



# The CHAT

## April 2025



Chautauqua  
Child Care Council  
Child Care Keeps Chautauqua County Working

**The Month of the Young Child (MOYC) is celebrated in April. It's a time to recognize the needs of young children and their families, and to celebrate early childhood programs and services**



Tuesday, April 1, 2025 marks the start of Child Abuse Awareness Month. Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign serves as a reminder that everyone has a responsibility to help protect children in the community through education and awareness, support and outreach to children and families in need, and by reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

During the month of April, blue pinwheels will be prominently displayed throughout the community and distributed by the Chautauqua Child Care Council.

Proudly show your support by planting your own Pinwheel Garden with the children in your program. We would love to see photos of the children in your program planting Pinwheel Gardens! Please send photos to: [rpotter@chautopp.org](mailto:rpotter@chautopp.org)  
(Note: A photo release will be required and will be supplied to you).

**Click Here For  
More Information!**



<https://preventchildabuse.org/resources/pinwheels-for-prevention/>



# Office of Children and Family Services

## Mandated Reporter

Mandated Reporters are required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when in their official role or professional capacity and when they are presented with a reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment.

Reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment means that based on your rational observations, professional training and experience, you have a suspicion that the parent or other person legally responsible for a child is harming that child or placing that child in imminent danger of harm.

## What is Abuse and Maltreatment?

Abuse encompasses the most serious harm committed against children. An abused child is one whose parent or other person legally responsible for his or her care inflicts serious physical injury upon the child, which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury or commits a sex offense against a child.

Maltreatment means that a child's physical, mental or emotional condition has been impaired or placed in imminent danger by failure of the child's parent or person legally responsible to exercise a minimum degree of care.

## How to Recognize Child Abuse and Maltreatment

### Indicators of physical abuse can include:

- Injuries to the face and/or sides of the head
- Frequent injuries of any kind such as bruises, cuts, burns, bites or grab marks
- When a child is unable to provide an adequate explanation of the cause of the injury
- Aggressive, destructive or disruptive behavior
- Passive, withdrawn or emotionless behavior
- Fear of going home or fear of parent

### Indicators of Maltreatment include:

- Obvious malnourishment
- Excessive fatigue
- Stealing or begging for food
- Lack of personal hygiene care
- Dirty clothing
- Untreated eye care, dental care or other medical attention
- Frequent absences
- Being left unattended or without supervision



**PROTECT  
OUR  
CHILDREN**

**New York State OCFS  
is now offering updated  
Mandated Reporter training**

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/cps/mandated-reporter-training.php>

**If you suspect child abuse or maltreatment you MUST report your concerns immediately.  
Please call: 1-800-342-3720**



# Professional Development



## April is the MONTH OF the YOUNG CHILD (MOYC)

Let's celebrate Teachers, Families and Children! We celebrate children and the incredible work childcare workers do every day to make a difference in the lives of children.

During the month of April, we like to take it up a notch! NAEYC has designated April 5-11 as the Week of the Young Child #WOYC25. NAEYC defines WOYC as a "fun-filled week celebrating young children and their families with hands-on, collaborative activities encouraging movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food, and art."

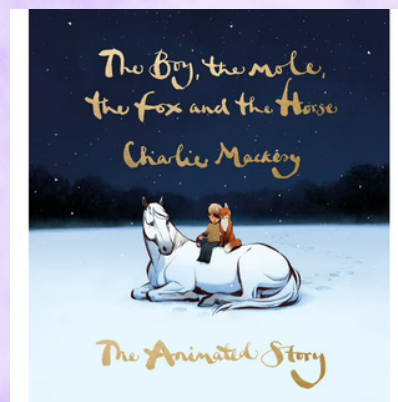
Don't miss out on the opportunities that are available in Chautauqua County during the month of April in the celebration of young children. Chautauqua County's Month of the Young Child's Chairperson, Virginia Miller, Director of Lake Shore Family Center has provided the following information regarding this year's celebration:



Our theme for the MOYC 2025 is:

*"If you can be anything in this world...  
Be Kind."*

Copies of the Book: The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy will be provided to all 36 Chautauqua County libraries along with an activities packet. The packets will include a copy of the MOYC doll pattern, 100 Random acts of Kindness for Children, and several templates for "Be Kind" art projects.



Proclamation of the MOYC read by Senator Borrello's Office, the Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel, and several other noted dignitaries from Chautauqua County.

A Rock Painting event will be held for all Chautauqua County children (accompanied by an adult) at Lake Shore family Center in Irving on April 26th at 10 am. Participants will be encouraged to paint rocks and place them where they feel they will be found and make someone smile!

Other events in the works for the Month are a Book Club centering around the Mackesy Book. This will be held in conjunction with Labyrinthine Ways Peace Park (details TBA) Kidding Around Yoga, and a Music and Movement event. More detailed information will be available closer to April. Please contact Virginia Miller at 716-934-2353.

Please let us know if you are planning events in your childcare space. We would love to highlight your celebrations.





# CACFP & Nutrition

Food Feud  
WINNERS!



Pictured are 3 of our March 13th Food Feud “Contestants” Professional Child Care Providers: Nicole Garland, Andrea Minor and Judy Yarber.

Food Feud is the Chautauqua Child Care Council’s version of Family Feud. The game is a fun and informative way for participants to fulfill CACFP (as well as OCFS) training requirements.

