



The CHAT

October 2025

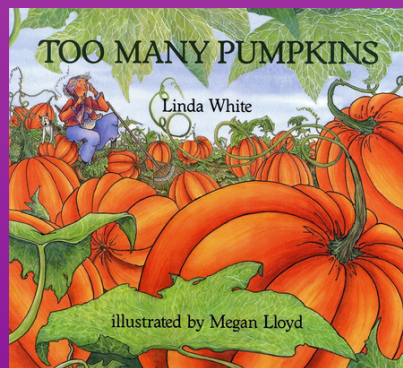


NATIONAL BOOK MONTH

National Book Month is celebrated annually in the United States during the month of October to recognize the importance of reading, writing, and literature and to encourage reading for all ages. The National Book Foundation established the event in 2003 to promote literary appreciation and to connect people with books, authors, and fellow readers.



THE BOOK NOOK





Office of Children and Family Services

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 5TH-11TH

Regulations Review

Below is a list of important fire prevention and safety planning tips. Please refer to the child care regulations for specific regulatory requirements in these areas:



Conduct emergency evacuation drills in accordance with regulation.

Have a professional check your heating system regularly. Equipment in disrepair can cause deadly carbon monoxide to build up.

Carbon monoxide is odorless, tasteless, and colorless, and can be fatal.

Ovens are not an acceptable heating source and should never be used for that purpose.

Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors regularly and change the batteries as described by manufacturer guidelines.

Check fire extinguishers and ensure they are located in areas of your program as required by regulation. Fire extinguishers with gauges should show a full charge and should have unbroken seals (when applicable).

Check that electrical outlets are not overloaded and that those not in use are covered with protective caps.

Check paths of egress or means of escape regularly to remove obstructions, impediments, and debris. Make sure entrances and exits are clear of snow and ice.

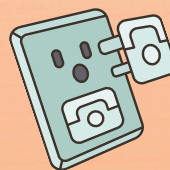
Ensure that trash, garbage, and combustible materials are never stored in the furnace room or in rooms or outdoor areas that are ordinarily occupied by or accessible to children.

Check that outdoor vents are clear of snow and debris.

If bad weather causes a power outage in your area, be sure to follow your emergency plan.

Everyone in your program—including parents—should know your program's emergency plan for shelter-in-place or emergency relocation.

If a fire does break out in your program, follow your emergency plan.



EMERGENCY

The OCFS website is a great resource for child care providers. To see a list of emergency planning resources click this link:

→ [Emergency Planning](#)

You can take the e-Learning, Emergency Preparedness, at no cost. The training includes important information about preparing for emergencies in child care programs. Click the link below to visit the Early Childhood Education Training Program (ECETP) website and search for Emergency Preparedness.

[Emergency Preparedness Training](#) ←

Professional Development Training Opportunities

These trainings will be virtual.

Contact Beth Faulkner to register bfaulkner@chautopp.org

ENGAGING ENVIRONMENTS (OCFS TOPICS 1, 3)

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025

In this training we will explore strategies to develop engaging learning environments. This training will help you to adapt your space and program to meet the needs of the children in your care. We will reflect on how to use physical space, materials and purposeful planning to engage children. We will also cover how to make your program effective and engaging through reflection as an educator or caregiver.

REFLECTIVE TEACHING (OCFS TOPICS 1, 3)

Date: Saturday November 15, 2025

This training will include a discussion of reflective teaching and how to use reflection to focus on your teaching practice and plan engaging interactions with the children in your care. We will look at the Inquiry Learning Cycle and how that informs you of your intentions as an educator. (Wonder, Observe, Reflect, Respond) Exploring the concept of Wonder, we will explore how this view of the world can change current practice for educators and children. We will end our time discussing how to build reflection into your current practice.





CACFP & Nutrition



Important Announcement: Our CACFP will be switching from Kidkare to My Food Program. Please note that if you currently use paper menus, you can still use paper menus.

The Council is working with My Food Program as plans are underway to change from Kidkare to My Food Program for the CACFP. Providers can begin to familiarize themselves with My Food Program using the following link

The plan is to have everything converted to My Food Program by November 1, 2025.

HEALTHY
EATING

CLICK THIS LINK TO LEARN MORE!



<https://www.myfoodprogram.com>

Need CACFP training for 2025?

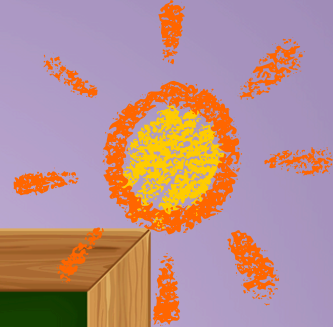
“Nutrition Mission: Getting Kids to Eat Healthy Meals and Snacks”
is a nutrition workshop that will be offered at the Annual Early Childhood Conference.

The conference will be held on
Saturday, October 18, 2025
at Chautauqua Lake Central School in Mayville.

This training will count for CACFP
annual training and civil rights.

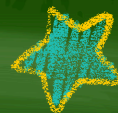


A B C D Grants



HEALTHY SPACES SAFE PLACES GRANT

The Healthy Spaces, Safe Places grant for child care providers is to improve health and safety within their programs. Grant funds can be used for items such as first aid supplies, cleaning and sanitation materials, safety equipment, or health-related training. This grant helps ensure that all children thrive in environments that are both safe and supportive.



GRANT APPLICATION



CARING BEYOND LIMITS GRANT

This grant is a collaborative effort from the Chautauqua Child Care Council and YWCA of Jamestown.

We recognize that many providers face challenges in meeting the diverse developmental needs of children due to limited resources and specialized training. In response, we are launching a shared services model in Chautauqua County that equips early childhood providers with hands-on, developmentally appropriate strategies and materials tailored to your program and the individual needs of the children you serve.

GRANT APPLICATION



Child Care Advocacy



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.

Chautauqua Chapter NYAEYC

Early Childhood Conference

Saturday, October 18, 2025

8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Chautauqua Lake Central School

100 North Erie St. Mayville, NY

Keynote: Kenneth Sherman



[Register Here](#)

Resources



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

www.chautauquaopportunities.com



Chautauqua
Child Care Council
Child Care Keeps Chautauqua County Working

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



Empire State
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILD CARE

www.empirestatechildcare.org



nyaeyc
New York Association for the Education of Young Children

naeyc.org



childcareaware.org



Early Care &
Learning Council
United to Promote Quality

www.earlycareandlearning.org



ZERO to THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

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

The Chautauqua Child Care Council

works to foster collaborative relationships in order to build a strong responsive child care support system meeting the needs of all of Chautauqua County's families, child care providers, businesses and communities.

Share The Chat with your employees and your families!

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



Chautauqua
Child Care Council
Child Care Keeps Chautauqua County Working



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