



CHILD CARE PROVIDERS  
COALITION OF KANSAS

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Members of CCPC

## A message from your president

CCPC President - Angie Carnes

Why does summer always seem to go by so quick? Like many others, my summer was packed with family time, projects around the house, and vacations. But our work with CCPC doesn't stop over the summer. Early in July our board came together for a weekend in Manhattan. We discussed the past year, conducted board business, worked on new projects and grew stronger as board. I am proud of this group of women who have dedicated part of their already busy lives to support providers in Kansas and look forward to working with them over the next year.

Later in July many CCPC board members along with other Kansas providers attended the NAFCC conference in St. Louis. It was an amazing experience to be surrounded by family child care providers that shared our passion for our profession. As we sat at the opening ceremonies, we were thrilled to see our own Derik Flerlage from KDHE give the opening keynote. He stood up and spoke about the changes Kansas has been going through over the last year and how proud he was of the providers and other organizations that put in the hard work to make it happen. Kansas is doing big things, and we are excited to keep the ball rolling over!

As we head into Fall keep a look out for new opportunities that CCPC is working on for our members. Great things are happening, and we are excited that YOU are part of it.



## What's Going on with the CCPC Board?

# Advocacy

Committee Chair- Tiffany Mannes

While attending the National Association for Family Childcare conference last month I was able to talk to many providers from across the country. It became clear to me that while Kansas providers continue to work together, we have had our voices heard in big ways! We were not only included in the conversations about new regulations, but we were also consulted and heard. While at the conference, I spoke with providers from multiple states who are unable to become legally licensed due to fire codes that have been imposed on their homes, a provider from another state shared that they are very worried because a fire code law is about to go into effect that would render home providers unable to continue their businesses. These providers are stuck as they have no feasible way to obtain or maintain their licenses without installing fire systems that costs tens of thousands of dollars. I had providers approach me asking how we handled things when the fire code was possibly going to change here in Kansas. The answer I was able to give was that we all came together and fought. We were loud, we spoke up and we refused to sit quietly while legislation was introduced that would require this of us. We not only spoke up as providers we involved people in our community and our parents. There was such a loud resounding message that it could not be ignored.

When we all fight together, we are a force to be reckoned with. I've been working in advocacy for over 17 years, there have been times when I felt silenced, and in those moments, it can feel defeating, like your voice doesn't matter. However, when you know what you need and deserve, and you can have a consensus on those, your voices can be heard. I am so proud of how far we've come as Kansas Family Childcare providers! We've worked so hard to be heard and have a seat at the table. We've been recognized as the high-quality professionals that we are. Our work is not done, but we can certainly take a moment and celebrate that our voices were heard!



**2024 CCPC  
Provider  
Of The  
Year**

*Congratulations!*

**Corrinne Carr**  
Family Child Care - Emporia



## **CCPC is proud to announce our 2024 Provider of the Year!**

The Provider of the Year Award is our most prestigious award. Each year it is presented to an outstanding provider that exemplifies professionalism and quality in family child care.

Being considered for Provider of the Year is a rigorous process. It begins by a deserving provider being nominated by friends, families, or peers. After a provider accepts the nomination, they are given a self-assessment form and notebook to be completed and returned. Their notebook is a compilation of examples showcasing the quality in their family child care program. Notebooks are judged by three anonymous and objective professionals in the early childhood field.

This year we had 30 nominees for provider of the year and 6 providers that accepted the nomination. Each nominee in this large and competitive field of providers was nominated by someone in their community who recognized their unique and exceptional commitment to providing quality child care. We would like to acknowledge their accomplishments and applaud their hard work!

Corinne Carr – Emporia  
Shannon Milspaugh – Halstead

Helena Adams – Topeka  
Sandy Cossey – Ogden  
Donna Poor – West Mineral  
Melissa Boggs – Belle Plaine  
Sherise Alston - Topeka

Although all the nominees were excellent and the decision was tough, one provider was judged to be the most outstanding: Congratulations to our 2024 Provider of the Year Corinne Carr!  
Corrine has been a family child care provider for 32 years in Emporia. She is married to her supporting husband Monty and is the proud grandma to 6 grandchildren.

