

ECE Insider

From the Directors Desk

Wow! The end of 2023 and the start of 2024 has been a very busy and productive time for child care in Kentucky! From the implementation of the Digital Badging to the launch of Brightwheel Child Care Management System and everything in between. Everyone at DCC and our partnering agencies are working everyday to acknowledge the important work Kentucky child care providers are doing everyday across the Commonwealth!

2024 will be another year filled with exciting new initiatives focusing on professional development and more creative ways to support you in your everyday work. We are always planning for new DCC Townhall Topics and ECE-Insider ideas, we want to take this opportunity to hear from you! What topics would you like to hear about? Your feedback is valued as we strive to support the work you do everyday! Please reach out to Jessica Abner at Jessica.Abner@ky.gov to share your thoughts and ideas! Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Andrea Day
Director
Division of Child Care

Directors and Administrators

COMING SOON!

The Division of Child Care is excited to announce Child Care Orientation materials have been translated into Spanish to better serve our diverse workforce.

Child Care Aware of Kentucky is currently developing a Spanish version of ECOOL (Early Care Orientation OnLine) on [HDI Learning – University of Kentucky Human Development Institute](#) with an expected release in the spring for providers and staff with Spanish as their preferred language to complete orientation online.

More information will be shared via the DCC ListServ once the training becomes available on HDI!



IMPORTANT DATES

DCC Provider Town Hall

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm Eastern

Topic: KARES and
Background Check
Updates

Early Care and Education Professionals—Digital Badging



The Division of Child Care has designed a pathway for early educators to focus on a specific topic of professional learning and recognition of the knowledge and skills in the form of a ‘digital badge’. A digital badge is an indicator of accomplishment or skill that can be displayed professionally to show achievement. Digital badges are portable, sharable, and stackable snapshots of targeted professional learning in the areas of Infant and Toddler and/or School Age content.

How does it work:

- The Kentucky Division of Child Care badges will be 30 total hours of completed professional learning/training that is approved Infant and Toddler or School-Age content.
- The 30 hours will include at least 4 hours of learning in each core content subject area.
- Badge progress will be automatically tracked on the users ECE-TRIS account.
- The ECE-TRIS team will monitor progress to award the badge after the 30 hours.
- Share your badge on social media, LinkedIn, resumes, in classrooms, and more!

Early Care and Education Professionals—New Kentucky Credentials

You may be familiar with the Commonwealth Child Care Credential, Kentucky Director’s Credential and the Kentucky Trainer Credential. The Division of Child Care is excited to announce the launch for two new credentials! The Kentucky Infant Toddler Credential and the Kentucky School Age Youth Credential regulations are now active!

The Credentials aim to recognize and support child care providers through statewide credentials, honoring their training, work experience and formalized education pertaining to the age group they serve. These credentials are a step in acknowledging expertise working with specific age groups that are often overlooked.

The Credentials are:

- Optional
- Not currently tied to a monetary incentive
- In regulation
- Applied for by application in ECE-TRIS
- Renewable by application every 3 years



The Credentials require:

- Sixty (60) or 120 hours of training or coursework that has the training type “Infant and Toddler” or “School Age”
- Training to meet the hour/credit hour requirements, but does not need to be in specific subject areas (based on the level of application)
- Additional work, volunteer, or formal education, based on the level of application
- Completion of specific trainings: Introduction to DCC Credentials and ECE 119: Kentucky Strengthening Families Initiative: Trauma Informed Care and Resiliency
- Completion of a self-assessment and a letter of recommendation from a supervisor
- A current *certification* in CPR and First Aid



National Mentoring Month

January is national Mentoring Month, a time to evaluate how we can all work together to increase mentoring options to make sure people in our communities have others to look up to. Listed below are a few mentoring options Kentucky Child Care workers can participate in.

KY Governor’s Office of Early Childhood: Apprenticeship Program

Link: <https://kvecac.ky.gov/workforce/Pages/Apprenticeships.aspx>

Kentucky Governor’s Office of Early Childhood’s Apprenticeships are one of the components of Kentucky’s Early Childhood Talent Pipeline Management System to grow the profession of Early Childhood Providers in our state. The Apprenticeship Portfolio currently has four strands to guide apprentices through the program with education and training opportunities. This apprenticeship program is for both pre-service and in-service professionals that are wanting to expand their career while working in the field of Early Childhood Education. Current occupation options are Child Care Development Specialist (4000 hours), Early Childhood Educator (2000 hours), and Early Childhood Administrator Director (4000 hours).

For more information, please contact kvecac.workforce@ky.gov.

High school/College Mentoring for Kentucky Credentials

Link: <https://www.cdacouncil.org/en/high-school-pathways/>

Many high schools and colleges offer a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential pathway through their Family Consumer Science (FCS) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs. Having your center partner with a local high school or college program can encourage you and your staff to become mentors for future Early Childhood workforce. The CDA credential is administered by the Council for Professional Recognition. Having staff with Kentucky credentials affects KY All STARS rating levels for Staff Qualifications and PD.

Check The Council for Professional Recognition’s ECE Career Pathways for more information. Kentucky Department of Education: Family and Consumer Sciences Education Career Pathways 2024-2025 Programs of Study. Or Contact Kayla Howard with FCS Education to partner with a local high school offering the Early Child Education Pathway.



