

CHEROKEE NATION

Child Care & Development
2025 Spring Edition



Hatching Chickens

Learning Luggage And
Prop Boxes

CDA® Renewal Amnesty
Program

Celebrate Week Of The
Young Child 2025

Provider Appreciation Day

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HATCHING EGGS

Spring has arrived and it is time to bring back the chicks. Hatching chickens with your children is an incredible learning opportunity!

This egg-citing kit includes an incubator, egg candler, Twenty-One Days of Hatching Chicks booklet, and more information and activities about hatching chicks. A Cherokee Nation Child Care Consultant will visit your program to introduce hatching chicks and will work with the teacher to explain the curriculum and incubating process.

Please contact Amber Walls at 918-453-5300 if you are interested in this fun enhancement opportunity! We have a limited number of incubators, so this will be on a first come, first served basis.



LEARNING LUGGAGE AND PROP BOXES

Themed learning luggage and prop boxes available for check out. We will deliver to your program and pick up when you are finished. Please contact us at 918-453-5300 for more information.

LEARNING LUGGAGE

- Art
- Bears
- Colors
- Community Helpers
- Construction
- Dinosaurs
- Families
- Five Senses
- Food and Nutrition
- Fun in the Outdoors
- Health
- Infant and Toddler Infants
- Let's Go Camping
- Let's Play Outside
- Life Cycles
- Pre-School Fun
- Seasons and Weather

- Shapes
- Social Emotional Learning
- Toddlers
- Transportation Under the Sea

PROP BOXES

- Bakery
- Beauty Shop
- Pizza



THE CDA® RENEWAL AMNESTY PROGRAM IS BACK FOR A LIMITED TIME!

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the CDA®. As part of the celebration, the Council is offering a limited-time CDA® Renewal Amnesty Program. This program provides an opportunity for anyone with a CDA expiration date as far back as January 1, 2020, to complete the renewal process and make their credential active again.

ELIGIBILITY:

Expiration date as far back as January 1, 2020
Must meet all current renewal requirements
Apply online using YourCouncil

The program is available from February 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025 (11:59 PM EST).

All applications and payments (\$125) must be submitted online by July 31, 2025 (11:59 PM EST). No exceptions or extensions will be granted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.cdacouncil.org/en/cda-renewal-amnesty-program/>
or by scanning the QR code





CELEBRATE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD 2025

The NAEYC website provides the resources you need to plan an event or activity, for every day during the week of April 5-11. Visit the NAEYC Week of the Young Child page for inspiration for activities for the week.

April 5 – Kick-off Saturday

Things you can do on Kick-off Saturday.

- Post a video, blog, or social media post sharing why you celebrate Week of the Young Child and what you do to prepare.
- Create a dancing playlist for Music Monday.
- Search your kitchen for ingredients for your Tasty Tuesday activity.
- For Work Together Wednesday, work with other educators in your program to draft a group letter to your elected officials, emphasizing the need to #InvestinECE.
- Gather your arts and crafts for Artsy Thursday.
- Draft an email to parents explaining what they should expect during #WOYC25 and how they can prepare for your Family Friday activities.

April 6 – Music Monday

When children sing, dance, and listen to music, they develop their language and early literacy skills while being active and encouraging movement. Make up and record your own unique version of a song or write your own.

- Have the children sing and dance to their favorite tunes.
- Echo Singing – Take turns singing short melodies and have children repeat them like an echo.
- Read books about music to children

April 7 – Tasty Tuesday

This fun, food-themed day is about more than just cheese and crackers. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science, and more. With the rise in childhood obesity, you can encourage healthy nutrition and fitness habits at home and

in the classroom, create your own healthy snacks and share the recipes and photos of your creations with families.

- Make butter. Shake heavy cream in a jar until it becomes butter. Spread it on crackers or bread to taste.
- Have a picnic, indoors or outdoors.
- Create a classroom cookbook. Compile a recipe book with a favorite family recipe from each child.

April 8 – Work Together Wednesday

When children build together, they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and early literacy skills. Children can use any building material-from a fort of branches on the playground to a block city in the classroom, or a hideaway made from couch pillows at home.

- Group Storytelling – Start a story and let each child add a sentence or action to build it together.
- Build an obstacle course in teams and then run relays through it.
- Giant Cardboard Creations – Use large boxes to build something as a group, like a car, rocket or playhouse.

