



Spring 2020 ~ Updates, Information, Resources

A Message from All of Us at Child Care Resource Network

To Our Deeply Valued Early Learning Educators and Partners,

- ◆ In the midst of this unprecedented crisis, we want you to know that the Child Care Resource Network team is thinking of you and the challenges you are facing with gratitude and respect.
- ◆ We know some of you have made the very difficult decision to close your program - we hope only temporarily - and others have decided to stay open as Emergency Child Care Facilities. These are individual decisions based on your own unique situation, and we understand and respect the choices and steps you are taking.
- ◆ Please know that we at Child Care Resource Network are dedicated to doing everything possible to support you and our early learning community at this difficult time. Although we are following guidance and working remotely, the CCRN team is making every effort to respond promptly to all questions and requests and to maintain all our services to the greatest extent possible.
- ◆ We will be keeping in touch by phone, email, and text, and are planning Zoom video meetings as well. All in-person trainings and site visits have been suspended until at least April 28th, but there are still meaningful ways to connect. Check out the training calendar for some great online options and watch for information on virtual Focused Child Care Network meetings - and this might finally be the time to reach out for support with Spark.
- ◆ We are also exploring ways to offer assistance and training on the business side of child care, in collaboration with Southern Oregon Early Learning Services Hub and other partners. This is an extremely challenging time financially for many, and we want to be sure you know, understand, and receive all the financial assistance you are entitled to and deserve.
- ◆ It's hard to find silver linings. Perhaps this terrible situation will shine a spotlight on the critical importance of early childhood care and education, and result in real recognition, respect, and support for our field and the amazing and dedicated early childhood workforce.
- ◆ We will be reaching out and keeping in touch, and hope you will reach out and keep in touch with us. It is a privilege to be part of our early childhood community, working together with you to support children, families, and each other.

"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors--in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." Fred Rogers

Cande, Devon, Jill, Katrina, Lorena, Martha, Mary, Molly





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Where to Find Information

The Early Learning Division/Office of Child Care [COVID-19 Resources for Providers](#) website is the place to go for the most current information, latest guidance, and an extensive list of frequently asked questions.

Chances are good that any specific questions you have on emergency child care, temporary changes, new requirements or many other topics, have already been answered in the FAQs.

The questions below are just a few of the over thirty that have been asked and answered:

- * *What is the process for renewal appointments and licensing visits?*
- * *Will there be an extension on completing required training and CPR renewals?*
- * *If I am Emergency Child Care Facility can I continue to serve the children in my care?*

All ELD provider correspondence and forms can also be found here, along with links to pages for parents and for emergency child care programs.

We know there has been a lot to keep up with, and this site is the first and best place to look.

If you need more information or would like to talk to someone directly, please contact CCRN by email at ccrn@soesd.k12.or.us or call 541-776-8590 x 1126 - we are here to help.

For current, accurate information on the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [Oregon Health Authority](#).

Business and Financial Support

The Early Learning Division, Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, and Early Learning Hubs all know that this is an extremely challenging time for child care businesses to make it financially. Supporting providers through this crisis is a high priority. Please watch your email for information and a link to resources to support programs and early educators at this precarious time. More to come on this critically important issue.

ELD Emergency Child Care

All licensed child care programs that did not submit an application to be an Emergency Child Care Facility are considered **temporarily closed** through April 28 or until further notice. Those approved to offer emergency care must follow the new [temporary changes to child care rules in response to COVID-19 State of Emergency](#). Over 1500 applications have been received state wide.

Providers who have submitted an application will get a notice from their licensing specialist when they are approved. Providers that have not yet been notified can continue to operate following the new rules until they are notified.

211 is only sending parent referrals for programs that are on the Emergency Child Care list. If a licensed provider would like to operate an Emergency Child Care Program, applications can still be submitted. Until the application has been submitted and approved, programs must remain closed.

Most emergency care is offered by licensed providers. Schools can continue to submit an Emergency Child Care Facility application as needed, and are registered and notified by ODE.

Emergency child care that is sponsored by employers or other entities is also allowed with approval from the Office of Child Care. A toolkit for schools and other temporary emergency facilities can be found at the [COVID-19 Resources for Emergency Child-Care](#) webpage.

Market Price Survey & Vacancy Checks

A BIG THANK YOU to all who responded to the Market Price Survey. We were able to reach almost all providers in our region.

To ensure 211 has accurate information, CCRN will be contacting you soon for vacancy checks. Email or text is the fastest way to get that information to us, and we thank you in advance for helping us keep referral information up to date.

