



Provider Press

Please post newsletter and training calendar!

Child Care Resource Network wants to reach **EVERYONE** in our early childhood community!

To receive the newsletter, training calendar, and helpful articles by email contact CCRN at CCRN@soesd.k12.or.us or call (541) 776-8590 x 1126 to be added to our distribution list.

*Be sure to add CCRN's email to your contacts!
We want to stay in touch!*

Winter 2020

<i>Inside this issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
Spark Programs ERS Assessments	2
Market Price Survey	2
Kindergarten Launch	2
Winter Conference	3
Preschool Promise Expansion	3
Prevention is Better than Treatment	3
Inclusive Partners	3
Handmade Ornaments	4



Spark News ~ Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System

Not participating in Spark yet? Now is the time!

Spark revisions are in process and should be rolled out this summer - stay tuned for updates. In the meantime, all support and incentive fund amounts remain in place, and if you **join with other programs as part of a Focused Child Care Network support and incentive funds will be doubled.**

What is a Focused Child Care Network?

Focused Child Care Networks (FCCNs) are groups of up to 15 participants who work in similar settings and have come together as a cohort, coordinated by a CCRN Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS). The goal of the cohort is to work together as a supportive group to strengthen quality to meet Spark standards and earn a Star rating, with assistance from the QIS at both a group and individual level.

CCRN has supported a FCCN of Spanish speaking family providers for the past 5 years. Nearly 50 providers have participated; 37 received double Support Funds and 22 achieved a Star rating.

CCRN is introducing new Focused Child Care Networks this year, one for English speaking family providers and one for programs serving infants and toddlers (see flyers for details). We also have a goal to add a FCCN for center directors. Being a director is a challenging, demanding job, and directors often do not get support that is targeted to their unique situation.



Spark participation brings resources and benefits. **Support Funds** are available to help ensure programs have the materials they need as they are working toward meeting Spark standards.

SUPPORT FUNDS		
Small Programs 0-20 capacity	Medium Programs 21-49 capacity	Large Programs 50+ capacity
\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Amounts Doubled for Focused Child Care Networks		

Incentive Funds are given to programs once they have received a Star rating, to recognize their achievement and to help maintain quality.

INCENTIVE FUNDS		
Small Programs 0-20 capacity	Medium Programs 21-49 capacity	Large Programs 50+ capacity
\$ 500	\$1,000	\$1,500
\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Amounts Doubled for Focused Child Care Networks		

Star rated programs serving DHS families receive **higher reimbursements** and **parents have lower co-pays** - a win-win all around.

INCREASED DHS REIMBURSEMENT	Monthly Provider Incentive Payment for Each Full-Time DHS ERDC Child
3 Star Rating	\$54.00 monthly additional amount
4 Star Rating	\$72.00 monthly additional amount
5 Star Rating	\$90.00 monthly additional amount

An Invitation to All Spark Programs

The Teaching Research Institute (TRI) at Western Oregon University, which administers Spark, is excited to announce that they are conducting Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Environment Rating Scale Assessments (ERS) for Spark participating programs.

- ◆ Programs who schedule an ERS assessment through Spark can receive a **\$150 stipend** and a **CQI Assessment Summary Report**, which gives valuable information on program strengths and growth opportunities.
- ◆ Centers can receive the \$150 stipend for each classroom assessed.

Interested programs should contact the Spark ERS Coordination Specialist, Lacey Davis, at [\(503\) 838-9260](tel:5038389260) or go to the [Spark website](#) to complete the CQI ERS Assessment Interest Form.

Market Price Survey is Coming

From January through March 2020, all providers in Oregon will be contacted to gather information for a Market Price Survey.

This survey is conducted every two years to get an accurate snap shot of child care capacity, ages served, vacancies, schedules, and rates.

The data collected will be used to help determine reimbursement rates and to ensure that resources are allocated where they are most needed.

This year, providers will be able to submit their data online, which should speed up the process. CCRN will also be contacting providers directly by email or phone if we have not received the information through the online form.

Having accurate, complete data is important. Thank you for helping us collect information from every program in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Watch for survey results to be shared in the newsletter.



Kindergarten Launch in March

Many school districts in Jackson and Josephine Counties are participating in ‘Kindergarten Launch’ the first week of March. Kindergarten Launch is an opportunity for parents and children to visit school, see the kindergarten classroom, meet teachers, and get information on registering.

Teachers can help by checking school schedules, sharing Launch dates with parents, and encouraging them to attend. It’s important for parents to start off on the right foot, get involved early, and make sure that children know what to expect.



Teachers can also share simple, fun activities that parents can do with their child to support school readiness (an example is attached) and toward the end of the year teachers can plan activities to help children feel prepared and confident to take this big step. Some suggestions:

- ◆ Read books about going to kindergarten, such as *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*
- ◆ Make a graph showing which kindergarten children will be attending
- ◆ Have children make a family portrait to give to their new teacher
- ◆ Talk about the things that might be different in kindergarten, such as taking the school bus or eating in a cafeteria
- ◆ Practice some “kindergarten things” – lining up, eating lunch on a tray, and self-help skills
- ◆ Have an older sibling come for a class visit and describe what happens in kindergarten
- ◆ If possible, go and visit a kindergarten class or invite a kindergarten teacher to visit your program



Save the Date! Winter Conference February 28th & 29th



The **2020 Together for Children** winter conference, presented by SOC-ORAEOYC

(Southern Oregon Chapter of Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children), will be held on Friday, February 28th and Saturday, February 29th. Mark your calendar and watch your email, registration information will be coming soon.

