



Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Acting Commissioner

April 2018

Dear Provider:

Spring is in the air, and with that comes many opportunities for growth! Plant a garden, try a new recipe, or perhaps clean out a closet that has become a “catch all” this winter. Seize the opportunity to cultivate change in your program and begin this season refreshed and invigorated. Looking for inspiration? Read on to learn about many new training options available for you to explore. The possibilities are endless! Remember: your ongoing development as a professional enhances the experiences of the children entrusted to your care. What they learn from you today, shapes their tomorrow. Make it magical!

Prefer to learn from home?



You may like the idea of taking training courses online but might be confused about which distance learning courses count toward your 30-hour training requirement. Not all training courses are created equally! OCFS has developed a new distance learning video to answer questions you may have about online training opportunities available to you. To view the video, click this link:

http://wpc.7E0E.edgecastcdn.net/007E0E/DLP/WEBSITE/2017_10_26_VC/distance_learning.mp4.

Coaches build strong programs

OCFS encourages programs to fulfill their training requirement by utilizing a variety of resources. I am excited to announce another new training option for child care professionals: coaching! Coaching is designed to improve the overall quality of a program, and is focused on goal-setting and achievement for an individual or group. Child care providers work with a coach to develop a strength-based effective coaching plan that addresses areas for learning and program improvement. Coaching concludes when the specified goal has been achieved (time frames may vary). Coaching **is not** an instructor-led, classroom training. For more details, read policy 17-7 Coaching as an OCFS Approved Method of Training, Found at: https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/daycare_policies.asp



Early Childhood Credential now accepted

This policy recognizes the Early Childhood Certificate Program as meeting the regulatory requirement needed for individuals to qualify for the position(s) of infant/toddler group teacher or preschool group teacher in a child day care center. For more information go to https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/daycare_policies.asp, see policy 17-6.

New director training gets rave reviews

Directors are taking advantage of the new 15-hour classroom training Health & Safety: Competencies in Child Care for Directors and finding it valuable. The course looks at a day in the life of a director and offers practical support and problem-solving skills. Here's what some participants said after completing the course:

- ❖ "Everyone felt that all directors should take this class, not just the new ones...it was very advantageous for the newer directors to interact with the veteran ones. Lots of good wisdom as well as support."
- ❖ "Being able to collaborate with other programs – group work activities show how policies can work in our program."

Sign up today at www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu.

On-demand training topics for 2018 (offered by participating directors and coming soon to participating CCR&Rs)

OCFS has added new on-demand trainings for 2018. The following topics are scheduled for the period of April 1 – June 30, 2018.

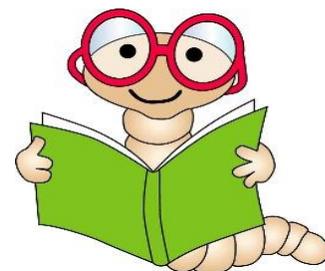


- **Moving and Grooving in your Child Care Program**
OCFS Training Topic:
 - Child day care program development
- **Focus on the NYS Child Day Care Regulations**
OCFS Training Topics:
 - Statutes and regulations pertaining to child day care
 - Statutes and regulations pertaining to child abuse and maltreatment
 - Safety and security procedures

For CCR&Rs that are considering offering on-demand training and directors who wish to join the ranks of trainers, please call the Early Childhood Education and Training Program at (518) 442-6644 or toll-free at (800) 295-9616, or email at pdp-on-demand@albany.edu.

Attention certified teachers

The New York State Education Department requires certified teachers to complete one hundred hours of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) every five years. Effective February 12, 2018, OCFS e-learning now count toward this requirement. If you employ certified school teachers in your child care program, let them know these e-learning can count for both OCFS requirements and CTLEs.



Attention family-based providers

The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership is a wonderful funding opportunity for family-based child care to join with Early Head Start. The program provides a full complement of comprehensive services to children from low-income families in family-based child care. New money from the federal government has been set aside to expand this program across the states. If this is something you would like to learn more about, go to <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/video/benefits-early-head-start-child-care-partnerships-quality-early-learning-infants-toddlers>. If you are interested in getting involved, send an email to patricia.persell@ccf.ny.gov with "New interest in EHSCCP" in the subject line, and include your name and the county where your program is located.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

As mandated reporters, caregivers play a vital role in protecting children. During the month of April, OCFS highlights prevention activities to help keep children safe. Many of the activities involve the national symbol for child abuse prevention--the pinwheel, and the official color--blue. OCFS recognizes the role child care professionals play in helping build strong families. Some examples of this include:

- developing relationships with children's families,
- providing resources and referrals to parents,
- modeling warm and responsive interactions with children, and
- discussing parenting and child development issues with families and offering guidance.

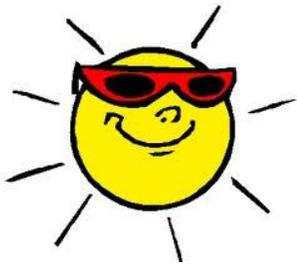


Mandated reporter training is now available in Spanish via this link:

<https://www.nysmandatedreporter.org/RegistrationInstructions.aspx>

More information regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month is available at:

<https://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/basic-one-pagers/Strengthening-Families-Protective-Factors.pdf>. Attached is a calendar of events you can post in your program and share with parents. The calendar encourages parents to participate in activities that promote strong families.



Seasonal staff

Many programs hire seasonal staff. This is a reminder that all directors, caregivers, teachers, substitutes, volunteers and interns with the potential for regular and substantial contact with children, are all required to complete the 5-Hour Health & Safety Training pre-service or within three months of hire. The training can be found at: <https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/>

Alert! Defective fire extinguishers

On November 2, 2017, Consumer Protection Safety Committee issued a recall of Kidde fire extinguishers with plastic handles. Consumers who own this product should immediately contact Kidde to request a free replacement fire extinguisher and for instructions on returning the recalled unit, as it may not work properly in a fire. If you have one of the recalled units, contact Kidde at (855) 271-0773, or for more information:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/kidde-recalls-fire-extinguishers-with-plastic-handles-due-to-failure-to-discharge-and>.



Vaping is prohibited

Did you know that vaping is considered smoking under New York State Law? The regulations pertaining to cigarette smoking apply to vaping and e-cigarettes, too. well. Vaping apparatus and products must be kept inaccessible to children.

Important supervision reminders

The change of seasons brings opportunities to move activities outside. Children love to be outdoors exploring the limits of their freedom. **Competent supervision is a must.** Now is the time to check fences, gates, and playground equipment. Correct unsafe conditions. Go over the rules with the staff and children. Stay safe and HAVE FUN!

Sincerely,



Janice M. Molnar Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services

Si necesita leer esta carta en español, visite el portal de la División de Servicios de Cuidado Infantil: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/letters.asp> Si no tiene acceso a la Red o Internet, contacte al encargado de licencias o registros para recibir ayuda.



Are you registered to vote? [Register to vote online today.](#)