Ways To Settle In To the New Year: For Families and the Early Childhood Workforce

Transitioning into a new year is exciting, unknown, and sometimes challenging. Especially if we have children in our lives that know something is changing but can't quite put their fingers on it. Figuring out ways to start the new year and settle in can be helpful in reducing stress for everyone. I'm not talking about the heaviness of resolutions or the pressure they might bring. No, these are ideas for mindset that can help us settle and set us on a path of practice. So take a look at these general ideas and see how they might fit into your family practices or your classroom environment. I think these general ideas can help us all to move into a new season with hope and a sense of readiness.

Practice Gratitude: How can we become more thankful for the things we have in life or for what happened during our day. For children particularly, helping them learn to practice gratitude often means something in the immediate. For parents and caregivers, this is a look into where children's thoughts are and what is important to them. Teachers, take some time during lunch to ask this simple question-what are you thankful for today? Parent, on the ride home or at dinner time-what happened today that you're happy and thankful for? If we ask consistently enough, it will become habitual. They might even start to ask you what you're thankful for! How does this help us settle? It shows us all what's important and gives us insight to one another's thoughts. We get to know each other better. Habitual gratitude is a skill that eases stress and creates a positive outlook.

Work On Fitness: This could be the tiniest of habits you begin to create for your family or your classroom. I'm not talking about running three miles every day with your child, although you may choose to do that! BRAVO! But, even if you walk around the block with your child or if you have some interesting and different movement time in your classroom, say you have some ballet books and folks attempt to emulate what they see in the pages of a book. Not only are you moving and working on fitness, but you might find yourself learning a new skill! How does this help us settle? Movement alone is a stress reliever! And if you choose to learn to move in

new ways, learning is always a good way to settle because you're thinking and growing.

Improve Your Communication Skills: Honesty is often difficult, but it builds trust. Sometimes we tend to sugar coat things, particularly with our youngest. But, working toward a more honest and open communication can aid in repairing family issues, or issues within a classroom between family and caregiver. As a teacher, I really made an effort to always be truthful with the children in my classroom. At drop off time it can be really difficult and I would hold the child and let them know that Mommy or Daddy had to go to work and although they won't be here right away, here's exactly when they will be here. I'd use a clock and show them. If there's a disagreement in your household, it's good to be honest and it's good to let them know it's resolved! This builds trust and freedom for the child to always be honest with you as well. How does this help us settle? Trust is always something to settle and ground us. We feel free, accepted, and ready to face the world.

So, these are general ideas and hopefully you get the point that once you start using these ideas, they will begin to be a pattern, a habit if you will in your everyday life. The world seems unsettled these days. The more we can do to be intentional about settling, wherever and with whoever we can, the better.

For more ideas: <https://childcrisisaz.org/new-year-new-you-new-family-too/>



Child Care Weather Chart

Understand the Weather

Wind-Chill



- 30° is *chilly* and generally uncomfortable
- 15° to 30° is *cold*
- 0° to 15° is *very cold*
- -15° to 0° is *bitter cold* with significant risk of *frostbite*
- -15° to -60° is *extreme cold* and *frostbite* is likely
- -60° is *frigid* and exposed *skin will freeze* in 1 minute

Heat Index



- 80° or below is considered *comfortable*
- 90° beginning to feel *uncomfortable*
- 100° *uncomfortable* and may be *hazardous*
- 110° considered *dangerous*

***All temperatures are in degrees Fahrenheit



Child Care Weather Watch



Changing weather make it necessary for child care providers to monitor those changes throughout the day. Planning for daily playtime or field trips, weather safety is an important part of child care provider's daily routine. Monitoring the weather is an essential part of addressing the health and safety needs of children in child care.

Use this chart and the helpful links below to help plan for safe daily outdoor time.

Wind-Chill Factor Chart (in Fahrenheit)										
		Wind Speed in mph								
		Calm	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
Air Temperature	40	40	36	34	32	30	29	28	28	27
	30	30	25	21	19	17	16	15	14	13
	20	20	13	9	6	4	3	1	0	-1
	10	10	1	-4	-7	-9	-11	-12	-14	-15
	0	0	-11	-16	-19	-22	-24	-26	-27	-29
	-10	-10	-22	-28	-32	-35	-37	-39	-41	-43

■ Comfortable for outdoor play
 ■ Caution
 ■ Danger

Heat Index Chart (in Fahrenheit %)														
		Relative Humidity (Percent)												
		40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
Air Temperature (F)	80	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	84	85	86	86	87
	84	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	92	94	96	98	100	103
	90	91	93	95	97	100	103	105	109	113	117	122	127	132
	94	97	100	103	106	110	114	119	124	129	135			
	100	109	114	118	124	129	130							
	104	119	124	131	137									

Websites:

Air Now Air Quality (check by zip code) <https://www.airnow.gov>
 National Weather Service Wind Chill/Heat Index <https://www.weather.gov/ctp/ChillHeat>
 Caring for Our Children National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education 4th Ed. nrckids.org/CFOC

Additional Resources

Division of Child Care
<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dchs/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 Tips and Tools
<https://www.childcareawareky.org/tips-and-tools/>

Family Child Care Network
<https://www.fccnky.com/>

Division of Child Care (DCC)

WEBSITE
[HTTPS://WWW.CHFS.KY.GOV/AGENCIES/DCBS/DCC/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX](https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dchs/dcc/Pages/default.aspx)

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