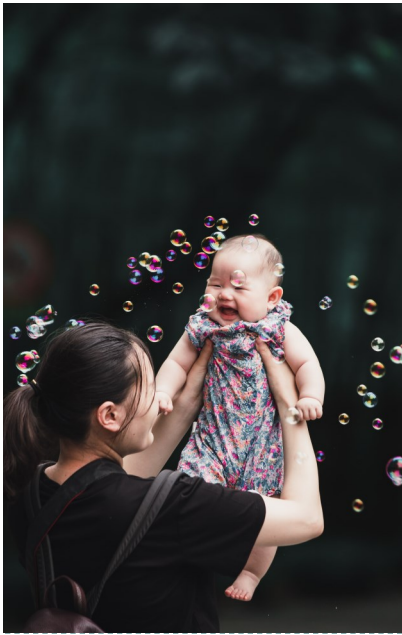
The role of the father goes beyond the “traditional” economic support many provide their family, and we want to spend some time providing you strategies that you can implement at your center. In honor of Father’s Day on June 18th, DCC wanted to shine a spotlight on how child care providers can incorporate fathers and other father figures into the daily planning, events and communication with more intention to strengthen those partnerships with the goal of supporting father figures and encouraging active participation in their children’s lives.

Join us on June 13th at 1:00 PM EST to hear from David Cozart from the Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families during our June DCC Provider Town Hall. Registration link will be sent soon! Hope to see you there!



IMPORTANT DATES

- National Safety Month
- National Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Month
- June 1st-7th—National CPR and AED Week
- June 11th— National Children’s Day
- June 13th—DCC Provider Town Hall
- June 17th—National Eat Your Veggies Day
- June 18th—Fathers Day
- June 19th—Juneteenth
- June 29th—International Mud Day



Family Engagement and Community Resources

Kentucky's Quality Rating System, All STARS, focuses an entire domain on Family and Community Engagement! Why? Because partnership with families is KEY when we are talking about the children in Kentucky's child care centers! Family engagement in a child's life is a pivotal aspect of social, emotional, and physical health of both the children and their families. Continuity of care between home and child care can be a huge determinant of overall health of the child later in life.

Family engagement professional development opportunities for staff can be coupled with various forms of engagement: community boards,

parent/teacher conferences, social media, and apps to connect and communicate. There are so many chances to connect with parents outside of rushed pick-ups and drop-offs, so be sure to implement tools that will be useful and complimentary to systems that are already in place across your center!

Reach out to your Child Care Aware Quality Coach if you have questions about how you can increase your engagement and partnership with the families you serve every day!

Child Care Aware of Kentucky:
<https://www.childcareawareky.org/about-child-care-aware/coaches/>

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.” Jane D Hull, Governor of Arizona (1997 to 2003)

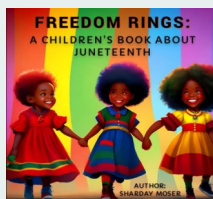
Recognizing Juneteenth

Juneteenth is the newest federal holiday in the United States. Recognized every year on June 19th, this holiday is celebrated differently across every state. Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. Historically referred to as Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, and Black Independence Day. The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln legally freed enslaved people on January 1, 1863. Almost 2 1/2 years later Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, TX on June 19, 1865, to announce the end of the civil war and the end of slavery. Juneteenth became a federal holiday on June 17, 2021. All 50 states now recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or observance.



Recognizing and celebrating this holiday with young children is important and an easy way to do that is by utilizing books and stories. Here are some picture books that would be great additions to your classroom library.

Check with your local librarian for more suggestions and resources on celebrating Juneteenth in your classroom!



Early Care and Education Professionals: International Mud Day is June 29th!

International Mud Day is right around the corner! What could be better than a day spend jumping, rolling, squishing and mud pie making? We can't think of anything more fun and exciting. Bonus points: exploring mud is full of learning opportunities for all ages!

By encouraging mud play and investigation, you are providing opportunities to gain a variety of skills:

- language development using descriptive words
- texture exploration
- investigation using senses (smell, sound, touch, sight and even taste)
- measurement and volume
- art medium exploration
- and so much more!!