Corrine is passionate about providing quality care and connecting children with nature. She is committed in inspiring other family child care providers to band together and advocate for the profession. She has a long list of accomplishments!

2006 – Partnered with Early Head Start

2011 – Graduated with an associate's degree in EC Education

2014 – 2017 – President of CCPC

2014 – Appointed as a regional representative by NAFCC

2018 – Joined the Board of Directors of the NAFCC as their secretary

She continues to grow as a provider and has received many endorsements and awards that include:

- NAFCC Accredited Program since 2009
- Certified Child Nutrition Professional with CACFP
- Outdoor Adventures Classroom through Nature Explore
- Breastfeeding Friendly Environment
- Infant Mental Health Endorsement through KAIMH
- Emerging Leader by Exchange Magazine
- National Teacher Award from the Terri Lynne Lockoff Foundation
- NAFCC's Advocacy Award
- NAFCC's Presidents Award
- CCPC's Outstanding Leadership Award
- Child Care Aware's Juie Kisler Leadership Award

She loves collaborating and networking with other Family Child Care Providers and being involved on a local, statewide and National level. She gives back to the profession by serving as a mentor through KCCTO to family child care providers working towards accreditation and volunteers at a local school on the PTO Council. In her free time Corinne enjoys crafting, woodworking and spending time outdoors. She is grateful for the support of her friends, family and child care families, it truly takes a village!

Corinne's favorite quote:

"Play is often talked about as if it was a relief from serious learning, but for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." by Fred Rodgers.



Are you looking for information on the new regulations???

CCPC has created a new page on their website with all the information you are looking for! Our goal was to make it easy for you to find the answers you are looking for. If you still are struggling finding what you need please reach out to KDHE to ask questions.

<https://www.ccpcofs.com/regulationupdates>

Collaborating Partners



## New CACFP Reimbursement Rates July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

	Tier 1	Tier 2
Breakfast	\$1.66	\$0.60
Lunch/Dinner	\$3.15	\$1.90
Snack	\$0.93	\$0.26



Kansas  
Breastfeeding  
Coalition, Inc.



### Supporting the breastfed infant in the child care setting during an emergency

Being prepared for an emergency is top priority for many including those in the child care field. Currently, nearly 90% of families in Kansas choose to breastfeed and over 75% of infants are still being breastfed at 6 weeks of age, which is when most enter child care. If there is an emergency, do you know how you will transport, prepare and provide breastmilk to your breastfed infants? We can help!

Through a collaborative partnership process, the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Child Care Section created "*Guidelines to Support the Breastfeeding Infant During Emergencies While in Child Care (Spanish)*". A checklist was created for child care providers to think through what is needed for the breastfed infant if the emergency occurs while they are in the facility or outside the facility. Creative methods of thawing and warming the milk need to be considered in advance. Breast milk storage and handling guidelines are also an important part of the planning process to keep milk safe.

Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs..

New breastfeeding data was released in August by the CDC and includes some exciting news!  
Kansas now ranks:

- **4th** in the nation for rates of infants exclusively breastfeeding at 3 months.

- **5th** in the nation for rates of infants exclusively breastfeeding at 6 months.

Read the full “**State of Breastfeeding in Kansas 2024**” report for more information.

## New KDHE Child Care Regulations: Breast Milk and Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding parents who wish to breastfeed their child at the child care site must now to be accommodated. This can be as simple as welcoming the mother to have a seat where the child is. A separate space or room is not required. The mother can not be asked to cover herself while breastfeeding or be asked to breastfeed in her vehicle. If the mother wants privacy, consider where she might go in your location. You could also have a privacy screen to shield her from view if she requests privacy and there is no alternative.

Parents must now label the breast milk they bring to child care providers with the child’s full name and the date and time the milk was expressed. Unfrozen breast milk shall be stored in a refrigerator and used within 96 hours from the time it was expressed. This ensures the breast milk is used while it is the best quality.

