

The CHAT

January 2026



Winter Wonderland

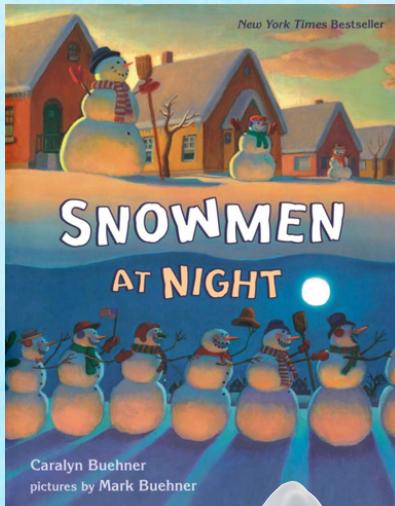


Snow Play: Build snowmen, snow forts, or sculptures; have snowball fights; or even try snow painting with food coloring in spray bottles.



To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”

-Aristotle



The Book Nook

Have you ever built a snowman and discovered the next day that his grin has gotten a little crooked, or his tree-branch arms have moved? And you've wondered . . . what do snowmen do at night? This delightful wintertime tale reveals all! Caralyn Buehner's witty, imaginative verse offers many amusing details about the secret life of snowmen and where they go at night, while Mark Buehner's roly-poly snowmen are bursting with personality and charm.



Regulations Review Behavior Management

FDC 417.9 (a-d) GFDC 416.9 (a-d)

- (a) The family day care registrant must establish and follow a written plan for behavior management that is acceptable to the Office. This plan must include how the program will approach challenging behaviors, help children solve problems, and encourage acceptable behaviors.**
- (b) The caregivers must use acceptable techniques and approaches to help children solve problems.**
- (c) The program must provide copies of the behavior management plan to all caregivers and parents.**
- (d) Discipline must promote positive self-esteem in children and guide children in such a way as to help each child develop self-control and assume responsibility for his or her actions through clear and consistent rules and limits appropriate to the ages and development of the children in care.**

DCC 418-1.9 (a-d) SACC 414.9 (a-d)

- (a) The program must establish and follow a written plan for behavior management that is acceptable to the office. This plan must include how the staff will approach challenging behaviors, help children solve problems and encourage acceptable behaviors.**
- (b) The staff must use acceptable techniques and approaches to help children solve problems.**
- (c) The program must provide copies of the behavior management plan to all staff and parents of children in care at the program.**
- (d) Behavior management must promote self-esteem in children and guide children in such a way as to help each child develop self-control and assume responsibility for his or her actions through clear and consistent rules and limits appropriate to the ages and development of the children in care.**

Professional Development

Looking for Extra Support in Your Work with Young Children?

Mentoring and coaching offer hands-on, personalized support to help early educators build skills and confidence. Mentors and coaches form supportive relationships and focus on practical classroom strategies that strengthen teaching, improve teacher-child interactions, and support educator well-being. This support leads to meaningful benefits for children, educators and encourages continuous growth in early learning settings.

The Child Care Council offers mentoring and coaching in several ways:

- Grants can include mentoring/coaching as well as materials
- Credentialed Coaching through the Educational Incentive Program-Coaching (EIP)
 - Intensive Technical Assistance for short-term support needs
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation to focus on social emotional development and educator well-being

Reach out to learn which option may be the best fit for you or your program.

716-661-9430 ext. 2295

"Holding Hope"

This is a strategy used by Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants to assist child care providers cope with daily challenges in child care.

Holding Hope is an approach that is practiced by IEMHC to assist child care providers to identify successes and create a culture of optimism as well as build a challenging behavior support system. This not only supports the adults, it boosts the social emotional development of children in child care.

If you would like to learn more about Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, please contact the Child Care Council at 716-661-9430 ext. 3216



CACFP & Nutrition

Child Care Providers - Come on Down!

You can be the next contestants on "The Price is Right" CACFP Annual Training Plus Civil Rights for 2026!

