Child Care Council of Orange County
February Highlights 2024
From the Desk of the Executive Director

February was a short month even though we got an extra day for Leap Year. The Council is resuming visits to centers, family and group programs. The Council is looking forward to the weather changing where we experience some warmer days. Please look out for two huge events, one on April 28th which is our second collaboration with Early Intervention and the other on May 9th as the Council celebrates Providers. I am excited to announce that I am planning on visiting as many programs through invitation that I can in March. The Council will also be resuming reading to the children virtually so please sign up for this. I hope your year is going well so far and I wish you an eventful March!

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40 Matthews Street, Suite 103, Goshen, NY 10924, (845) 294-4012 * 1-844-461-4689  Hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm  Backgrounds from: https://wallpapers.com
Council Happenings!
Healthy Relationships

The very entertaining and informative guest speaker, Tamaé Memole, M.S. Ed, Director, Resilience Leadership and Learning Institute came and presented a training to the Council staff. Tamaé spoke about healthy work relationships with staff and providers and how stress affects our work, our executive function, our relationships and even our health.
50 Things To Do With Your Kids Indoors


1. BUILD A FORT
2. MANICURE/Pedicure
3. BOARD GAMES
4. TREASURE HUNT
5. BAKE
6. LIGHT BRITE
7. DRESS UP
8. HAVE A DANCE PARTY
9. READ
10. MAKE YOUR OWN PICTURE BOOK
11. PERSONALIZED TREASURE BOXES
12. INDOOR/BACKYARD PICNIC
13. PUZZLES
14. WRITE TO GRANDPARENTS OR A SENIOR CITIZEN
15. DIY KARAOKE
16. MEDITATE
17. “Me” PORTRAITS
18. PLANT A GARDEN
19. HIDE AND GO SEEK
20. START LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE
21. PARACHUTE!
22. DIY MADTLIBS
23. MAKE A LEGO MOVIE
24. HAVE A FANCY TEA PARTY
25. PAPER AIRPLANE COMPETITION
26. HOPSCOTCH
27. LAVA FLOOR!
28. MAKE YOUR OWN FORTUNE TELLER
29. VIRTUALLY TOUR A NATIONAL PARK
30. GUESSING GAME/ISPY
31. BALLOON VOLLEYBALL/TENNIS
32. PUT ON A PLAY
33. INDOOR OLYMPICS
34. COLORING PAGES
35. CHOREOGRAPH A DANCE
36. CHARADES
37. MAKE FINGER PUPPETS
38. CARD GAMES
39. MAKE FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS
40. WRITE A STORY TOGETHER
41. YOGA FOR KIDS
42. MAKE HOMEMADE (& NONTOXIC!) PLAYDOUGH
43. PUT ON A MAGIC SHOW
44. BOWLING WITH CUPS
45. LIST THE THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT YOURSELF
46. TEACH YOUR PET A NEW TRICK
47. CROSSWORD PUZZLES
48. SHADOW PUPPET SHOW
49. JOURNAL/DRAW WHAT YOU’RE FEELING
50. MAKE A SCHEDULE!
English Muffin Pizza Recipe

Valentine’s Day Pizza
https://www.eatsamazing.co.uk/family-friendly-recipes/easy-recipes-for-kids/easy-english-muffin-pizza-recipe

2 English Muffins
1 tbs Tomato puree
3 or 4 cherry tomatoes
½ red pepper for heart mozzarella

Preheat your oven to 180°C. Split each muffin into two to make the pizza bases. Spread a thin layer of tomato puree over the cut sides of the muffins and place on a baking tray. Using mini bento cutters or a sharp knife, cut some fun shapes from the red pepper and set aside (we used hearts as it was close to Valentines Day at the time). Chop the remaining red pepper as finely as you can and sprinkle it over the pizza bases. Finely chop the cherry tomatoes and add to the pizzas too. Sprinkle over the cheese and top each pizza with the red pepper shapes to decorate. Bake in the oven for 5-10 minutes until the cheese is melted and bubbling.