New KDHE Regulations can be accessed at <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40863/CCL-Regulations-Packet-1-Both-Stamps-PDF?bidId=>



**Links to Quality (L2Q)** is a program in Kansas that focuses on improving early child care and educational environments. L2Q helps licensed child care educators build on strengths in business practices, family partnerships, health and safety, and learning and child development through earning Link badges. The badges earned represent the hard work that goes into each area and helps families choose the child care and education program that is the best fit for their children. For more information, visit our website at: <https://ks.childcareaware.org/l2q/> Links to Quality is currently recruiting child care educators in specific counties. Watch your email inbox for opportunities in your area to participate.

### **Regional Community Consultants (RCC)**

They have a new Regional Community Consultant who will be working with providers in NW Kansas, Allison Harris. Learning Community Meetings are offered monthly and can now be counted towards your professional development hours. For questions about how to track and record the meetings for professional development, reach out to your local licensing specialist. All our Regional Community Consultants are certified CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) Observers and are available to complete a CLASS observation on your program environment. If you'd like more information about what a CLASS

observation is and how it would benefit your program, please contact your Regional Community Consultant.

### Shared Services Network Hubs

A new grant year began July 1st so be sure to connect with your Network Hub representative or RCC to find out what services are continuing & what new ones are available. You can find contact information for the Network Hub representative by clicking on your county.

### 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

Child Care Community Partnership Grants (CCCPG) are anticipated to open in September and will close the end of October. More information will follow in the coming weeks. These grants will be different from previous opportunities. Awardees will be sub-recipients and need to follow more stringent guidelines in comparison to the last round of CCCPG funding. We will be awarding 30 Community-Led Coalitions \$30,000 to focus on one of the following: 1. Coalition Structure, Management and Sustainability 2. Bridging the Gap: Local businesses and child care 3. Continued Capacity Building: What's Next 4. Creating More Slots. For questions regarding this funding, please reach out to your Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator or email [community.grants@ks.childcareaware.org](mailto:community.grants@ks.childcareaware.org)



**Christi Smith has been named as the new executive director of Child Care Aware of Kansas (CCAKS).**

Board President Kari Mailloux made the announcement following an extensive search.

Smith will join CCAKS in mid-August and will succeed interim executive director Tanya Koehn, who has been serving in the role since the resignation of former executive director Kelly Davydov in October 2023.

"I am incredibly grateful to accept the position of executive director for Child Care Aware of Kansas," Smith said. "What excites me the most about this position is the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the lives of children, families, and child care professionals across the state. Being part of an organization dedicated to improving access to quality child care aligns perfectly with my passion. I believe when children have access to high quality early childhood programs, families thrive. When families thrive, communities flourish."

A search committee of current and former CCAKS board members interviewed multiple candidates over several months. The committee worked with OMNI Human Resources Solutions out of Overland Park, Kansas, for the search.

"I am excited by Christi's vision and future-thinking, her value in building trusting relationships and partnerships, and her innate curiosity," Mailloux said. "With over two

decades of dedicated leadership in the early care and education field, Christi will be an authentic collaborator and strategic leader as we build on the momentum around child care in Kansas.”

