

FEBRUARY 2025

WINTER

ECE-INSIDER

Division of Child Care Provider Newsletter



From the Director's Desk

Andrea Day

The Governor's Office of Early Childhood is redesigning the Kentucky Early Childhood Career Lattice. While DCC and many other partnering agencies are working together to ensure the redesign meets the needs of early care and education professionals across the state, we value and respect your feedback! We are diligently working to ensure this redesign not only promotes career growth within the early care and education field, but also to ensure that it is user friendly and is a reflection of our efforts to professionalize the field. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to provide your feedback. If you have already responded, please do not submit another response. All responses are due by 2/6/2025

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbLiA-MNejPga2Wx4J1TSGHnso2CSvD6NxrdJpGyUhKFOAew/viewform>

We appreciate everything you do for children and families throughout Kentucky and dedicate ourselves to supporting you!

Thank you,
Andrea Day

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The Council for Professional Recognition's Amnesty Program is BACK for a LIMITED TIME!

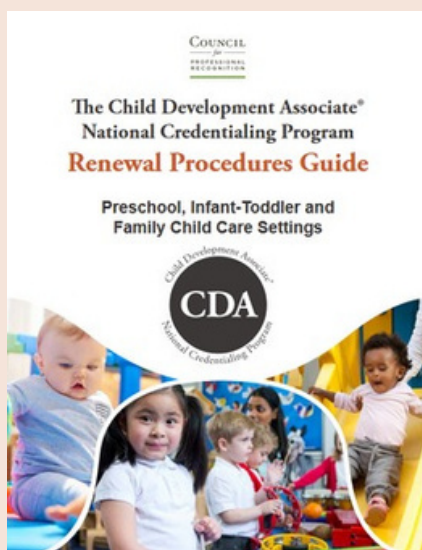
The Council for Professional Recognition's Renewal Amnesty program is back for a LIMITED TIME! This program provides an opportunity for anyone with a CDA that has an expiration date as far back as January 1, 2020, to complete the renewal process and make their credential active again! Click the Renewal Procedure Guide below for more information.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Expiration date as far back as January 1, 2020
- Must meet all current renewal requirements
- Apply online using YourCouncil account.
- All applications and payments (\$125 Renewal fee) must be submitted online by 7/31/2025. NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS.

The Division of Child Care may pay for your \$125.00 renewal fee if you meet all eligibility requirements, including employment at a regulated child care program for 20 or more hours per week! Reach out to your Child Care Aware Professional Development Coach today to learn how to apply for the CDA-K Minigrant.

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

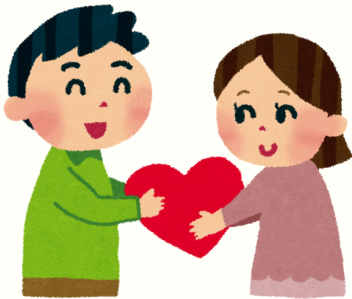


Be Kind

Random Acts of Kindness Day Monday, February 17th

If you've ever been on the giving or receiving end of a random act of kindness, then you know just how much of a difference it can make! February 17, 2025 is Random Acts of Kindness Day in the US. Making effort to show others an intentional kind thought or gesture can make the world a better place!

Young children can celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day, too! Talk about simple gestures like opening the door for someone, giving a hug, or drawing a picture to give to a loved one. Here are a list of ideas that you can incorporate into everyday experiences.



Random Acts of Kindness:

- Share a toy with a friend
- Help a friend clean up
 - Give a high five
- Read a book with someone
 - Say hello and smile
 - Leave a note
- Give a compliment



Children watch and learn from the adults around them. Make sure to incorporate simple, yet impactful acts of kindness into your everyday interactions with children, families, and coworkers! Let's work together to make the world a kind and caring place to be!

Black History Month!

February is Black History Month in the United States! It is celebrated February 1st to March 1st and it is known as a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black people throughout history. It is important to acknowledge that children notice physical differences like skin color, even as early as six months old. This means children are never too young to learn about and celebrate differences in their classmates, families, teachers, and communities! Click the historical figures below to learn more about their life and accomplishments!

Here are some broad ways to highlight African American culture for children:

1. Teach children that the purpose of Black History month is to remember and celebrate.
2. Black History Month activities can focus on celebration and acknowledging injustice.
3. Emphasize the significant role of Black Americans in the big picture of American history.