April 10 – Artsy Thursday

Think, problem solve, create! Children develop creativity, social skills, and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands. On artsy Thursday celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative artmaking. Use any materials-from crayons to paint, clay to crafts!

- Playdough is a favorite. Make art with playdough.
- Sticker Collage – Provide a variety of stickers and let children create a collage or story to share.
- Outdoor Art – Provide children with crayons, chalk and other art materials to use outdoors. Let them paint using natural materials such as sticks and leaves.

April 11 – Family Friday

Celebrate those who support young learners. Share family stories and pictures to acknowledge the role families play in a child's learning. Parents can read a favorite children's book to their early learner or take their child on a picnic.

- Family Show and Tell – Invite children to show and tell something special about their family.
- Post family photos for all to see.
- Family Cultural Sharing – Invite families to share traditions, food, or music with the class to promote cultural awareness and diversity.
- Encourage families to spend quality time together through family dinners, movies or game nights.

For more information visit:
WOYC Activity Resources | NAEYC
<https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/plan-your-event>





INTERNATIONAL MUD DAY • SATURDAY, JUNE 29

HOW TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MUD DAY

There are countless ways to celebrate International Mud Day, but all of them have one thing in common: you must get dirty. This day can be especially fun if you have children because who likes to get dirty as much as children?

One of the most creative and fun activities that would be perfect to do on International Mud Day is making mud sculptures or mud cakes. It's easy to adjust the consistency of the mud you're using by simply adding a little more earth or water, so it should be easy to make what you want to make, while enjoying plenty of carefree laughter and quality family time in the process.

Yet another easy way to enjoy this day to the fullest is to make a homemade

mud pit using a blow-up pool. Not only is this cheap, but it also makes for a truly unique experience. All you must do once you've bought a small blow-up pool is fill it with mud that can easily be filled using a mixture of earth and water that your children can then splash around in. Just make sure that you're prepared to throw out your/their clothes once you peel them off, because there is no way those clothes will ever get clean again.

FOR MORE INFO:

<https://worldforumfoundation.org/workinggroups/nature/mud-day/>



*"Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water bugs, tadpoles, frogs, mud turtles, wild strawberries, acorns, chestnuts, trees to climb. Brooks to wade...bees, butterflies, various animals to pet, hayfields, pinecones, rocks to roll, sand, snakes, and hornets; any child who has been deprived of these has been deprived of the best part of...education."
- Luther Burbank, American Botanist*

Family Support Month

2025 ROADMAP

CAP Kick-Off Day

April 4

Take a stand for prevention and help kick off National Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support Month in Oklahoma in a big way by hosting or participating in an activity or event on Friday, April 4th. Join the initiative to create stronger, safer communities for children and families across Oklahoma!



Scan here for
**My Happiest Day
Coloring Challenge
Registration.**



Oklahoma Wears Blue Day #OKWearsBlue

April 9

People all over Oklahoma are encouraged to wear blue, take a group photo or selfie, and share it on social media using the hashtags **#OKWearsBlue** and **#OKCAP2025**.



Scan here for the
**Proclamation
Template.**



Scan here for
**Activities and
Event Calendar
Submissions**



Strengthening Families Together Collaborative Convening

April 21

Provides opportunities to co-design pathways and remove systemic barriers to more adequately address the need and ensure a comprehensive continuum of culturally relevant, community-based supports and services for children and families.



Share photos
and stories from
**NCAPM Kick-Off
Day Events Here!**



2025 Oklahoma Child Abuse and Neglect Conference

April 21-23

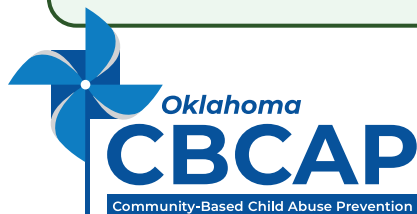
This conference offers professionals working in the field of child maltreatment the latest research and best practices to enhance their responses and provide appropriate services to children and their caregivers affected by child maltreatment.



Outstanding Child Abuse Prevention Awards 2025

April 30

Join us in honoring outstanding individuals, organizations, and projects that foster safe, stable, and nurturing environments and relationships for Oklahoma's children and families.