This is one of the best professional development opportunities in Southern Oregon, offering longer in-depth 6-hour workshops on Friday and a wide range of 2-hour trainings on Saturday, in both English and Spanish.



Ellen Booth Church

The keynote speaker, Ellen Booth Church, is a nationally recognized early childhood expert, author, professor, and former pre-k teacher. In all her roles, Ellen is dedicated to the goal of enriching the lives of young children and their families.

New this year is a change of location of the keynote on Saturday from the library to the Inn at the Commons. This larger space will allow everyone to be together for the keynote before moving to RCC for the rest of the day. Through direct translation, Spanish speaking providers will also be able to benefit from hearing the keynote.

Preschool Promise Expansion



Southern Oregon Early Learning Services (SOELS) is hosting two information sessions for early learning programs and school districts to learn about the funding that will be available through the Student Success Act to increase preschool enrollment throughout Oregon.

If you are interested in learning more about the requirements to become a Preschool Promise program, please attend a meeting in either Medford on February 11th or Grants Pass on February 12th from 4:00-6:30 pm. Details and RSVP to follow.

Prevention is Better than Treatment

Prevention is Better Than Treatment is a required one-hour online health and safety training that addresses how to prevent, reduce, and respond to childhood illnesses and food allergies in child care settings.

The training is free and can be found at <http://campus.educadium.com/OCCD/>.

Providers should have received this information in the mail from the Early Learning Division:

If you hold one of the positions below and are approaching your second (or more) licensing period and have been working at your facility for 2 or more years, you are required to complete this training before your child care facility renews its annual license.

Registered Family Providers need to complete the training prior to their next renewal or by 10/1/2020, which ever comes first.

♦ Registered and Certified Family Homes:

Providers, Assistant 2s, and Substitutes

♦ Child Care Center Settings:

Directors, Teachers, and Aide IIs

For questions, contact your Licensing Specialist or call 1-800-556-6616

Of course, individuals linked to any program can take the training at any time, and not wait till their due date.

Inclusive Partners Partners

The Inclusive Child Care Program is now known as **Inclusive Partners** - a new name and new logo.

In our region, Molly Clement offers Warm Line assistance to directors, teachers, and family providers on a wide range of issues, including challenging behaviors, inclusion, specific concerns about a child, and the environment.

Molly also does the High Needs assessment to determine if a provider may need additional support to make accommodations to meet the special needs of a child in care. If accommodations are needed, the provider may be paid an additional amount to be able to appropriately serve that child. Any provider who feels they may have a child that would qualify for the High Needs rate should call or text Molly for more information at 541-324-7720.

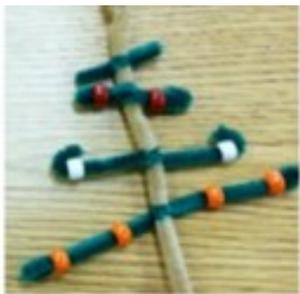
Hand Made Ornaments

Twig Tree - this simple design gives children a chance to go outside and collect materials, figure out how to arrange the twigs in a pyramid shape and then transfer them to a cardboard strip. The final step is adding decorations to create a beautiful ornament!



There are so many ideas for ornaments that children can make on their own, or with just a little assistance. Twigs, pinecones, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, clothes pins, cardboard cut into shapes - almost any material can be transformed into a beautiful decoration.

Try talking about ornaments at circle, show pictures and examples of child made ornaments, and then put out a variety of materials and see what children will do with them. When they are finished, you will have a unique collection to display and admire before sending home.



- * <https://stayingclosetohome.com/diy-ornaments-kids-christmas-crafts/>
- * <https://www.pre-kpages.com/christmas-ornaments-kids-can-make/>
- * <https://happyhooligans.ca/15-easy-christmas-ornaments-kids/>
- * <http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2019/twig-tree-ornaments>

Child Care Resource Network

Email: cccrn@soesd.k12.or.us / 541-776-8590 x 1126

Molly Clement

Warm Line Inclusion Specialist

molly_clement@soesd.k12.or.us / 541-776-8590 x 1125

Devon Finley

Child Care Provider Consultant/QI Specialist/Grant Coordinator

devon_finley@soesd.k12.or.us / 541-776-8590 x 1118

Martha Ibarra

Preschool Promise Coordinator/QI Specialist - English, Spanish

martha_ibarra@soesd.k12.or.us / 541-776-8590 x 1122

Lorena Juarez

Child Care Specialist/QI Specialist - English, Spanish

lorena_juarez@soesd.k12.or.us / 541-776-8590 x 1119

Katrina McGrath

Administrative Assistant III

katrina_mcgrath@soesd.k12.or.us / 541-776-8590 x 1126

Jill Ramirez

QI Specialist/Focused Child Care Network- English, Spanish

jill_ramirez@soesd.k12.or.us / 541-776-8590 x 1124

Mary Wolf

Child Care Resource Network Manager

mary_wolf@soesd.k12.or.us / 541-776-8590 x 1110