

FACE-INSIDER

Division of Child Care Provider Newsletter



From the Director's Desk

Andrea Day

As we dive into Fall and cooler temperatures, this is a wonderful time to review outdoor play policy and procedures with families and child care staff members. Most of us know that time outside when the temps are cooler have many benefits for both adults and young children. It is important to take breaks from the stagnant, indoor environments and spend time in the fresh air outdoors. This is not only important to improve mental well-being, but has many health benefits, too!

Getting outdoors reduces exposure to indoor germs and bacteria. Many studies have shown that children who play outside during cooler weather, get sick less. Encourage staff to take advantage of the cooler temps to get children outdoors during the day. Remind families that it is important to get outside as long as temperatures are safe and request they send children with appropriate clothing for outdoor play.

Support is available to you through Child Care Health Consultants. Contact your consultant today if you have questions about appropriate weather and temperatures for outdoor playtime. We are also attaching the Child Care Weather Watch for reference. Please see the link below for additional resources and support.

<https://www.kentuckycchc.org/>

DCC values your dedication to providing a healthy and safe learning environment for Kentucky's children and families. Thank you for everything you do!

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GOEC- ECI REMINDER!

Fire Prevention Week!

Fire Prevention Week 2024 is October 6th-12th. This year's theme is "Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you!" Having working smoke alarms in your center, home, and children's homes is a critical prevention method against serious fire and smoke-related injuries.

Evacuation Plans and practice fire drills are critically important and required in regulation for programs! But having functional and up-to-date smoke alarms are the first step in enacting your emergency preparedness plan – so make them work for you! This can also be lifesaving for the families you serve. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has incredible resources on their website for programs and families alike: <https://www.nfpa.org/events/fire-prevention-week#fpw-materials>

For additional kid friendly fire safety materials including familiarizing with the sounds of smoke alarms, games and Sparky the Mascot, visit: <https://sparky.org>

Firefighters are **community** helpers. They will help if there is an **emergency**.

An emergency could be a fire, or it could be someone in your home who is sick or hurt.



Photo: Fire safety resources book from [Sparkyschoolhouse.org](https://sparkyschoolhouse.org).

National Pumpkin Day

National Pumpkin Day is October 26th! We often associate pumpkins with Halloween, but this fruit is very versatile and with so many ways to use it, you could find ways to celebrate pumpkins all month!

Fall is typically an active time of year for families. Evening and weekends are filled with various fall activities, but don't forget to think about how you can invite families to celebrate pumpkins as a family event/activity!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest – Invite families to get creative and decorate pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. Display those pumpkins throughout your program and encourage families and children to vote on their favorite pumpkin! Even if the prize is as simple as bragging rights, the excitement and creativity will have your families talking about this experience for months!

Pumpkin Cook-Off – Invite families and staff to participate in a pumpkin-themed cook-off. Encourage creativity and try new things with various categories. Food is a great way to celebrate culture, background, and traditions throughout the center family. And who doesn't like pumpkin for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert?

Whatever you choose to do, remember to have fun, and enjoy some intentional fall fun with your staff, children, and families! Happy Pumpkin Day!



Photo by Derek Owens on Unsplash



Photo by micheile henderson on Unsplash



Did You KNOW?



DCC & DRCC are different!

Many early care and education professionals refer to the Division of Child Care and the Division of Regulated Child Care as "The State," as if it is one entity. But did you know, DCC and DRCC are actually two different agencies? While they are not the same, they work hand in hand to serve child care programs, children, and families across Kentucky.

Division of Child Care

From helping families find and pay for child care through CCAP to background checks, professional development and quality (KY All-STARS), the Division of Child Care (DCC) helps child care programs be the best they can be. DCC develops the regulations and support plans that help grow and improve child care services and resources in Kentucky.



Division of Regulated Child Care

The Division of Regulated Child Care (DRCC) is responsible for licensing and investigating complaints against licensed child care facilities, certified family child care homes, residential child caring facilities and child placing agencies. DRCC enforces the regulations while supporting providers to create and maintain safe and healthy learning environments for young children.



