

# CHEROKEE NATION

Child Care & Development  
2026 Winter Edition

KNOW WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS AT  
SCHOOL

SCRUBBY BEAR WANTS TO VISIT YOUR  
PROGRAM

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY TRAINING  
SESSIONS

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# KNOW WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS AT SCHOOL





# SCRUBBY BEAR WANTS TO VISIT YOUR PROGRAM!

Cold and flu season is here!

Are you having trouble getting the children to wash their hands? Make it fun. Give us a call and invite Scrubby Bear to your program for a short presentation on proper hand washing techniques.

If you would like Scrubby Bear to visit your program, contact Samantha Brown at 918-824-4533 to schedule a visit.





# JANUARY AND FEBRUARY TRAINING SESSIONS

You must register to attend these training sessions. There must be at least five participants registered in order for the class to make, or the training session will be canceled. You will receive 2 hours of Formal training credit for each training session you attend. You will be notified if the class is canceled due to weather, lack of participation, or unforeseen circumstances.

## **Play for Today, Learn for Tomorrow**

This training focuses on the importance of children learning through different types of play: free play, guided play, and structured play. It addresses adults' roles in play and provides suggestions to set up a learning environment that allows for all types of play.

### **January 20, 2026**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Washington County  
Bartlesville Public Library  
600 S Johnstone Ave  
Bartlesville, OK

### **February 10, 2026**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Craig County  
Cherokee Nation Vinita  
Health Center  
27371 S 4410 Rd  
Vinita, OK

## **Once Upon a Number: A Magical Approach to Teaching Preschool Math Through Fairytale**

Step into the magical world of fairytales to unlock the power of early math learning! This engaging and interactive training is designed to equip educators with creative strategies to teach foundational math skills to preschoolers using beloved fairytale themes. From counting the seven dwarfs to measuring Rapunzel's tower, participants will explore imaginative ways to weave math concepts into storytelling, play, and hands-on activities.

### **February 17, 2026**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Muskogee County  
Muskogee Public Library  
801 W Okmulgee Ave  
Muskogee, OK

## **Understanding Self-Care and Managing Stress**

Participants will learn how to take an active role in preserving and protecting their health and mental wellbeing while taking care of others.

### **February 24, 2026**

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Rogers County  
Will Rogers Library  
1515 N Florence Ave  
Claremore, OK

## **Registration**

Amber Walls  
918-453-5300



# MARCH TRAINING SESSIONS

You must register to attend these training sessions. There must be at least five participants registered in order for the class to make, or the training session will be canceled. You will receive 2 hours of Formal training credit for each training session you attend. You will be notified if the class is canceled due to weather, lack of participation, or unforeseen circumstances.

## **Understanding Self-Care and Managing Stress**

Participants will learn how to take an active role in preserving and protecting their health and mental wellbeing while taking care of others.

**March 10, 2026**

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Mayes County  
Cherokee Nation Pryor  
One Stop Office  
6789 US 69  
Pryor, OK

## **Preventing Challenging Behavior**

This training will describe a framework of evidence based strategies to support the social and emotional development of young children and the prevention of challenging behavior. We will discuss the importance of relationships, understanding that behavior is communication, the environment, and teaching social emotional skills to young children. Tangible strategies will be discussed.

**March 24, 2026**

6:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m.

Adair County  
Stilwell Child Development Center  
398 North Eighth Street  
Stilwell, OK

## **Play for Today, Learn for Tomorrow**

This training focuses on the importance of children learning through different types of play: free play, guided play, and structured play. It addresses adults' roles in play and provides suggestions to set up a learning environment that allows for all types of play.

**March 31, 2026**

6:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m.

Ottawa County  
NE Tribal Health  
7600 OK-10 S  
Miami, OK

## **Registration**

Amber Walls  
918-453-5300





# Read Across America Week

Read Across America Week is celebrated from March 2 to 6 — it begins on the birthday of the beloved author, Dr. Seuss. The entire month of March, in fact, is dedicated to reading. The National Education Association (N.E.A.) aims to encourage reading and educate people about its benefits, especially among children and young adults. Events are organized across the nation by schools and organizations to promote the same.

## READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK ACTIVITIES

### 1. Read

This one is a no-brainer. There is no better way to celebrate Read Across America Week than to read a book. Whether it is a classic you've been waiting to get to, or a self-help book recommended by a friend, grab a book and read!

### 2. Remember Dr. Seuss

Dr. Seuss has made remarkable contributions to the world of reading. Pick up one of his books during Read Across America Week. You could even watch an on-screen adaptation of his work, or even a live Broadway musical! He has given something for everyone.

### 3. Participate in Read Across America

During this week, numerous events are organized across the nation to promote reading among children. Attend, or get your children to attend, if you can. You could even volunteer at or host your own reading event to celebrate.





# LEARNING LUGGAGE AND PROP BOXES

Themed learning luggage and prop boxes available for check out. We will deliver to your center and pick up when you are finished. Please contact us 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



## Cherokee Nation Child Care & Development Resource & Referral

Child Care Resource & Referral offers services to child care providers contracted with Cherokee Nation Child Care and Development. Some examples of services are listed below. These services are subject to change. If you need a specific training topic or resource, please contact our office for more information.

### Technical Assistance (TA)

Behavior and Guidance  
Infant & Toddlers  
Lesson Planning  
Outdoor Interest Centers

Room Arrangement  
School Age Activities  
Social Emotional Skills  
Stars Advancement and QRIS  
STEAM Enrichment

\*Other topics as requested

### Training

Active Supervision  
Behavior and Guidance  
Circle Time Success  
Classroom Management

Family Engagement  
Infection Control  
Music & Finger Plays  
Safe Sleep

Science Training  
Self Care  
STEAM Training  
Teaching Social Emotional Skills

\*Other topics as requested

### Other Resources

Die Cuts  
Laminating Services  
Learning Luggage  
Quarterly Newsletter

### Contact information

Tahlequah Office: 918-453-5300  
Toll-Free Number: 1-888-458-6230





# SETTING THE STAGE TO FOSTER STEAM

- Use materials that engage the senses: textures, smells, tastes, sounds, and sight. Allow children to taste test and compare foods. Ask which is crunchier, sweeter, or smoother. Combine science and art by having children paint different surfaces with the same color, and then compare their appearance.
- Design activities that ask children key questions: Counting, measuring, and weighing help with number familiarity. Examples might include, putting items in sequence, identifying the steps in a process, or putting objects in order by size or weight.
- Play games that use executive function: simple clapping patterns and rhymes, sorting tasks, or motion games like Simon Says.
- Speak STEAM: Incorporate problem solving and math-rich language in all types of activities. Listen to children's observations and provide scaffolds when appropriate.
- Explore the outdoors and nature: Encourage creative and active exploration outdoors. Ask questions about colors, shapes, and textures. Compare and contrast things you can touch and feel.
- Read fiction and non-fiction books with STEAM-related content: Literature provides a great springboard for discussion and activities.
- Schedule open-ended and extended time: Children need time to become fully engaged in exploration and investigation. Older children may need several days or even weeks to fully explore some concepts.

*From National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning*



# Providing Positive Feedback and Encouragement

## Verbal Encouragement

- ▶ "You are working so hard on..."
- ▶ "You must feel proud of yourself for..."
- ▶ "Thank you for helping me..."
- ▶ "What a great listener you are, you..."
- ▶ "Great job remembering to..."
- ▶ "That's a cool way to..."
- ▶ "Way to go! You \_\_\_\_\_ all by yourself!"
- ▶ "You almost have it! You can..."
- ▶ "You are being a helper when you..."
- ▶ "Your brother/sister looks so happy when you..."
- ▶ "You are really growing up because you..."
- ▶ "You were so patient when you..."
- ▶ "That's a great idea! Look at you..."
- ▶ "Excellent job using your problem solving to..."
- ▶ "WOW!! What a fabulous job you've done of..."