Saint Patrick’s Day Pizza
https://newengland.com/food/main-dishes/st-patricks-day-mini-pizzas/

3 English Muffins
1 cup tomato or pizza sauce
1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella or pizza-blend cheese
1 green bell pepper, sliced on its side into shamrocks (look for a pepper with 4 “feet” so you’ll get the right shape)

Preheat the oven to 400 and line a baking sheet with parchment or foil. Arrange the muffin halves on the sheet, then top each with 1-2 tablespoons of sauce, followed by about 1/4 cup of cheese. Arrange the green pepper slice on top of the cheese (shape into a shamrock if necessary) plus another slice of pepper for the stem, then sprinkle each with a pinch of Italian seasoning and (if you like) a quick drizzle of olive oil. Bake for 8-10 minutes.
Saint Patrick’s Day Activities

**Slime**
https://www.delish.com/entertaining/a26144558/st-patrick-s-day-slime/

1 (5-oz.) bottle clear glue
1/4 c. water
Green food coloring, (optional)
Gold glitter
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tbsp. contact solution (with borate)

In a medium bowl mix glue and water together. Add food coloring (if using) until desired color is achieved, then stir in glitter. Add baking soda and contact solution. Once thickened, knead with your hands until no longer sticky.

**Plan a Saint Patrick’s Day scavenger hunt**
https://www.womansday.com/life/a4698/unique-ways-to-celebrate-st-patricks-day-104555/

Test your luck this year by setting up a scavenger hunt with a few family, neighbors, and the kids. You can hide treats around the house with clues, and who knows — you just may win a pot of gold! And if you're not up for the challenge of putting together your own St. Patrick's Day-themed game, then you can always download a pre-made scavenger hunt for your crew to try.

**Brush up on Irish-American history**
https://www.womansday.com/life/a4698/unique-ways-to-celebrate-st-patricks-day-104555/

According to the 2019 United States Census Bureau, 30.4 million Americans claim Irish ancestry, which is nearly 10 percent of U.S. residents. Of course, you don't have to be someone with Irish ancestry in order to learn about the history of Saint Patrick and the people of Ireland. There are a ton of online resources for learning about Irish culture and history, such as Cultural Atlas and Irish Central, and there's no better time of year to dive in.
The USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

What is CACFP?
The Child and Adult Care program (CACFP) is a federal supplemental food program (USDA) that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks served to eligible infants, children, and adults. Reimbursement is based on the income level of the local geographic area, the childcare provider, or the children in care (free, reduced-price, or paid rates).

The CACFP is more than just a reimbursement program. CACFP provides consistent access to nutritious foods and improves nutrition security and decreases food insecurity which promotes health and well-being to children and adults.

The Child Care Council of Orange County is a CACFP Sponsor which is an organization that will help you claim reimbursement for the meals and snacks that you serve through the CACFP. They ensure you are compliant with state and federal rules and assist you in proper reporting and other administrative functions. An agreement will be signed with the sponsoring organization and licensed daycare.

Who Can Participate?
If you operate a licensed family or group day care home, you are eligible to participate. The program services children ages 12 and under and you are reimbursed for up to 2 meals and 1 snack, or 1 meal and 2 snacks- per child per day.

What Kind of Food is Served in the CACFP?
The CACFP nutrition standards are based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans that encourage the consumption of a variety of vegetables and fruits, whole grains, lean meats/meat alternates along with lowering added sugars in food items. To be reimbursed, the meal or snack must contain the required components in their minimum amounts by age.

Joining the CACFP Program allows program operators to purchase more nutritious foods for those in their care and helps them receive supplemental help with food expenses.
CACFP Week is brought to you by the letters...

Community
The CACFP community works to ensure that all children have access to healthy foods. Share CACFP Week on social media and out in your community.

Awareness
Together we can raise awareness of how the CACFP works to combat hunger. Learn what you can do to promote the CACFP and advocate with a press release, a letter to congress, and a request for proclamation.

Children
Children receive healthy and nutritious meals through the CACFP. Educate children and parents about the CACFP with these fun activities and communication tools.

Food Program
The CACFP helps children learn healthy eating habits. Find out why breakfast is the most important meal of the day and learn some tips for getting kids to try new foods.

Participate
Hundreds of thousands of people participate in the CACFP administering the program or caring for children and adults. Show your appreciation to all of those who work with CACFP every day.

The theme of CACFP Week in 2024 is eating the rainbow!
Attached is a sample menu that focuses on eating a different color of a rainbow each day. As part of the Advocacy Campaign, Child Care Council of Orange County is reaching out to local and state lawmakers to make a Proclamation for this week. This year our goal is to get a CACFP Week Proclamation in all 50 States!

There is a Social Media Challenge for Providers to be featured for a chance to win $100! Simply post your #CACFPCreditable snack on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtags #NCASuperSnack and #CACFPWeek and tag the @NationalCACFP account. You must operate the CACFP in order to participate. A winner will be selected on March 15 and announced on March 18.