One way to get kids to eat veggies is to grow them. Included in homeschool mom Terri’s online article, “Starting Seeds Indoors With Kids” are ways to get seeds to grow using recycled materials. Being able to watch the magic of growing plants from seeds gives kids a sense of wonder and accomplishment—and hopefully an appetite, too! Using recycled materials like newspaper, empty paper towel rolls, and other items teaches them how to help the environment, too. Check out this link for all the information you will need:

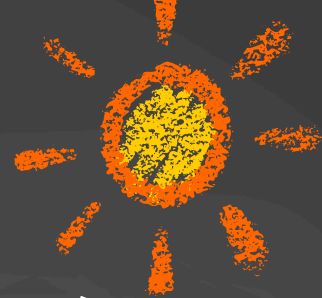
<https://homeschoolgardens.com/starting-seeds-indoors-with-kids/>

## Crediting Meal Components in the CACFP

When serving foods such as casseroles in the CACFP, a total of 3 meal components can count towards a meal or snack. In a USDA’s Rice Casserole recipe, for example, there is a meat/meat alternate meal component; a grains component, and a vegetable component. The recipe for Rice Vegetable Casserole can be found using this link:

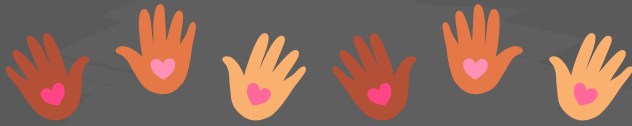
[https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/Rice\\_Veg\\_Casserole\\_6\\_Servings.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/Rice_Veg_Casserole_6_Servings.pdf)





# Grants

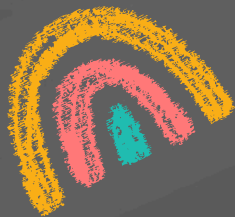
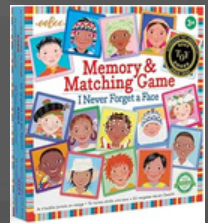
## Building A Culturally Responsive Environment Grant



It is extremely important that children grow up learning to respect, accept, and celebrate people from different backgrounds and those who 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.



## Mindfulness Grant



Mindfulness based social emotional learning is an approach that builds on a child's learning with a focus on daily mindfulness practices as the foundation.

This Grant will provide materials to be used in your program to help support and encourage mindful and social emotional behavior through self expression, and creative thought processes.

Click this link to apply!

Grant Application



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



CHAUTAUQUA  
CHILD CARE COUNCIL  
PRESENTS

ONLINE

# CHILD CARE BUSINESS CONVERSATIONS

WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 2ND

6 PM – 7 PM

1.0 HOUR OCFS APPROVED  
BUSINESS TRAINING CREDIT

GUEST SPEAKER NANCY CORDERO FROM CSEA/VOICE UNION



**NANCY CORDERO**

EARLY LEARNING AND  
CARE REPRESENTATIVE

ZOOM MEETING

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)**

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF CSEA/VOICE

- FREE TELEHEALTH
- VISION AND DENTAL
- LEGAL SERVICES
- SCHOLARSHIPS





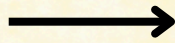
# Child Care Advocacy



## Together We Grow

Together We Grow LLC was founded by Prerna Richards (pronounced Pray-na). Prerna has 38 years experience in the field of Early Childhood Education. Her education philosophy is grounded on play-based learning with an emphasis on social emotional development. Prerna is passionate about sharing the latest brain development research, that not only is helpful for the childrens' developing brains but also the caregivers who are educating them.

Click this link  
to learn more!



### Home

FOR EVERY CHILD What Happens Early in Life Lasts a Lifetime Enquire Now Administrator Support For Administrators Find Out More Mission Statement Prerna...

 Together We Grow /



## Child Advocacy Center of Chautauqua County

This center, located in Jamestown, NY, serves the Chautauqua County area, including Dunkirk.

**Mission:** To end child abuse in Chautauqua County and coordinate a community response to bring healing, hope, and justice to children and families.

**Services:** CAP offers a range of services, including counseling, medical exams, and victim advocacy, within a safe and child-friendly environment, focusing on preventing child abuse and neglect through education, training, and community outreach

Contact: 716-672-2031 (Dunkirk) or 716-338-9844 (Jamestown)  
1-800-342-3720 (NYS Child Abuse Hotline)

<https://capjustice.org/cap/>





**PROVIDER  
APPRECIATION  
DAY!**

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



**Please join the Chautauqua  
Child Care Council  
in recognition & celebration  
of YOU...**

**Chautauqua County Child  
Care Providers!**

# Prize BINGO

**Guests will be limited to one per provider  
at a cost of \$10.00 per guest.  
Pre-Registration is Required for this Event  
by April 4th, 2025**

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**

**Please contact Christina  
Maddox with any questions.  
cmaddox@chautopp.org  
716-661-9430 ext. 2289**

**Use this QR Code or click the link  
the register!**



**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**





# Resources



CHAUTAUQUA OPPORTUNITIES, INC.  
HELPING PEOPLE...CHANGING LIVES...

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



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



Empire State  
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILD CARE

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



nyaeyc  
New York Association for the Education of Young Children

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



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



Early Care &  
Learning Council  
United to Promote Quality

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



ZERO TO THREE  
Early connections last a lifetime

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



MyPlate  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

<https://www.myplate.gov>



Office of Children  
and Family Services

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



Home  
A National Platform for the Child and Adult Care Food Program  
Community What's New?  
© National CACFP Sponsors Association

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

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



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