

# January 2025



CHILD CARE PROVIDERS  
COALITION OF KANSAS

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Members of CCPC

## A message from your president

CCPC President - Angie Carnes

Happy New Year! I can't believe we just welcomed in 2025! The older I get, the faster the years seem to pass.

Many of us look at the new year to start over, make resolutions, and set goals for ourselves. As family child care providers it's a great time to reflect on our business and personal life. I know many of you have felt stressed, overwhelmed and unappreciated. But you have the power to change that. Personally, I am putting myself at the top of my to do list!

Now is the perfect time to begin a New Year journey. Reignite...Reduce...Connect!

**Reignite** your JOY for your work with children and the families you provide care for. I know many of us find ourselves struggling with this. By putting in a little effort you can change your outlook, find trainings, books, and podcasts that inspire you. You would be surprised what a little positive reinforcement can do to your outlook!

**Reduce** stress in your job and personal life. This is a hard one for most of us! You need to find ways to rest, relax, declutter, and connect. You need to put yourself at the top of your to do list. It could be as simple as taking a walk or planning a vacation! Making small changes can make a huge difference. You deserve it!

**Connect** with like-minded people that are here to support and cheer you on. This can be done by networking with local child care providers, join our CCPC regional provider groups, or reach out to a friend. Our jobs can be very isolating, we need to make sure we are making connections with people that understand what we are going through day to day.

Each person's journey is going to look different, for some it will be easy others it may be hard, but life is too short to put off making powerful changes! The impact you have on the children and families we care for make a difference every day!

It's time for YOU to put yourself at the top of your to do list!

## Collaborating Partners



## Make 2025 a Healthier and More Profitable year by participating in the CACFP!

### What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program?

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. CACFP also provides reimbursements for meals served to children and youth participating in afterschool care programs, children residing in emergency shelters, and adults over the age of 60 or living with a disability and enrolled in day care facilities. CACFP contributes to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children and adults in the United States. (source: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp>)

### Why should I participate?

The average CACFP reimbursement is around \$600 for a home provider each month!

Tom Copeland, licensed attorney and the nation's leading expert on the business of family child care (retired) said it best, "Family child care providers are always better off financially if they join the Child and Adult Care Food Program"

Participating in the USDA CACFP means healthier foods for the children with no added cost for you!

Each day over 2500 home child care providers and the CACFP provide nutritious meals for thousands of Kansas children.

You don't have to be a gourmet cook. There are many ways to meet requirements, the program can fit your unique style!

Kansas CACFP sponsors are here to help you! With 14 home sponsors, you have a choice when choosing which sponsor is right for you

Free trainings that work towards license renewal as well as CACFP requirements

Set yourself apart and increase the quality of your program. CACFP is an indicator of quality child care!

Find a sponsor near you by calling Child Nutrition and Wellness at 785-296-2276 or go to [https://cnw.ksde.org/docs/default-source/cacfp/administration/program-initiation/good\\_nutrition\\_pays\\_in\\_daycare\\_cacfp\\_ks\\_08\\_2024.pdf?sfvrsn=e70e79bd\\_3](https://cnw.ksde.org/docs/default-source/cacfp/administration/program-initiation/good_nutrition_pays_in_daycare_cacfp_ks_08_2024.pdf?sfvrsn=e70e79bd_3)

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## Child Nutrition Conference

### Registration for NCNC25 is Now Open!

Will you be joining the child nutrition community in Dallas on April 14-18, 2025 for five days of training, networking and fun? Don't miss out - register today to lock in our lowest rates with Advance Registration.

· **Register for as low as \$439**

· **View the Conference Brochure**

· **Learn More**

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## Join the Food Program

Do you know providers who have not yet signed up for the CACFP? Forward this email or share these links to help spread the word about how they can start getting reimbursed for the healthy meals and snacks that they might already be serving.

· **Find a Sponsor**

· **Learn More About the CACFP**

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Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays went well and that you were able to rest and relax. In so many ways, winter offers us the ability to slow down and reflect. Images of crisp snowy fields fill my mind. But legislatively, like kids bundled up sledding down the hill, we lean in and take off at full speed each January. This year is no different.

