

# The CHAT

## March 2025



Chautauqua  
Child Care Council  
Child Care Keeps Chautauqua County Working

31 DAYS  
IN THE  
MONTH

St. Patrick's Day  
March 17th



First Day of  
**Spring**  
3.20.25

National  
**Crafts**  
Month



# MARCH

## fun facts



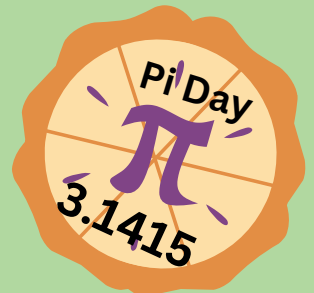
Aquamarine  
Birthstone



Daffodil

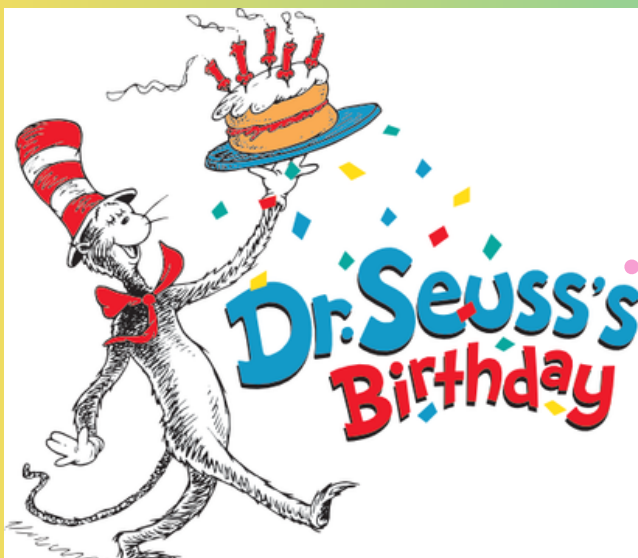
Women's History  
Month

*Empowered  
Women  
Empower  
Women*



Pisces

Aries



## Dr. Seuss's Birthday March 2nd

Get involved! Dr. Seuss's Birthday is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2 — Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too!

Incorporate our printable guides and activities to celebrate reading with young people.



# Office of Children and Family Services

## Regulations Review

### Cold and Flu Season

### How to Minimize the Spread of Germs!



#### Daily Health Check



SACC 414.11(c)(2)(i)  
GFDC 416.11(c)(2)(i)  
FDC 417.11(c)(2)(i)  
DCC 418-1.11(c)(2)(i)



Upon arrival, every child is required to undergo a daily health check to ensure they are healthy enough to be around the other children in your program. If a child is presenting moderate to severe symptoms, they should not be entering your program until the symptoms have lessened to a mild state or less.

A daily health check for each child for any indication of illness, injury, abuse or maltreatment will be conducted and documented.



#### Disinfect & Sanitize

You can use an EPA registered product or use a bleach mixture as follows:

Spray Bleach Solution (for food contact surfaces)  
1/2 tsp. of bleach to 1 quart of water

Spray Bleach Solution (for diapering surfaces)  
1 Tbsp. of bleach to 1 quart of water

Soaking Bleach Solution (for sanitizing toys)  
1 tsp. of bleach to 1 gallon of water

SACC 414.11(i)(6)  
GFDC 416.11(i)(21)  
FDC 417.11(i)(21)  
DCC 418-1.11(i)(6)



All rooms, equipment, surfaces, supplies and furnishings accessible to children must be cleaned and then sanitized or disinfected, using an EPA registered product, as needed to protect the health of children, and in a manner consistent with the program's health care plan approved by the Office



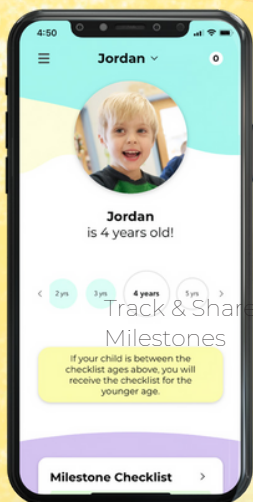
*Share  
WITH  
PARENTS!*

# Professional Development

*Help your child grow and thrive*

Your child's early years are so very important. Tracking how your little one plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves helps you support their development.

**Download CDC's free *Milestone Tracker* app to find fun and easy activities for each age.**



**Track & Share  
Milestones**

**Get Tips &  
Activities**

**Learn When to  
Act Early**

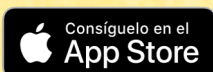
Learn more at [cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker](https://cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker)



*Apoye su desarrollo y crecimiento*

Los primeros años de su hijo son muy importantes. Seguir cómo su pequeño juega, aprende, habla, actúa y se mueve lo puede ayudar en su desarrollo.