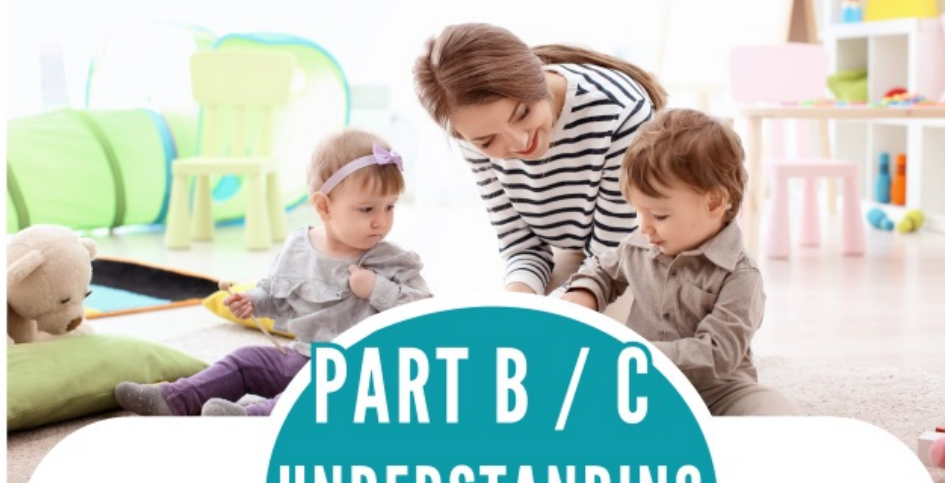
Smith is not new to CCAKS, having held the position of Director of Strategy and Innovation for the organization from 2013-2019. She also previously partnered with CCAKS and other Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in Kansas, Illinois, and Missouri as a consultant providing professional development. Her experience also includes roles overseeing the Federal Child and Adult Care Food Program, managing childcare programs, and leading a family preservation program, in addition to prior appointed roles on the Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel, the Quality Rating and Improvement System Advisory Committee, the Child Care Licensing Systems Improvement Team, Governor’s Council on Fitness, and Kansas Strong.

For the last three years, Smith has been executive director for an international nonprofit organization and foundation dedicated to supporting women educators. She has a proven track record of achieving exceptional results through a clear vision and the cultivation of collaborative partnerships.

Smith’s passion is rooted in inspiring and empowering teams, unlocking the potential of each individual. Smith earned her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Child and Family Development, along with a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis on Organizational Leadership. Additionally, she recently obtained the Certified Association Executive Credential, a rigorous program that underscores her commitment to professional growth and excellence.

“I am particularly enthusiastic about collaborating with partners to advance the strategic direction and achieve collective impact,” Smith said. “The opportunity to work with a team committed to ensuring that every child has the best start in life is incredibly inspiring. Leading an organization with such a vital mission is both a responsibility and a privilege, and I am eager to contribute to its continued success and growth.”





## PART B / C UNDERSTANDING SERVICES

**September 19th**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm**

You must be a KPATA Member  
to attend this training

[Register Here](#)

Helping families understand the complicated process of transitioning from Infant Toddler Services under Part C of IDEA to school-based Part B of IDEA services is hard! Working with families who have kids who are beginning the process of determining eligibility all the way to advocating for more or different services can be tricky. Join this webinar to talk through the ins and outs and learn what the process is and what it's not!

Training by:  
Monica Murnan  
Greenbush PAT



As summer winds down and school gears up, I have had a couple of conversations lately about the work that Kansas early childhood advocates accomplished in the past few months. Initially I began the conversations thinking we hadn't gotten much done but repeatedly found myself saying things like "...and also we..." or "...as a result, this happened."

The legislative session brought us the opportunity to establish the Office of Early Childhood, which would have streamlined the four state agencies that handle early childhood services. Although the bill passed the House, it stalled in the Senate and was not passed. We avoided a last-minute attempt to deregulate child care licensing that was added to the bill.

During special session in June, lawmakers

As you know, this is an election year and all 165 lawmakers in the House and Senate are up for reelection. The primary elections occurred at the beginning of August and now the candidates are facing the general election on November 5, 2024.

The best way to use your voice this fall is to register to vote — and then vote in November! If you aren't registered to vote you can go to <https://www.kdor.ks.gov/apps/voterreg/> to fill out the application. The deadline to register is October 15, 2024. You can find other important dates about requesting advanced voting mail ballots and when advanced voting begins by going to <https://sos.ks.gov/elections/important-election-dates.html>. Your county elections office website will have the information about your polling site.

included doubling the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit in the big tax package. This tax credit allows families to deduct the payments they make toward child care. Now, families may receive up to 50% of the federal credit when they file their state taxes. Doubling the CDCTC for families reduces the financial burden for families and can help them when they pay for child care tuition. This was a bipartisan victory!