The results of the general election in November offer Kansas a transitional year with new lawmakers in both chambers. Multiple representatives will now be senators, which opened up seats to new lawmakers in the House of Representatives. Republicans in both chambers increased their supermajorities, which is required to overturn a Governor's veto.

The legislative session is an important and busy time in Kansas. All state lawmakers return to the Statehouse on January 13, 2025. They will be sworn in and begin their terms of office to represent you.

In recent years, child care advocates have collaborated to protect children and work toward policies that offer strong early childhood experiences. Unfortunately, some lawmakers who worked with advocates and championed many of our topics are no longer in Topeka, either due to not seeking reelection or losing their race. This makes relationship building with the new lawmakers extremely important.

Child care legislation rarely is assigned to a committee dedicated to the topic. We've most recently seen legislation referred to the Commerce committees due to child care's influence on the labor market. This can make it confusing and difficult to anticipate and follow bills that interest you.

But, never fear! There are resources available to help you keep track of activity. On the Legislature's website, [www.kslegislature.gov](http://www.kslegislature.gov), you are able to find almost any piece of information you may need to track the Statehouse this year.

Once on the page, click on the tabs in the left-hand column to Find Your Legislator or Find a Bill. The tabs across the top of the screen allow you to search for information in specific chambers (the Senate or the House of Representatives), as well as committees lawmakers sit on. If it happens in the Statehouse, it's likely that you will find that information on this website.

Another resource available to you is Kansas Action for Children's "Statehouse Snapshot," which offers the quickest bits of information about what happens each week. We usually release each week's edition late Friday afternoon. Our policy advisors monitor committee and chamber floor activities to help you understand what you need to know as you build relationships with lawmakers and advocate for the children in your care. You can join our mailing list at [www.kac.org/join](http://www.kac.org/join).

Lastly, the Partnership for Early Success (PES) has spent the past few months working hard to be another resource for you. PES is a coalition of organizations across the state that have advocated together for many years. Although it has operated in different forms, partners consistently work together to ensure that Kansas' children have opportunities to experience childhood at its fullest.

This past fall, PES partners developed a plan of action to ensure that kids show up in legislative policy. In our effort to elevate early childhood and child care topics across the state, PES hopes to invite other organizations into the partnership.

An upcoming opportunity to advocate for children will be Early Childhood Advocacy Day on February 5, 2025. The event will focus on meeting and building relationships with your lawmakers. We invite advocates who are familiar with the Statehouse to come back — and hope new advocates will join too!

It's crucial to help lawmakers understand the importance of high-quality early learning experiences for children. We want them to hear about the work you do and how it helps kids learn and grow. Additionally, we hope community leaders and business perspectives attend to ensure there is a full conversation toward solutions.

I wish you the best as the new year begins. I hope that you can enjoy this time with the children in your care and you slide into a smooth winter routine.

Mark your calendars now for the 2025 Early Childhood Advocacy Day event!

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**Early Childhood Advocacy Day**  
**February 5, 2025**  
**8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**In the Kansas Statehouse**  
**(More details to come)**