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Emergency Child Care Substitute Pool

◆ How to become a child care substitute

If you are currently not working, but are willing to serve your community during this time, you can [apply to be a substitute](#). The ELD will work closely to match you with a provider, setting, and schedule that best meets your preferences.

The program or individual you are matched with will be responsible for paying you. If you have questions, please contact the CCR&R helpline by email at ccrr@wou.edu or call 1-800-342-6712 for assistance.

◆ How to request a child care substitute

If you need additional staff in order to continue to provide emergency child care to children of [Essential Workers](#) please contact Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) at ccrr@wou.edu or 1-800-342-6712.

Each Emergency Child Care provider will be responsible for working with substitutes to determine their compensation during this time.

NOTE: This is not a recommendation, it is a referral to available people. You are responsible for deciding if they are an appropriate match.



- * **There is no copay**—existing copays have been reduced to \$0.00
- * **The income limit has been expanded** to include families living at or below 250% of federal poverty level (about \$61,500 for a family of 4)
- * **The absent day policy has expanded**, providers can bill ERDC for up to one month for children unable to attend due to COVID-19
- * **Emergency billing for temporarily closed facilities.** Licensed family and license-exempt centers can bill in the event of temporary shut-down. Providers must remain in approved listing status to receive payment
NOTE: Guidance on how long this will be in place is coming soon

Questions on becoming a DHS Listed provider?

Contact Lorena Juarez, 541-776-8590 x 1119 or ccrn@soesd.k12.or.us.

Emergency Supplies Update

The Early Learning Division had hoped that emergency supplies would be ready to order and ship the first week of April, but the logistics are more complicated than anticipated.

This is an urgent need and ELD has people working around the clock to get the distribution process in place and to procure as many items as possible, based on the provider survey results.

Providers will be given a link to the order form and will be able to check inventory and order as needed. Orders (cases, not just a few items) will be shipped directly to providers via UPS.

Currently, supplies include non-perishable foods, paper plates, utensils, tissues, gloves and paper towels with more products coming soon. ELD is reporting that sanitizing supplies may be delayed as Oregon is competing with the rest of the country, and medical facilities are the priority.

The hope is that providers will be able to start placing orders the week of April 6th. CCRN will keep you updated as we have more information.

Changes to DHS ERDC Program

To support providers and families, the DHS ERDC program has implemented some temporary changes, as described in the [press release here](#).

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PRESCHOOL Promise Expansion Update

The Early Learning Division has stated that "at this point in time, the economic impact of COVID-19 is unknown." Current guidance is that the Preschool Promise RFA must be submitted by Monday, May 4th. Please contact CCRN with any questions or for assistance with the Preschool Promise Expansion Application.

Free Meals for ALL Children Under 18

Check the links for information on where to pick up **free meals for kids**. Many school districts in Jackson and Josephine Counties are offering nutritious free meals. <https://ktvl.com/news/local/free-meals-for-kids-programs> and <https://oregonhunger.org/covid-19/>



Kids Unlimited, 821 N. Riverside Avenue in Medford, is also providing free, cooked from scratch, breakfast and lunches. Information at <https://www.facebook.com/KidsUnlimitedofOregon/>

Warm Line Services are Available



Molly Clement

This may be a difficult time for children as they are adjusting to a new reality and routine. Some children may be attending an unfamiliar emergency child care program for the first time and are anxious and fearful.

Please reach out to the Warm Line for suggestions, resources, or just to talk over a situation. Molly Clement is here to support you, children in your care, and families. She brings a wealth of knowledge and resources to help you ease children's anxieties so they can understand their feelings and learn to regulate their behavior.

Three Best Stress Relievers for Kids?

Our most popular...

HUGS ~ LAUGHTER ~ GOING OUTSIDE
(pets were a big contender too!)



Training Updates

In light of the COVID-19 situation, training requirements have been modified and CCRN is not scheduling in-person trainings. Please check the training calendar for information on these temporary changes and for a list of the great webinars and online classes that are available. RCC cohort classes and Focused Child Care Networks will also be up and running this month.

The CCRN Scholarship form is posted on the CCRN website, www.ccrnso.org. Assistance is available to cover the credit portion of SOU Saturday workshops and other requests for scholarships will be considered. We want to help you pursue your professional development interests. Although you may not be working with children right now, and learning will be done remotely, there are still many opportunities to strengthen and deepen your knowledge and skills.

Please call Devon Finley at 541-776-8590 x 1118 or email devon_finley@soesd.k12.or.us with any training questions.

Child Care Resource Network

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

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SOESD
Southern Oregon Education Service District



CHILD CARE
RESOURCE NETWORK
Supporting Quality Early Learning
Jackson and Josephine Counties