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) released the updated Child Care and Development Fund State Plan. CCDF is the fund for child care assistance payments. Recently, DCF made changes that increases eligibility for families and reimbursement rates toward tuition. KDHE approved the regulation changes for child care licensing, which went into effect August 2, 2024. Providers and advocates engaged in the process by sending public comments to the agency and attending the information sessions and trainings.

Many of you used your voices in the Statehouse this last session by attending Early Learning Advocacy Day event in March. About the same time, more than 1,100 Kansans participated in a call to action to ensure that lawmakers understood the importance of policy making that keeps children safe. Also, providers continue to engage with their lawmakers, forming relationships and telling their stories. This is positive work!

Sometimes it may appear that nothing happens in the fall for advocacy, but that is far from true! In the next few weeks, some interim committees will begin to meet. Even though there are no committee meetings focused on early childhood and child care scheduled, this time is so important to prepping for the next legislative session.

The weeks until the election are when to interact with candidates. You know your stance about the topics that affect you, but this is an opportunity to reach out to them and learn about how they plan to prioritize kids and families in their decision making. What do they believe about child care? Are they interested in learning about your experiences? What can you learn by reading their website or social media pages?

Engaging with your candidates can feel intimidating, but they are regular people who are asking for the opportunity to represent you in the Statehouse. Sometimes the simplest way to start is through email or message on social media. You can tell them that you appreciate their effort, and you hope that they can take some time to listen to your story. For example,

Dear (Candidate Name),

Thank you for running for (position) in our district. I am a family child care provider in our area and (give a few details about yourself.) Can we schedule a time to (have a phone call, meet for coffee, go to lunch, etc)? I can be reached at (your contact information).

Regardless of whether you and your candidate agree on a topic, the relationship formed by simple conversations can be the first step toward good results for early childhood. There is much for us to do as we continue through the fall!

# 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



## Providers Corner

### Book Recommendations

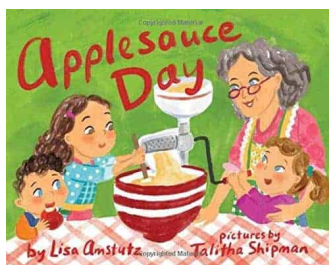
#### One of These Is Not Like the Others



BARNEY SALTZBERG

One of These Is Not Like the Others by Barney Saltzberg

Saltzberg uses minimal text and illustrations to convey an important message of inclusion, friendships, and diversity. Even though one of these is not like the others, that's just fine with these friends...because it's how they rock and roll. Cute illustrations show friends groups that don't all look the same. For example, three pigs and a wolf or three snails and an alien. This is one of my new favorite picture books and great for preschoolers.



Applesauce Day by Lisa Amstutz, illustrated by Talitha Shipman

Jump into fall with this delicious story. Kids and parents pick apples to bring to grandma's house to make into applesauce. It's a special family tradition that uses the same cooking pot as grandma did with her mom, too. Maybe this will inspire your own applesauce-making tradition after reading this sweet story. Yum! Get the [applesauce recipe and directions from the](#)



Spooky Tale by Christopher Franceschelli

What a cool Halloween board book with peek-through die-cut pages, detailed illustrations, and lots of gatefolds to open! (It also features tons of prepositions!) Two young friends journey in the dark woods, over the rickety bridge, along the stubbly field, across the dismal

## Recipe Roundup

# Fruit and Nut Butter Pita Pockets



Serving Size: 6

### Ingredients

6 whole wheat pita rounds (at least 56g or 2 oz each)  
3/4 cup smooth peanut butter  
12 (1/4") apple slices, unpeeled and cored

- 14 (1/4") red D'Anjou pear slices, unpeeled and cored

### Directions

1. Cut each pita round in half to make 2 pita pockets.
2. Spread 1 tbsp peanut butter in each pocket.
3. Cut apple and pear slices in half. Place 2 pieces of apple and 2-3 pear slices in each pocket.
4. Serve 2 pita pockets.

2 pita pockets provide 1/2 cup fruit, 1 oz eq. meat alternate and 2 oz eq. grains

## 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



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