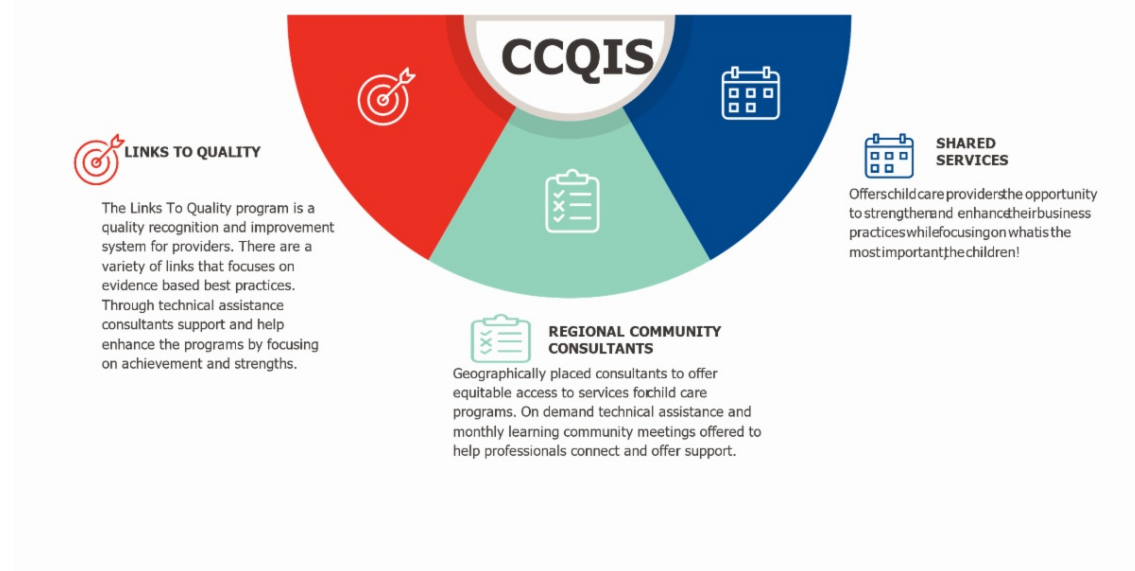
Kansas  
Breastfeeding  
Coalition, Inc.



Child Care Provider "Breastfeeding Kits" now available for child care providers to check out from Child Care Aware of Kansas.

Contact Ashley Fritschle  
[ashley.fritschle@ks.childcareaware.org](mailto:ashley.fritschle@ks.childcareaware.org) for more information.





## Links to Quality (L2Q)

Stay tuned for information  
coming in 2025!

**Regional Community Consultants** are available across the state to support early educators and offer a CLASS observation on your environment.

We will also be offering a free "Embracing Leadership in the ECE Setting" training opportunity in February for any early educator working with a Regional Community Consultant. Check your email for more information on how to register for training.

KCCTO/PD Updates - Save the date for a conference in Dodge City on Saturday, April 5. More information to come after the holidays.

### Shared Services Network Hubs

Do you know what opportunities are available to you through the Network Hub? If not, you can find contact information for the Network Hub representative by clicking on your county. These services are made available to provide support for you and your business. You are encouraged to take advantage of these services now since funding will change for the Network Hubs in July 2025 & some of them might not be available.

### Child Care Management Software

We are continuing to offer FREE subscriptions to new users for either Brightwheel or Playground! To learn more, contact your Regional Community Consultant. Current users will be contacted by their RCC when their subscription expires and provided information about continuing a free subscription.

## Community Outreach and Engagement/GO Team

Are you or your community facing a barrier or challenge related to building child care capacity? Are you unsure of what steps to take to address the issue?

The CCAKS Child Care Go Team is available to assist to help providers and communities overcome these barriers to achieve their child care initiatives. Members of this team include representatives from KDHE, KSDE, The Children's Cabinet, Office of the State Fire Marshal, and more!

If your community is facing a barrier that is preventing the building or sustaining of child care capacity in your area, reach out to the CCAKS Go Team. Contact: [goteam@ks.childcareaware.org](mailto:goteam@ks.childcareaware.org)





## KPATA is Pleased to Host a Virtual Training Webinar:

**February 20th  
1 - 3:00 pm**



### **How Do Protection Orders Work in KS?**



**As a result of this training, participants will be able to:**

1. Describe the different options for filing a protection order application in Kansas.
2. Describe how domestic and sexual violence advocates can assist survivors in the protection order process.
3. Explain how protection orders can be a safety tool for some survivors.
4. Identify the ways in which protection orders can increase danger for some survivors.
5. Identify the unique considerations and requirements for obtaining a protection order for minors in Kansas.
6. Describe how child welfare professionals and domestic and sexual violence advocates can work collaboratively to support survivors seeking protection orders.

**This training is available to anyone that would like to join!**



# Home Safe Home

JANUARY 16TH

1:00 - 2:30  
FREE VIRTUAL  
TRAINING FOR  
KPATA  
MEMBERS

Home is a place to relax and spend time with family, but each year more than 3.5 million children go to an emergency department and more than 2,000 children die from injuries that happen at home. With some simple prevention steps, we can help ensure normal bumps and bruises don't become more serious and disabling injuries. We'll be taking a tour around the home to identify potential hazards and what you can do to keep your family safe.