We encourage you to visit the World Forum Foundation, <https://worldforumfoundation.org/workinggroups/nature/mud-day/> to learn more about the history of International Mud Day and access lots of helpful resources to help you plan an unforgettable day at your center! Tip: This is a great opportunity to involve families! Whether you plan a center wide event or just a few things in your individual classrooms, reach out to families and invite them to join in on the fun!

Share your Mud Day stories and photos with us for a chance to be featured in a future DCC ECE Insider Newsletter!

1. Email photo(s) to Jessica.Abner@ky.gov with a short description
2. Share stories about how you planned and implemented International Mud Day activities in your program and/or classroom!

Fathers As Providers

Authorship: Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families' David Cozart & Tyler Moore

The expectation of a father to be a provider for his family and children is likely not a new or strange concept. In fact, for many of us, it is likely the first thing that comes to mind when considering the various roles of a father. The challenge enters when we restrict providing to solely financial or material provision. Fathers provide many other contributions to child and family well-being beyond economically. Sensitive, supportive, involved fathers contribute to children's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social adjustment. While it is not recommended that fathers be referred to as "babysitters" (a whole different article), fathers also provide childcare. As such, it is very important for those in the childcare sector to incorporate fathers/fatherhood in strategies and planning as they seek to provide the highest level of care to the children they serve.

On a typical day, childcare providers may commonly interact with the mothers or maternal family members at drop off, pick up, and other events or activities. "Where are the fathers?" may even be a question pondered by many. Unfortunately, societal biases affirm the stereotypes of fathers being more disconnected from their children's lives. However, we also know many fathers make efforts to build strong(er) connections with their children, including interacting with their infant's childcare provider experience. We also know there are MANY benefits of healthy fatherhood engagement. The benefits for families with involved fathers as it relates to early childhood development also include:

- higher rates of mothers practicing healthy prenatal care
- fewer newborns with low birth weight
- toddlers with higher mental development index (MDI) scores
- children with fewer emotional and behavioral problems

- higher academic achievement scores
- reduced maternal stress levels

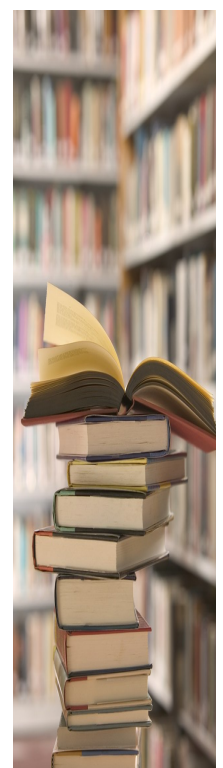
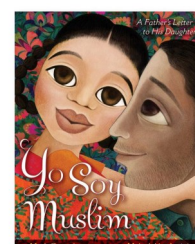
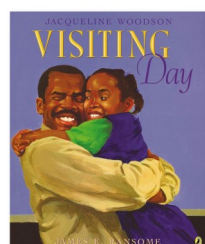
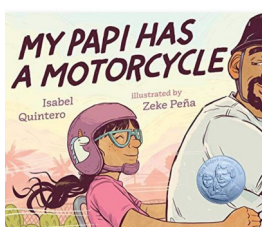
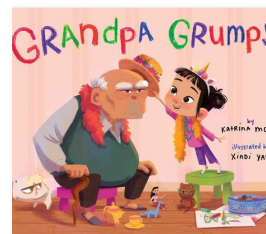
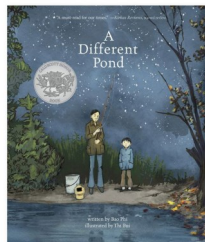
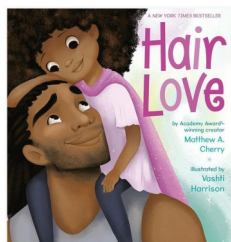
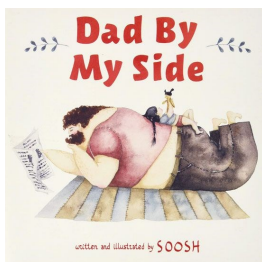
Given the benefits of fathers, what are steps that child care providers can take to increase the father presence in their facilities and support meaningful father/child relationships? Consider some of the following opportunities that can make your facility "father-inclusive":

- Intentionally invite fathers and regularly schedule events or projects that solicit father participation.
- Consciously create opportunities for children to talk about their dads/father figures while remaining attentive to their individual situations.
- Include fathers on councils, advisory groups, or other planning efforts.
- Include father-child activities in your facility's schedule (daddy drop-off day, dads and donuts, Father's Day cards, etc.).
- Remember to include fathers in facility decorations, imagery, and marketing materials.
- Integrate a "Father Resources" kiosk/display at your facility (parenting classes or tips, job postings, housing resources, financial literacy programs, etc.).
- Consider diverse experiences, cultures, languages, and family arrangements/constellations.
- And many, many, many more....