CACFP Week in Action
Providers, CACFP wants to hear your stories! Share your experiences in the CACFP to be featured on the "CACFP Week in Action" page on their website.
March 2024
TRAINING NEWSLETTER

NETWORK GROUPS

Director’s Network Group
Book Club: “The Art of Coaching Teams”
by Elena Aguilar Chapter 6-9
March 4, 2024 - 6:30-8:30pm
OCFS: 3

Infant Toddler Network Group
Child Abuse and
Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention
March 25 2024 - 6:30-8:30pm
OCFS: 6, 8, 9

Preschool Network Group
Calming Strategies for Kids
March 21, 2024 - 6:30-8:30pm
OCFS: 1, 3

BUSINESS TRAINING

Child Care Program Sustainability Planning
March 12, 2024 - 6:00-8:00pm
OCFS: 3, 5
Trainer: Allison Wojciechowski
A child care program’s sustainability plan outlines the long-term financial goals, strategies, and steps used to help sustain a child care business. This training teaches participants to complete a sustainability plan for their own business. Participants complete a sustainability plan template draft during the training and also receive several additional forms and handouts to support the completion of a sustainability plan after attending the training.

MARCH IS
NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

Beyond The Table
March 14, 2024, 6:30-8:30pm
OCFS: 2, 3
Trainer: Mary Beth Winter
Come and enjoy a conversation with
Mary Beth about
Health Tips, Eating Right on a Budget,
Smart Snacking, and more!

REGISTER NOW

Rosemarie Lawton
Director of Professional Development
(845) 294-4012 ext. 240
rosemarie@childcarecounciloc.org
Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential

The Council for Professional Recognition is a leader in the credentialing of early childhood educators worldwide. We ensure that candidates who earn our Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential are well prepared to foster the social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth of young children. Having a CDA® doesn’t just help educators bring out the best in children. It also advances their careers and contributes to the status of our profession.

Calling All Providers and Parents!

Are you looking for answers to a specific questions? Need guidance in your program? For more information contact:

Rosemarie Lawton, Director of Professional Development,
rosemarie@childcarecounciloc.org

Sally-Ann Raesslar, Infant & Toddler Specialist
Sally-ann@childcarecounciloc.org

Sandy Blanco, Preschool Resource Specialist
sandy@childcarecounciloc.org

Allison Wojciechowski, Business Support Specialist
allison@childcarecounciloc.org

Tara Mullen, I & T Mental Health Consultant
tara@childcarecounciloc.org
Medical Independent Study

Call Nurse Jen Warm for more information on dates!

Location: 40 Matthews Street, Goshen, Council Training Room 107

Trainer: Jennifer Warm, Health Care Consultant 914-400-6623 jwarm1980@outlook.com

4 hour course: $150 members and $175 non-members send payment of check or MO
8 hour course: $175 members and $200 non-members send payment of check or MO

For independent study, the individual must download the information and watch the video, at: http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/mat.shtm.

Registering Medical Administrant Training. Step One: Log-in to your ECETP E-learning account https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/mytraining/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fmytraining%2fdefault.aspx. When you have completed all the above information on line. Please fill out Training Registration Form (page 17) and send your check or money order to the Council. Once your training is complete, your certificate of completion will be available for you to print in your ECETP account.

On the day of the class provider is required to bring the independent study participant guide and the MAT participant’s handouts. Provider may use all the materials for the written test and the practical test. The review and testing takes approximately 4 - 5 hours as each person has two (2) chances to pass each part of the test written and practical. The time depends on if provider passes the 1st time or not.

The training provides an overview of medication for both over-the-counter and prescription medication; the routes, handling, storage and safe disposal of medication; permission and instruction requirements; preparation and administration techniques; asthma; emergency care and special situations. The MAT training certificate is valid for three years from the date you complete the course. After three (3) years, you may be eligible to take a renewal test online to extend your certificate for another three (3) years. Visit http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/mat.shtm or call toll-free (866)665-5537 for more details on MAT and the renewal process.

OCFS Training Topics: Safety and Security Procedures, Nutrition and Health Needs of Children, Statutes and Regulations Pertaining to Child Day Care  CDA: 1, 2

Providers going through the online renewal for the third time
♦ Will need to be tested by the Health Care Consultant
♦ Pay the Council prior to that date: $120 for members $150 for non-members
♦ Contact Jennifer Warm to set up a date.
The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is supporting

SAFE SLEEP IN CHILD CARE

Always follow the ABCs of Safe Sleep

Babies must sleep

A lone on their

B ack in a

C rib right from the start

Babies sleep safest when they are alone, on their back, in a crib or Pack ‘n Play.