Brightwheel's article* on Black History month can be found here: <https://mybrightwheel.com/blog/celebrate-black-history-month-infants-toddlers-preschoolers>

*Information has been adapted and shared from this source mentioned here. Please visit the site to learn about age-appropriate activities, music and book resources that can be shared in your classroom and school communities.





Did You KNOW?

Child Care programs have access to free screening tools through Help Me Grow Kentucky



The Family Engaged Developmental Screening and Monitoring Program, offered by Help Me Grow Kentucky (HMGKY) and Child Care Aware’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” is designed to build parent and staff understanding of healthy child development, support services available in the community, and how both are important to improving children’s outcomes and ongoing success.

The benefits of participation are:

- It is an opportunity for family engagement, staff and parents work together to help the children reach age-appropriate milestones.
- The focus on including the social emotional screen provides better understanding of overall development.
- New simplified onboarding videos streamline the process.
- The ASQ® screening tool, used by HMGKY, has been approved by KY ALL STARS
- Center’s now have a data system to track:
 - o Number of screens conducted
 - o Each child’s progress
 - o Referrals and outcomes to services
 - o Gaps/barriers to services
 - o And more.



Child Care Centers may copy and paste this link into a web browser or scan the QR Code to request more information or to sign up.

Please reach out to Sally Dannenberg sally.dannenberg@uky.edu with questions.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b6b51f7374bc49bf80982209663ee2da>

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 6: Engage and Redirect

Encourage staff to use their skills and knowledge about the children in their care to redirect children for better active supervision. Staff can empower children to solve problems on their own and figure out solutions to help with engagement. Better engagement helps with active supervision and makes it easier actively supervise during activities or transitions.

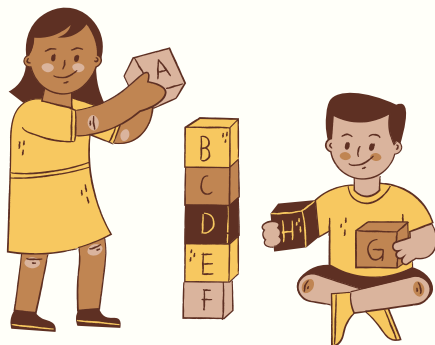
Scenario example:

Maria and Yasmin know that because it is raining they will have to stay inside for indoor play time today instead of playing outside. Yasmin and Maria know that this might cause some of their children to be restless. While Yasmin is actively supervising one small group that want to play in the house center, Maria leads the other small group in a group game of simon-says to allow them to get out some wiggles.

In Yasmin's group one child is trying to throw house items at other students. Yasmin knows that she needs to redirect him so that no one gets hurt! She calmly reminds him that plates are not frisbees and asks him how he uses plates at home. By redirecting and engaging him he sits the plate down and continues to play.

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/>



COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

COVID-19 is an acute viral illness. It is highly contagious, often a mild infection, but those who are at high risk may experience serious illness.

CAUSE

SARS-CoV-2 virus, a member of the coronavirus family.

SYMPTOMS

Children may experience a variety of respiratory symptoms such as: cough, shortness of breath, congestion and runny nose. They may also experience fever, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Please note some children may experience no symptoms at all but can still spread the infection to others.

SPREAD

COVID-19 virus is spread through aerosolized droplets, into the air and another susceptible person breathes them in.

INCUBATION

It takes from 2 to 14 days from the time a person is exposed until symptoms begin (or a person tests positive, if an asymptomatic case).

CONTAGIOUS PERIOD

For symptomatic cases: From 2 days before to 10 days after symptoms developed.

For asymptomatic cases: From 2 days before to 10 days after the positive test was taken.

EXCLUSION

Child Care and School: Until child is without fever or signs of a fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and is well enough to participate in normal daily activities.

PREVENTION/CONTROL

Asymptomatic cases (cases with no symptoms) are also able to spread COVID-19 to others. Proper handwashing and disinfection of common items and areas helps prevent the spread of COVID when community levels are high.



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAMILY NEWSLETTERS

The Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) provides access to a monthly newsletter, Helping Children Learn, written by The Parent Institute, and an activity planner to support families with early learners. These resources are filled with engaging daily learning activities that parents and caregivers can do with their children!

Please click on the links below for the current newsletter.

[Helping Children Learn-Family Newsletter \(English\)](#)

[Helping Children Learn-Family Newsletter \(Spanish\)](#)

[Daily Learning Planner for Families \(English\)](#)

[Daily Learning Planner for Families \(Spanish\)](#)

