



CHEROKEE NATION

Child Care & Development 2026 Winter Edition



KNOW WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS AT SCHOOL

SCRUBBY BEAR WANTS TO VISIT YOUR PROGRAM

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LEARNING LUGGAGE AND PROP BOXES

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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

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





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.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

Oklahoma Partnership for School
Readiness (OPSR)
405-429-4219
www.okschoolreadiness.org

Reaching for the STARS

Misti Denton - QRIS

Administrator

918-344-4368

Misti.Denton@okdhs.org

Tiffany Ziegler - Assistant QRIS

Program Manager

918-348-8518

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918-348-6516

Jennifer.Mallery@okdhs.org

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405-567-5462

Amanda.Hatcher@okdhs.org

Tonja Lorenzo - Program Manager/
Child Care Coaches
405-881-2058
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