

ECE-INSIDER

Division of Child Care Provider Newsletter



From the Director's Desk

Andrea Day

The Division of Child Care would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we have had to unexpectedly cancel the March and April DCC Provider Town Halls. Going forward, we feel it is best to continue providing you with the most current news and information through quarterly DCC Provider Town Halls and monthly ECE-Insider Newsletters. Of course, with any change, update, or immediate need, DCC may schedule additional opportunities for live Provider Town Halls.

Please save the following dates:

May 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM EST

August 13, 2024 at 1:00 PM EST

November 12, 2024 at 1:00 PM EST

We will continue to record and post all DCC Provider Town Halls on the DCC website. Registration links and/or any schedule changes will be sent via the DCC ListServ. Thank you for always showing up for Kentucky children and families! We appreciate all that you do!

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Family Time

In May, we celebrate a day that is near and dear to many hearts – Mother's Day! While we are not diminishing the value of the traditional mother and her role, we want to remember that all families look different! Be intentional about inclusive language when advertising for special events like Mother's Day, Father's Day, "family" picnics/parties, and more. Children may not have the specifically named figure, and it can cause them to feel left out or alienated based on their situation. "Mother's Day" may be a time to invite any or all of the special women in a child's life – like a step-mother, aunt, grandmother, cousin or foster mother. This can be applied to the "Father's Day" celebrations as well.

Some ideas may include:

- Instead of 'Muffins with Mom' – try "Muffin Monday" so that children can invite the special female figure (or any parent that can make the event!) for muffins.
- An alternative to "Donuts with Dad" is "Donut Day" where they can invite a male family member to enjoy!
- "Family Funday Friday" can be a celebration for any parental figure to participate in.

We are not 'eliminating' what makes these roles special and who these role models are! But being conscientious and intentional about including families of ALL kinds, will only help our kids see everyone on their "team" as one!



Summer Vibes and Water Safety

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 ANY and 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.

AN EXAMPLE PERMISSION FORM IS LINKED HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.CHILDCAREAWAREKY.ORG/WP-
CONTENT/UPLOADS/2019/09/SECTION-9-MEDICATION-4-RELEASE-FORM-
SUNSCREEN.PDF](https://www.childcareawareky.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/SECTION-9-MEDICATION-4-RELEASE-FORM-SUNSCREEN.PDF)

Provider Appreciation Day-

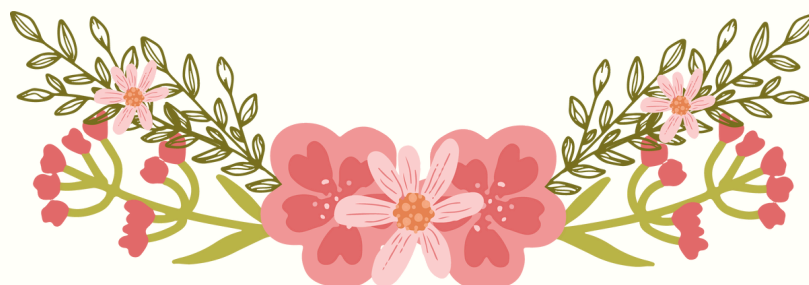
May 10th

On May 10, 2024, we recognize Provider Appreciation Day nationally. This day is earmarked to celebrate the work of child care providers (early childhood educators) building our youngest Kentuckians brains for school and life success. Your work is essential to educating our children in safe, nurturing learning environments embracing their curiosity and development as they grow. While this is one day set aside to acknowledge YOU. We are appreciative of your work daily and year round. We are mindful the difference between being recognized and appreciated as brain builder of our future. Recognition and appreciation can overlap in the workplace; however, they are not identical. Recognition can be linked to performance and promotions. Appreciation is broader providing more encouragement than praise adding to the culture of your program while embodying gratitude.

Have you heard of “**The 5 Languages of Appreciation for the Workplace**”? The authors Gary Chapman and Paul White describe these 5 ways to communicate meaningful and impactful appreciation with little to no cost to you that is effective for your team members. Let's look at these 5 languages to express value to your staff on this Provider Appreciation Day.

- Receiving a note from a supervisor, colleague, family, or community partner relaying a message of compliment. (Words of Affirmation)
- Helping at lunchtime or naptime. (Acts of Service)
- Buying a cup of coffee/tea/hot chocolate. (Receiving Gifts)
- Going on a walk with leadership or colleague on breaks during the day. (Quality Time)
- Having someone give a high five after an accomplishment big or small. (Physical Touch)

We appreciate you and all you do for the children and families in the Commonwealth building our future Kentuckians! We celebrate you!





Child Care Aware hosted a
**“Director’s Guide to Early
 Childhood Scholarships”** to
 provide more information on
 scholarships available to your
 staff and ways to support
 your Professional
 Development.
 View the recording:
[Click HERE](#)



Learn more at CCFFKy.org

Ways to Involve Fathers

Talk to The Father

Create a Welcoming

**environment for Fathers and
 Father figures in your Program.**

Initiate conversations with
 Fathers or father figures at pick
 up and drop off times.

Invite Fathers and father figures
 to visit the center and family
 events like Muffin Mondays, or
 Donut Day.

Encourage Fathers to volunteer
 to chaperone field trips, and be a
 party parent!

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 Tips and Tools

<https://www.childcareawareky.org/tips-and-tools/>

Family Child Care Network

<https://www.fccnky.com/>