Who is eligible? Licensed/registered family and group family day care homes, and enrolled home-based legally exempt programs. Each program is eligible for one Pack ‘n Play along with one fitted sheet. A group family day care is eligible for two Pack ‘n Plays.

How can I apply? Scan the QR code to see the Pack ‘n Play application or email ocfs.sm.Packandplay.dccs@ocfs.ny.gov

How do I receive my Pack ‘n Play? Once approved the Pack ‘n Play will be shipped to your program.

Thank you for your interest in this Safe Sleep Initiative.

For additional resources, visit:

Safe Sleep | Child Protective Services | Office of Children and Family Services (ny.gov)
2nd Annual Early Childhood Collaborative Conference

Orange County Community College
Middletown, NY

Save the Date

APRIL 28
8:30-2:30

Presented by Orange County Department of Health- Intervention Services & the Child Care Council of Orange County
Save The Date

Child Care Heroes Gala

A Night to Celebrate You!

05 09 2024
Providers & Parents

CPR/FA Training
Call us for info!
kacie@childcarecounciloc.org 845-294-4012 x227
6pm - 9:30pm, CPR/AED-Training room, $95 non-member, $125 members

Technical Assistance for Starting Family Day Care programs and School Age Child Care Programs

We provide support for people and organizations interested in starting Family Day Care programs and School Age Child Care in their communities. Call Beverly (845)294-4012 x230 if you have questions about the application. To view the webinar and receive an application go to the OCFS website, http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/becomeaprovider.asp.

Here is a link to for a free covid kit: https://special.usps.com/testkits
The Council has free kits while supplies last! Call Rita at 224!

**Membership Application**

By becoming a member of the Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc., a nonprofit, you are demonstrating your commitment to promoting quality child care as a priority in Orange County. Your Membership—parents, providers, businesses, community—assists the Council in meeting the goal of promoting affordable, quality child care and to strengthen the early childhood workforce in Orange County.

**Membership Benefits:**

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<th>Family and Group Family</th>
<th>New! Child Care Centers &amp; SACC</th>
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<td>• Reduced rates on Council Trainings &amp; Events</td>
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<td>• Eligibility to vote at the Council’s Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>• Free report on referrals to your program</td>
<td>• Free job postings on Council’s website</td>
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<td>• Free Job Bank for employee new hires</td>
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**We appreciate your Membership!**

**Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc. Membership Application**

Please return application to:

Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc., 40 Matthews St., Suite 103, Goshen, NY 10924

Please make checks or money orders payable to: Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc.

Name ____________________________________________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________________________

Telephone Number ____________________________  Email_______________________________________

Child Care or Business Name _________________________________________________________________

Membership is effective for 12 months from date of purchase.

_____ $50  Individual Membership Business/ Community

_____ $50  Family and Group Family providers (add an assistant for $10)

_____ $125 Individual Child care center (includes director & all staff)

_____ $125 School Aged programs (includes director & all staff)

I have enclosed an additional tax deductible donation of $_____________________ to support the work of the Child Care Council of Orange County, Inc. in promoting affordable, quality child care in Orange County.
Council Members!
We appreciate you and thank you for supporting our mission to assist parents, child care programs, employers, and the community with information and resources on choosing quality child care.

Denise's Little Angels
   Bizzy Bz daycare
   Warwick Day Care Center
   Young & Unique Christian Development
   Early Explorers Daycare
   Learning Together
   School Time Children's Center Inc.
   Little Guardians Daycare
   Tina's Tender Love and Care
   House on the Hill
   Colores Child Care
   Inspire in Monroe
   Inspire in Newburgh
   Inspire in Goshen
   RECAP
   Messy Hands Happy Hearts
   Sue's Home Daycare
   The Village Childcare Services
   ABCD
   Rhythm and Rhyme
Consent for Child Care Council of Orange County Inc.

I __________________________ am aware and have agreed to the picture taking of my child while attending child care.

I consent to having my child’s picture to be used by Child Care Council of Orange County Inc. for the Newsletter/ Highlights, Calendar, Website and any Social Media.

________________________________________
Print Child’s Name

________________________________________
Print Name of Parent/ Guardian

________________________________________  ____________
Signature or Parent/ Guardian               Date

________________________________________  ____________
Signature of Provider                      Date

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY
Happy St. Patrick’s Day