You work hard to give the children the best possible care. Any of the mentioned approaches, as small as they may seem, can contribute to increasing the presence of fathers in childcare centers, and more importantly, in a child's life. Fathers also influence children's well-being in conjunction with mothers and other caregivers, making it important to understand father-child relationships as part of entire family systems. Let's work together to ensure fathers feel invited and welcomed in our provider spaces because fatherhood is in fact good for children!

Picture Books Featuring Father Figures

We often see books that represent mothers or females connecting with children emotionally, but rarely see the same for fathers and father figures. Here are some great books that not only shine a spotlight on men being snugglers and emotionally open, but also represent various cultures and diversities.





Outdoor Play Area Regulation Reminders

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

Section 4. Premises Requirements.

(20) An outdoor play area shall be:

(a) Except for an after-school child-care program, located on the premises of a public or state-accredited nonpublic school, fenced for the safety of the children;

(b) A minimum of sixty (60) square feet per child, separate from and in addition to the thirty-five (35) square feet minimum pursuant to subsection (6) of this section;

(c) Free from:

1. Litter;
2. Glass;
3. Rubbish; and
4. Flammable materials;
- (d) Safe from foreseeable hazard;
- (e) Well drained;
- (f) Well maintained;
- (g) In good repair; and
- (h) Visible to staff at all times.

(21) A protective surface shall:

(a) Be provided for outdoor play equipment used to:

1. Climb;
2. Swing; and
3. Slide; and
- (b) Have a fall zone equal to the height of the equipment.

(22) If a child-care center does not have access to an outdoor play area, an indoor space shall:

- (a) Be used as a play area;
- (b) Have a minimum of sixty (60) square feet per child, separate from and in addition to the thirty-five (35) square feet minimum pursuant to subsection (6) of this section;
- (c) Include equipment for gross motor skills; and
- (d) Have a protective surface of at least two (2) inches thick around equipment intended for climbing.

(23) While attending, a child shall:

- (a) Have moderate to vigorous activity each day, including active play that:
 1. Includes outdoor play unless unavailable pursuant to subsections (17) or (22) of this section;
 2. Shall occur for a minimum of;

a. Thirty (30) minutes per day in a half-day program; or

b. Sixty (60) minutes per day in a full-day program; and

3. May be broken into smaller increments of time throughout a day; and

(b) Not be punished or rewarded in regards to play time.

(24) Fences shall be:

- (a) Constructed of safe material;
- (b) Stable; and
- (c) In good condition.

(25) Supports for climbing apparatus and large equipment shall be securely fastened to the ground.

(26) Crawl spaces, such as tunnels, shall be short and wide enough to permit access by adults.

(27) A sandbox shall be:

- (a) Constructed to allow for drainage;
- (b) Covered while not in use;
- (c) Kept clean; and
- (d) Checked for vermin prior to use.

(28) Bodies of water that shall not be utilized include:

- (a) Portable wading pools;
- (b) Natural bodies of water; and
- (c) Unfiltered, nondisinfected containers.

(29) A child-care center shall have enough toys, play apparatus, and developmentally appropriate materials to provide each child with a variety of activities during the day, as specified in Section 2 of this administrative regulation.

(30) Storage space shall be provided:

- (a) In the form of:
 1. Shelves; or
 2. Other storage device accessible to the children; and
- (b) In sufficient quantity for each child's personal belongings.

(31) Supplies shall be stored so that the adult can reach them without leaving a child unattended.

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>

Child Care Aware of Kentucky Find Your Coach

<https://www.childcareawareky.org/about-child-care-aware/coaches/>

Commonwealth Center for Father's and Families'

<https://cffky.org/>

Division of Child Care (DCC)

WEBSITE

[HTTPS://WWW.CHE.S.KY.GOV/AGENCIES/DCBS/DCC/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX](https://www.ches.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/dcc/pages/default.aspx)

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