## Nonverbal encouragement also works! Try...

- ▶ Giving a hug
- ▶ A thumbs up or wink
- ▶ Clapping
- ▶ Using a special hand shake
- ▶ Smiling
- ▶ Imitating gestures, words or sounds
- ▶ A happy dance

## Favorites to Try...



# DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING FOR CHILD CARE?

You may qualify for Cherokee Nation Child Care & Development child care subsidy!

## ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

- Parents must be working/going to school
- Meet income guidelines
- Proof of citizenship in a federally recognized tribe
- Live within 14-county Cherokee Nation child care service area.
- Children must be age 12 or under  
(children with special needs up to age 19)

## 85% STATE MEDIAN INCOME

NOTE: CLIENTS NOT CLASSIFIED AS SELF-EMPLOYED ARE  
ELIGIBLE FOR A WORK-RELATED EXPENSE DEDUCTION OF 35%  
OF THE TOTAL GROSS INCOME.

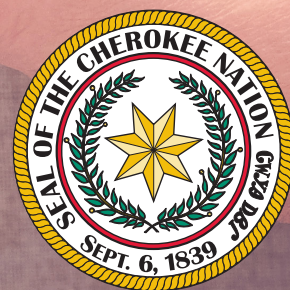
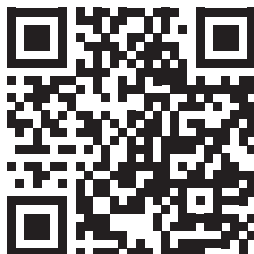
FAMILY SIZE	YEARLY	MONTHLY
1	\$41,520	\$3,460
2	\$54,295	\$4,525
3	\$67,071	\$5,589
4	\$79,846	\$6,654
5	\$92,621	\$7,718
6	\$105,397	\$8,783
7	\$107,792	\$8,983
8	\$110,187	\$9,182
9	\$112,583	\$9,382
10	\$114,978	\$9,582

100% State Median Annual Income for a family of 4 is \$93,937

Household income must be at or below the amount listed above for your family size to receive assistance with paying child care. Contact a Child Care & Development Subsidy Caseworker for more information at 918-453-5300.

**918-453-5300**

**[childcare.cherokee.org/subsidy](http://childcare.cherokee.org/subsidy)**





**CHEROKEE NATION CHILD CARE  
RESOURCE CENTER**

1-888-458-6230

**CATOOSA OFFICE:**

Contact Tahlequah Office

**PRYOR OFFICE:**

Samantha Brown

*Child Care Consultant*

Office: 918-824-4533 ext. 2394

**TAHLEQUAH OFFICE:**

Tina Smith - *Manager*

*Child Care Resource and Referral*

Office: 918-453-5054

Cell: 918-207-6920

Amber Walls - *Supervisor*

*Child Care Consultant*

Office: 918-453-5079

Cell: 918-316-2659

Angela Collins

*Child Care Consultant*

Specialist Office: 918-453-7614

Cell: 918-772-7076

**RESOURCES**

Center for Early Childhood

Professional Development (CECPD)

1-888-446-7608

[www.cecpcd.org](http://www.cecpcd.org)

Child Care Aware Of America

1-800-424-2246

[www.childcareaware.org](http://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](http://www.oklahomachildcare.org)

Oklahoma Partnership for School  
Readiness (OPSR)

405-429-4219

[www.okschoolreadiness.org](http://www.okschoolreadiness.org)

Reaching for the STARS

Misti Denton – QRIS

Administrator

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[Misti.Denton@okdhs.org](mailto:Misti.Denton@okdhs.org)

Tiffany Ziegler - Assistant QRIS

Program Manager

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Tonja Lorenzo - Program Manager/

Child Care Coaches

405-881-2058

[TonjaLorenzo@okdhs.org](mailto:TonjaLorenzo@okdhs.org)

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

Verna Corley - Carl Albert State

College 918-647-1252

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  
Programs, please call our main office  
at 918-453-5300