**Descargue la aplicación gratuita de los CDC  
*Sigamos el desarrollo* para encontrar actividades  
fáciles para cada edad.**



**Siga y comparta  
los indicadores  
del desarrollo**

**Vea consejos  
y actividades**

**Sepa cuándo  
debe reaccionar  
pronto**

Encuentre más información en [www.cdc.gov/Sigamos](https://www.cdc.gov/Sigamos)





# CACFP & Nutrition



## National CACFP Week March 16-22

The 3rd week in March is National CACFP week. What will you and the children in your program be doing to celebrate? There are some children's activities that providers can access without being a member of the National CACFP Sponsor Association by visiting <https://www.cacfp.org/campaign/>.

Here is a poster that you can print with space to write down what your program will be doing to celebrate to share with families (see next page).

The Council would love to hear about what your program plans to do. Some suggestions include: try a new food or recipe; host a food drive; study a food - where did it come from, what does it feel like, taste like, smell like and so on. Then, record what children learned.



## Don't Forget to Register for Food Feud!

### March 13th or March 27th

Come and play Food Feud - our version of Family Feud - and have lots of fun while learning more about the CACFP, nutrition, tips, hints, and more!

**Thursday, March 13 - 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM**

**Laughlin Community Action Center, 402 Chandler Street, Jamestown**

**Thursday, March 27 - 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM**

**Connections North, 10825 Bennett Road, Dunkirk**

This training will cover the annual required CACFP training for 2025 and civil rights.

to Register click this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/chautauqua-child-care-council-42541026163>

or call:

Chris Wigren (716) 661-9430 x 2269 or Lindsey Burke (716) 661-9430 x 2275



# We are celebrating National CACFP Week!



**March 16–22, 2025**



# Grant Opportunity

## Building a Culturally Responsive Child Care Program



We want children to grow up to be happy, well-rounded, caring people and a large part of this is influenced by their early experiences and interactions with those around them.

It is extremely important that children grow up learning to respect, accept, and celebrate people from different backgrounds and that have different experiences than themselves.

Cultural competency also ensures that every child feels seen, heard, and valued within the learning environment, creating a sense of belonging and acceptance.

This grant will cover necessary materials to establish a culturally diverse and accepting environment. Some examples could be: Culturally diverse story books, play food, baby dolls, posters, music, etc.



Children's Diversity Games



Cultural Diversity Sewing Cards



Ethnic Diverse Plush Dolls



Diversity Books & Puzzles

**Click this link to apply  
Grant Application**

**Other Grants Are Available!**

For more information  
contact the Chautauqua Child Care Council  
at 716-661-9430 ext. 2295



Multi-Cultural Family Figures



Mult-Racial Magnetic Play Sets



Do you currently operate a child care program and need support and resources?

Have you been thinking of starting a child care program?

Not sure where to start?

**The Chautauqua Child Care Council can help!**

# Child Care Business Conversations



**Earn Training Credit!**

How to start  
your Child  
Care  
Business

Record Keeping  
File Maintenance  
Budgets  
Contracts

Sustainability  
Best Practice  
Grants  
Resources

## Who We Are?

The Chautauqua Child Care Council is a team of dedicated professionals who provide ongoing support to Registered/Licensed Child Care Programs in Chautauqua County.

## What We Do?

Our Team works closely with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services and other local community agencies to support healthy and safe environments for children to grow and learn to the best of their potential.



For more information contact Registrars  
Rebecca Potter or Christina Maddox  
716-661-9430 ext. 2289 or 2290



[rpotter@chautopp.org](mailto:rpotter@chautopp.org)  
[cmaddox@chautopp.org](mailto:cmaddox@chautopp.org)



[www.chautauquaopportunities.com](http://www.chautauquaopportunities.com)



# Child Care Advocacy



**ZERO TO THREE**  
Early connections last a lifetime



## Introducing ZERO TO THREE

We specialize in early childhood development, specifically focusing on the ages 0 to 3. We translate the science of this critical stage in childhood development into resources, training programs and solutions that make a real impact.

Our aim is to give babies and toddlers a strong start and a chance to reach their full potential by equipping families, communities and policymakers with the knowledge and skills they need.

