



Child Care News



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WELCOME 2021

2020 was an unprecedented year and brought challenges for all of us. Together, we have persevered and walked into 2021 with optimism. Thank you for serving Ohio's children and families.

Did you know?

Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Home Providers can participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and be reimbursed for meals that meet federal nutritional guidelines.

Why should my program participate in CACFP?

- CACFP provides materials, training and more to help providers teach healthy eating habits
- Your program joins a community of providers, sponsors and staff who care about health, wellness and development of the children in their care
- CACFP is an indicator of quality

For more information on how to contribute to the wellness and healthy growth of the children you serve contact (877)644-6338 or click [here!](#)



OHIO GOVERNOR'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The Ohio Governor's Imagination Library, founded in 2019, continues to impact early childhood literacy across Ohio. Through our partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we are able to put more books in the hands of Ohio's children. As the program continues to grow, we are working to ensure that every child is ready to succeed.

For information on how to enroll, please visit: Home — Ohio Governor's Imagination Library (ohioimaginationlibrary.org)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE

Have you and your staff completed trainings required to obtain or renew your Professional Development (PD) Certificate? Early Childhood Professionals in The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' (ODJFS) Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) rated programs have their PD tracked on the biennium and must secure or renew their PD Certificate by June 30, 2021. Professionals who have not been employed the entire biennium will have a pro-rated training requirement to obtain their PD certificate. Provider **TA letter #19** includes details on this requirement. Please visit [View Trainings](#) | [OCCRRA](#) to search trainings.



Ready to start the process to become rated?

Visit boldbeginning.ohio.gov for Step Up To Quality resources or contact your child care licensing specialist today!

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH CREDENTIAL

The Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential enables staff to work in roles that support infants and their caregivers through positive outcomes. The goal of the **Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential** is to implement a set of skills and core competencies that are developmentally appropriate and are anchored in relationship-based practices that support the needs of infants and caregivers to reach their greatest wellness.

Ohio recognizes the need for early childhood system professionals to have specialized skills and training for working with Ohio's pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. Toward this goal, the Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential is accessible to all early childhood professionals in Ohio and are tiered to the right scope of practice for each service delivery system partner.

Applications are now open through the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association's (OCCRRA) Ohio Professional Registry. Applicants will need to create a profile and have an OPIN. Training taken to secure the Credential can be used toward the Professional Development Certificate. For additional information, visit: <https://occrra.org/our-resources-page/>.

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE CERTIFICATE

The Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS), in partnership with the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA), recently launched a Trauma Informed Care Certificate. The certificate will demonstrate knowledge and skill in Trauma Informed Competencies as established by ODJFS and OMHAS. Additionally it is designed to move professionals across three certificate levels from being trauma aware to trauma informed to trauma competent. The certificate coursework is all free, available online and is Ohio Approved. Completed courses count toward the Professional Development Certificate as well. Courses can be accessed through the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR) which allows professionals to document and track their training and skill development. For more information regarding the certificate, you can visit the OCCRRA website at <https://occrra.org/our-resources-page/>.

Family Resources

- **Free Eyewear:** Parents and caregivers can apply for free protective eyewear
- Amblyopia (lazy eye) support and free patches, visit: <https://ohioamblyoperegistry.com/>.
- Free eye health and safety programs, visit: https://associationdatabase.com/aw/OOA/input_form/display_form_01_show?form_no=12&host=retain

Be sure to share these resources with your families!