*This training will be provided by  
Cherie Sage- Safe Kids Kansas*



*To register to attend this training, please click on the link below.  
For questions about this training, please contact Jenny Smith at  
jsmith@kpata.org*

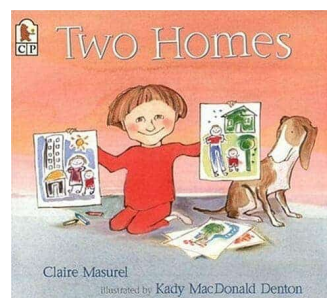
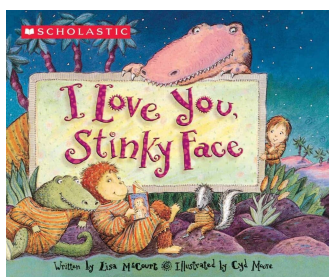


## Providers Corner

### Book Recommendations



Dragon Noodle Party



by Ying Chang Compestine, illustrated by Paula Pang  
Each animal of the zodiac calendar travels up the hill with one ingredient for a special noodle dish. Snake brings nothing because it's his birthday—the Year of the Snake. Simple, clear text and beautiful illustrations.

### Dragon Noodle Party

I Love You Stinky Face  
by Lisa McCourt,  
illustrated by Cyd Moose

First of all, this was a favorite bedtime story for my kids because it's unexpectedly precious! Here's why... it's bedtime and a child imagines all sorts of worst scenarios (if he were an ape or stinky skunk or an alligator) and is hoping his mom will reassure him. As a result, the mom offers her son the BEST answers that show how she'd always accept her son any way he is.

Two Homes by Claire Masurel, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton

In simple text with lovely watercolor illustrations, Alex explains who her mommy and daddy are — and the special things about each house. The love of both parents for Alex is emphasized at the end, with his family situation feeling normal and settled.

## Recipe Roundup

# Chicken and Rice Soup



Serving Size: 8

### Directions

### Ingredients

- 1 cup cooked chicken, diced
  - 6 cups chicken broth, low sodium
  - 1 cup rice, dry
  - 1 3/4 cups mixed vegetables
  - 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
  - 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
  - 1/4 teaspoon salt
  - 1 tablespoon dried parsley
1. Place the cooked chicken in a large saucepan.
  2. Add the broth and uncooked rice. Cover the pan.
  3. Bring the broth and rice to a boil.
  4. Cover the pan and turn the heat to low.
  5. Stir and simmer for 15 minutes.
  6. Add the chopped onions, chopped vegetables, and seasonings.
  7. Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes until the vegetables are



# SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

## CDA SCHOLARSHIPS

- CDA Application Fee (Initial and Renewal)
- CDA Training Track and Application Fee (Initial and Renewal)

## CHILD CARE PROVIDER SCHOLARSHIPS

- In-Service
- State Conference
- National Conference
- Higher Education
- Pediatric First Aid CPR

## DIRECTORS CREDENTIAL

- State Directors Credential
- National Directors Credential

## FACILITY ACCREDITATIONS

- NAFCC Accreditation
- NAEYC Accreditation

## SUPPORT SERVICE PROVIDER SCHOLARSHIPS

- Pediatric first aid/CPR instructor certification
- Training of trainers
- In-state Conference
- National Conference



Visit the KCCTO scholarship webpage for all scholarship details and updates. It is also important to read the policies & procedures for the scholarship type you are applying for prior to submitting your application online.



KCCTO.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS  
KCCTO@KSU.EDU



## Child Care Resources

It is a goal of CCPC to share quality resources with Kansas Family Child Care Providers. In this section you will find links to sites that offer current information and qualified training in a variety of areas including: health and safety, safe sleep, SIDS and nutrition.

Click Links below to take you directly to their websites

KDHE

Child Care Aware of Kansas

Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities Inc.

McCormick Center

Kansas Action for Children

KCCTO-KITS

Kansas Quality Network

2020 Kansas Needs Assessment

Tom Copeland

[Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition](#)

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