**Click Here to Learn More**

<https://www.zerotothree.org/issue-areas/child-care/>



The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children. The association comprises nearly 60,000 individual members of the early childhood community and 52 Affiliates, all committed to delivering on the promise of high-quality early learning. Together, we work to achieve a collective vision: that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.

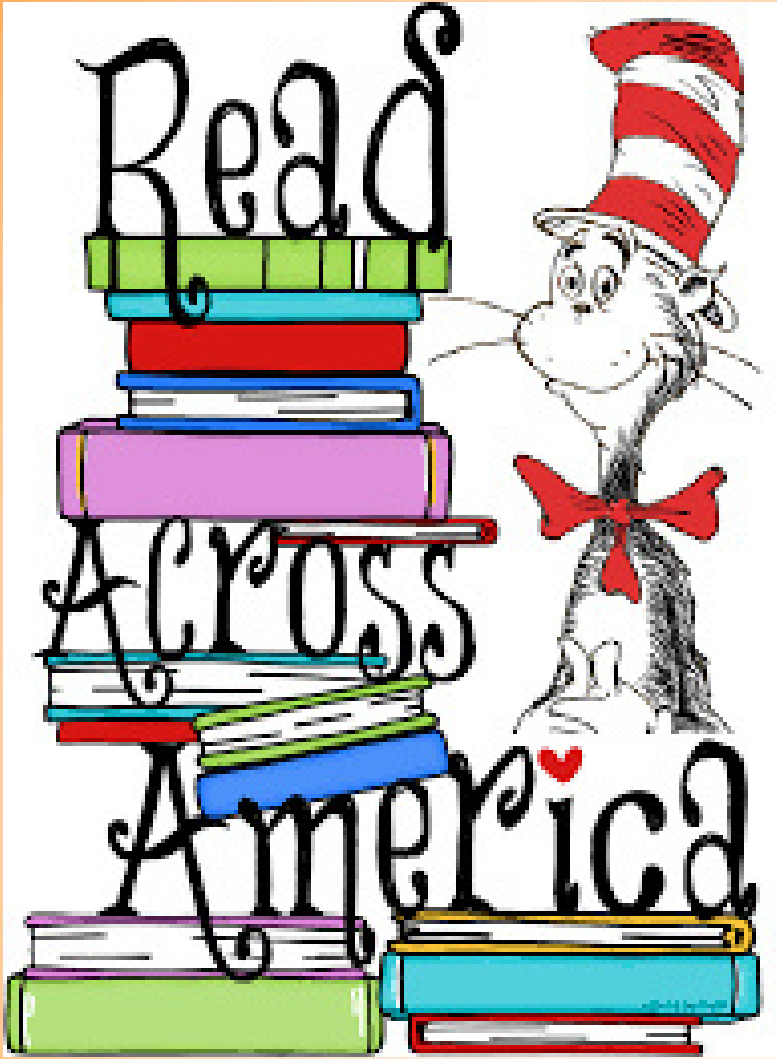
**Click Here to Learn More**

<https://www.naeyc.org>





# Parent Page



**Read Across America is a week-long celebration of reading that takes place annually in March. The week begins on the birthday of Dr. Seuss, and many schools participate with activities to encourage reading.**

**For more information visit the National Education Association website by clicking here**



#### **Read Across America**

Let's read and grow together with 12 months of recommended books, authors, and teaching resources that promote diversity and inclusion.

 NEAToday

**The National Education Association (NEA) created Read Across America to promote reading and its benefits.**

**The week-long celebration includes challenges and activities for students.**

**The entire month of March is known as National Reading Month.**

**Schools and organizations across the country organize events to promote reading.**

# PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY!

## SAVE THE DATE:



Friday, May 2, 2025  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Prize



B I N G O				
1	29	32	59	75
11	30	33	55	63
9	22	FREE	54	66
5	23	34	47	69
8	18	31	49	62

Cassadaga American Legion  
228 Maple Ave.  
Cassadaga, NY





# Resources



[www.chautauquaopportunities.com](http://www.chautauquaopportunities.com)



[www.chautauquaopportunities.com/  
chautauqua-child-care-council/](http://www.chautauquaopportunities.com/chautauqua-child-care-council/)



[www.empirestatechildcare.org](http://www.empirestatechildcare.org)



[naeyc.org](http://naeyc.org)



[childcareaware.org](http://childcareaware.org)



[www.earlycareandlearning.org](http://www.earlycareandlearning.org)



[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)



MyPlate  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

<https://www.myplate.gov>



<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/>



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## Share The Chat with your employees and your families!

The Chautauqua Child Care Council is a division of  
Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