Dyslexia Awareness Month

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia most commonly affects the way written language is processed. It is commonly recognized when children start learning to read and write because of the difficulties it can cause when learning to decode new words. Dyslexia has 3 subtypes that fall under the term “Dyslexia”. (clevelandclinic.org)

- Reading (Dyslexia)
- Writing (Dysgraphia)
- Math (Dyscalculia)

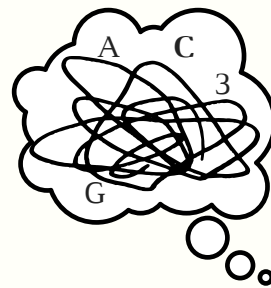
Dyslexia is often evaluated or diagnosed starting at the age of six, or after the child has had some formal instruction in reading. Dyslexia is not something a child “grows out of”. Providers, teachers and families can help children learn skills and provide accommodations to help them learn to decode at their pace!

Accommodations and supports for children with Dyslexia:

Some accommodations that can help children to learn and practice new decoding skills are:

- Small group or individual instruction
- Repetition and review of skills
- Multi-sensory instruction in decoding skills
- Repetition of sight words

(childmind.org)



Famous people with Dyslexia!

- Tom Holland (actor)
- Earvin “Magic” Johnson (athlete)
- Cher (singer)



CHILDMIND.ORG
CLEVELANDCLINIC.ORG



Supervision Strategies

Active supervision in a child care setting is the first step to creating a safe environment for children, families and staff. It's important to remind staff of the foundational strategies for active supervision. Each month we will explore one of the strategies in-depth from the ECLKC's active supervision resource. You can find a copy of the poster on the last page of the ECE-Insider or, [visit the site here](#).

Strategy 3: Scan and Count

Along with staff positioning and setting the environment for active supervision, staff should scan the whole environment and count frequently throughout the day, during activities and transitions. Scanning and counting is especially important during transitions from one area to another like from outdoor time to back inside the building.

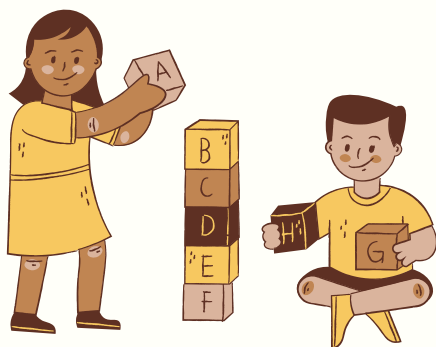
Scenario example:

Maria and Yasmin always count the children assigned to them, occasionally raising their fingers to show each other how many children they have. They keep track of where the children are and make sure no one is missing. If one child moves to a different area of the playground, they signal to each other so they are both aware.

Maria will start the line to come back in for transitioning back into the building after she has completed her scan and count of the outside playground. Yasmin is at the end of the line and will scan and count the children before leaving the playground area. Both teachers signal to each other their totals to make sure they match and match the correct number of total children present for their classroom.

Scenarios: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/safety-practices/article/active-supervision>

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/>



Reminder

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR
THE EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE!
SPACE IS LIMITED!

Early Childhood Institute
November 6 - 7, 2024
Griffin Gate Marriott . Lexington, KY

Together
WE GROW
Uniting Early Care and Education

TEAM KENTUCKY.
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD

This year's Institute features pre-registered sessions for all areas of early care and education. ECE-TRIS credit and PD certificates will be awarded for all sessions.

ECI Sessions include:

- Keynote and guest speakers for all attendees, including:
 - [Rachel Giannini](#), early childhood specialist and content creator seen in the documentary, [No Small Matter](#)
 - [DJ Pryor](#), inspirational comedian known for having a spirited conversation with his toddler, [Kingston in this viral video](#)
 - [Amy Nelson](#), play therapist, early childhood mental health consultant, and author of *Every Bunny Can Learn: A Tail of Inclusion*
- Sessions for all attendees on leadership, social emotional learning, the Pyramid Model Framework, inclusion, family engagement, and discovering apprenticeship opportunities
- Child Care-specific sessions on Help Me Grow Developmental Screening, safe classroom spaces, and recruitment and retainment of staff
- Head Start-specific sessions on teacher-child relationships, infant/toddler transitions, data & assessment, home visitation, and serving families experiencing homelessness
- Public Preschool-specific sessions on early literacy, preschool to kindergarten transitions, and Developmentally Appropriate Practice

This year's Institute is set to be the best one yet! Don't delay... [register today!](#)