Wednesday, January 28th, from 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Laughlin Community Action Center, 402 Chandler Street in Jamestown

Wednesday, February 25th, from 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Connections North, 10825 Bennett Road in Dunkirk

Topics will include CACFP regulations, saving money on nutritious meals, MyPlate, cooking with children and more! Learn while having FUN and maybe WIN A PRIZE or two!

You must register for the training at

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

This training will fulfil CACFP annual training plus civil rights for 2026.



Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act and the Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act



Use the link below to learn about and quickly and easily advocate for the Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act and the Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act

<https://www.cacfp.org/action-center/>

The Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act which includes:

- Allowing providers who are open for more than 8 hours in a day to be reimbursed for an additional meal (up to 3 meals and 1 snack).
- Aligning the calculation of reimbursement rates for family child care homes with that of centers by shifting to "food away from home."

The Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act which includes:

- increasing reimbursement rates by 10 cents for all CACFP providers
- Eliminating tiering of family day care homes – all homes would receive tier I rates (no need to qualify by school, census, etc.)

Are you getting the most out of My Food Program (MFP)?

MFP technicians are always waiting to hear from you - by Chat, Email or Phone.

Help is available Monday - Friday. In addition, there are multiple videos available by using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFeLWhUujZwGBk9-wdMHwK7XBJciuhfrP.>

You may also join group demos or schedule an individual demo using this link:

<https://www.myfoodprogram.com/product-demos/#individual-demos.>

Need help finding a report in My Food Program? Use this link to "Reports: Summary Chart:" https://www.myfoodprogram.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/SFSP-Training-Guide_Reports-Summary-Chart.pdf



Training

Supporting Emotional Well-Being with Sesame Street in Communities

January 26, 2026 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (EST)

Earn a certificate for 0.5 CEU, Specialty 3

A new year brings new beginnings, and a wonderful chance to refocus on the emotional well-being for those in our care. Join Sesame Street in Communities to explore free resources that help children name big feelings, build healthy coping skills, and strengthen bonds with the caring adults around them. Through videos, storybooks, and hands-on activities with your favorite Sesame Street friends, you'll discover joyful ways to nurture emotional health and bring more calm, confidence, and connection into your daily routines.

1. Identify key Sesame Street in Communities resources that promote emotional well-being for young children and caregivers.
2. Apply strategies and activities to help children recognize emotions, build coping skills, and strengthen resilience.

Presented by:

Antonio Freitas, MST

Sr. Director, Educational Experiences
Sesame Workshop

Click this link for
Registration information:

<https://info.cacfp.org/ap/Events/Register/R1FWKOIFRC0CX>



Business Specialists

The Chautauqua Child Care Council is excited to announce its Specialized Business Coaching Programs! These new programs offer support to FDC/GFDC Providers who seek to enhance and strengthen the business aspects of their childcare programs!

In a joint effort with the Empire State Family Child Care Collaborative, we are offering support and guidance techniques that will help sustain the daily operations of in home family daycare programs. We can help you create a business plan which includes budgeting, time and space allocation, insurance needs, retirement plans, child care management systems and overall business sustainability.

For more information on how you can access these valuable programs, please contact our Business Specialists:

Meg Rodgers

716-661-9430 ext. 2286

mrodgers@chautopp.org

Lori Steward

716-661-9430 ext. 2260

lsteward@chautopp.org

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, safety equipment, or health-related training.

This grant helps ensure that all children thrive in environments that are both safe and supportive.



Caring Beyond Limits Grant

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.

Quality Care Materials Grant

The Quality Care Materials Grant for child care providers is to purchase materials that directly enhance the quality of care in their programs. This may include educational toys, sensory materials, classroom furnishing, or professional resources that support developmentally appropriate practices. The goal is to strengthen learning environments and promote high standards of care across early childhood settings.



**CLICK THIS LINK TO APPLY
FOR THESE GRANTS!**

GRANT APPLICATION

Childcare Advocacy Resources



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.**

