



Division of Child Care Provider Newsletter



From the Director's Desk

Andrea Day

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. 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.

To view a list of DCC approved CPR/First Aid Certification Agencies, please visit:

[https://ece.trc.eku.edu/pdfs/ApprovedFirstAidandCPR060221\(1\).pdf](https://ece.trc.eku.edu/pdfs/ApprovedFirstAidandCPR060221(1).pdf)

Thank you for all the dedication, love and support you provide to Kentucky children and families!

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Family Engagement Training!

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 programs! 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!

The Division of Child Care has partnered with brightwheel to offer a platform for providers to utilize at no cost! Contact kentucky@mybrightwheel.com to be connected to a specialist. You can also 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/>

Brightwheel training and informational opportunities:

Thursday, June 13th @ 1:00 PM EST: Build Trust & Great Communication with Families: <https://info.mybrightwheel.com/webinar-june-13-2024>

Tuesday, June 18th @ 1:00 PM EST: Make Billing & Payments Faster and Easier: <https://info.mybrightwheel.com/webinar-june-18-2024>

Wednesday, June 26th @ 1:00PM EST: Streamline Admissions & Delight New Families: <https://info.mybrightwheel.com/webinar-june-26-2024>



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)



International Mud Day is right around the corner! What could be better than a day spent 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!





Benefits of Gardening



During this time of year, the weather is just right for outdoor explorations. One of the ways that both Family Child Care homes, as well as center-based programs, can expand on their learning is through gardening. There are countless benefits to introducing gardening opportunities to children in early childhood settings.

- **Fine Motor Control:** Digging around with their hands, fingers, and small tools can use more muscles than you realize. Activating those muscles in new ways helps them strengthen many of the same muscles they need for pre-writing skills.
- **Social-Emotional:** Children can work together to nurture the growing garden. As we all know, gardening can be a calming activity that contrasts with the much busier parts of the day. Caring for a garden teaches young kids about schedules, routines, chores, and responsibilities. Children practice patience as they wait for their seeds to grow into various plants.
- **Connection to Nature and Sensory Opportunities:** It is common today for many children to spend little time experiencing the great outdoors. Gardening gives children the chance to get their hands dirty while learning about plants, insects, weather patterns, and more. This hands-on connection nurtures environmental awareness and respect for nature. The hands-on approach also allows for all five senses to be engaged. The sights, smells, textures, sounds, and tastes help open a world of experiences to little learners. It may help children be more open to other new experiences, including trying vegetables from the garden that they've helped to grow. It has been said that some children need multiple positive experiences with new foods before they might be willing to try them. Gardening provides those opportunities without a lot of pressure.
- **Math and Science:** Gardening is the perfect opportunity to introduce and practice the scientific method. There are many things to hypothesize, measure, and test. Counting and sorting seeds and plants, comparing and naming colors, and learning about all the elements that help plants to grow. Having tasks to maintain and return to can also encourage memory and attention, which certainly helps growth in all cognitive areas.

As you can see, gardening provides a wealth of academic and developmental benefits for children in Family Child Care and beyond. Best of all, it creates joyful memories and a lasting appreciation for nature's bounties. If you have the space, a child-friendly garden is well worth implementing at your home.





Learn more at CCFFKy.org

Humanizing the Father Figure

Father's can often be seen and understood as the hero for their young children. Father figures are often associated with the head of household, the "breadwinner" and the strength of the family. By taking time to help children understand that fathers have feelings, sometimes express emotions differently, make mistakes and can learn new ways to engage with them (the child) you as the provider help to humanize the hero!



Annual Training Hours Reminder

**15 PD HOURS DUE JUNE 30,
2024
SECTION 11 STAFF
REQUIREMENTS**

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/>