**Planting
Positive Roots**



**OKLAHOMA
State Department
of Health**

Email LaChez' English at LachezE@health.ok.gov for more information.



SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN (SEBT)

The Cherokee Nation Public Health Program will serve students for the summer 2025 with Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Program (SEBT).

- Eligibility for the SEBT program is based on free or reduced school meals and FDPIR data list. Households that are on a direct certification list from these sources will automatically be issued a card for SEBT. Households can choose to OPT-OUT by contacting our office by April 21, 2025.
- We will also have the online application and paper applications available for households to apply who are not automatically certified to be issued a SEBT card, you do not need to apply online if you qualify for free/reduced meals, Tribal TANF or FDPIR.
- The program is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to provide summer nutrition cards to children currently receiving free or reduced-priced school meals.
- The SEBT program offers nutritious food to children during summer months, when school meals are not easily available for households
- Cherokee Nation Summer Nutrition Program is coordinating the program which directly provides eligible households with summer nutrition cards to purchase approved nutritional foods. Qualifying families will receive a food package valued at approximately \$120 per child in one benefit issuance on the EBT card. Benefits are available through an EBT card, which works like a debit card and allows participants to purchase healthy foods during the summer months. This is a one-time issuance for the whole summer. The card will not be reloaded monthly.
- Participation in this program will have no impact on other government assistance that participants may receive.
- SEBT will even help you find other services to make being a mom or dad - and raising amazing kids - a little easier.



Self-Care for Teachers

Regulating your responses when children's behaviors push your buttons



When children engage in behavior that pushes your buttons, it is important to be intentional in how you respond. Making a plan will help you remain calm when you respond. By being calm, you will be able to objectively observe the child's behavior and think about what the behavior is communicating. This will help you respond in a way that is supportive of the child.

Below are strategies that you might use when a child's behavior pushes your buttons:

Before Your Buttons Are Pushed

Think, Think, Think about your PLAN!

- ▶ How can I respond when the child starts pushing my buttons?
- ▶ How can I take care of myself and still support the child?
- ▶ Can I make changes in the environment to support the child and decrease the challenging behavior?
 - Have I taught rules to the child in my classroom? Have I provided individual supports for the child?
 - What activities does the child particularly enjoy?
 - What helps the child calm down?
 - What helps the child feel safe and secure?
 - Have I taught strategies to help the child calm down?

Hot Button Activity



Check out the Hot Button Activity to reflect on behaviors that push your buttons and how your responses affect children and families.

<https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Hot-Buttons.pdf>

ReFRAME your thinking about the child's behavior that pushes your buttons.

"Jalen is tired and needs a break."

"Susan is frustrated because she doesn't want to wear a mask."

"Marco doesn't understand the new routine and needs some help."

"John doesn't feel safe."

RESOURCES



CHEROKEE NATION CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTER

1-888-458-6230

CATOOSA OFFICE:

Office: 918-266-5626

PRYOR OFFICE:

Contact Tahlequah

Office at 918-453-5300

TAHLEQUAH OFFICE:

Tina Smith - *Manager, Child Care
Resource and Referral*

Office: 918-453-5054

Cell: 918-207-6920

Amber Walls

Supervisor, Child Care Consultants

Office: 918-453-5079

Cell: 918-316-2659

RESOURCES

Center for Early Childhood

Professional Development (CECPD)

1-888-446-7608

www.cecpd.org

Child Care Aware Of America

1-800-424-2246

www.childcareaware.org

OKDHS Office of Background
Investigations

1-800-347-2276

405-521-2355

Oklahoma Child Care Resource &
Referral (OCCRRA)

1-888-962-2772

www.oklahomachildcare.org

Reaching for the STARS -

Misti Denton - QRIS Administrator

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Jennifer.Mallery@okdhs.org

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program manager

918-348-8518

Tiffany.McPherson@okdhs.org

Amanda Hatcher - SOS

405-567-5462

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Scholars for Excellence in Child
Care (S.E.C.C.)

Verna Corley - Carl Albert State
College

Mary Jordan - Northeastern

Oklahoma A&M College

918-540-6172

Jennifer Bachhofer - Career

Technology Centers

405-225-9133

WARMLINE: 1-888-574-5437

For questions or information related
to Billing, Licensing, and Subsidy
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at 918-453-5300

