

Child Care Guidance for Southern Oregon

These past months have been a stressful time for many in our community. We thank those emergency and essential workers and those who have done their part by sheltering at home and maintaining physical distancing. Now, as the community and businesses are slowly opening up, we know many of you will need child care to get back to work and may be wondering what options are available during this public health emergency. Here is what you need to know:

- **Many child care facilities have not yet reopened.**
- **Child care and summer programs that have reopened are still operating under emergency child care guidelines,** which include maintaining stable groups of no more than 10 children, checking to be sure children entering the program are symptom free, and additional sanitation procedures. Providers will need support and understanding from parents as these processes are implemented.
- **To find out which child care facilities are open in your area, contact 211info by:**
 - **Calling 211.** Listen to the prompt for Child Care and press the specified number.
 - **Texting** the keyword “children” or “niños” to 898211 (TXT211).
 - **Emailing** children@211info.org.

211 Child Care hours are Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **To search for child care online and to find information on selecting quality child care** go to the Find Child Care Oregon website, <http://trouw.org/projects/fcco> Be sure to take time to visit programs and make the best possible choice for your child – this is a very important decision.
- **There may be help paying for child care** through the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidy. Visit www.oregon.gov/DHS/ASSISTANCE/CHILD-CARE/ to see if your family qualifies.
- **Emergency child care guidelines still give priority to” essential workers.”** There is not an exhaustive definition at this time. If your work is part of the response to this public health crisis and you cannot stay home to do this work, you can consider yourself an essential worker. **However, child care is open to any parent who needs it.**
- **Be aware that both children and parents reentering child care during this COVID-19 time may experience some stress and anxiety and should be met with compassion and understanding.**
- **To stay up-to-date on the latest emergency child care actions,** visit Oregon Early Learning Division’s website and click the links for family and for emergency child care: <https://oregonearlylearning.com/COVID-19-Resources>

