

The CHAT

April 2026



MONTH OF THE
YOUNG
CHILD
APRIL

April is designated as the Month of the Young Child, a time to celebrate early learning, young children, their families, and teachers. Organized by the NAEYC and local partners, the month focuses on the importance of early childhood education (birth to age eight) and community support in nurturing children's potential

This year's theme in Chautauqua County is "Small hands change the World!"

For more information on how your program can participate in activities see the Professional Development page of this newsletter!



 **PLANT A
PINWHEEL**

RAISING AWARENESS FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Planting a blue & silver pinwheel signifies support for Prevent Child Abuse, America's nationwide "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign, held annually in April. It represents a commitment to ensuring every child has a happy, healthy, and safe upbringing. The pinwheel is the national symbol for child abuse prevention, symbolizing the whimsical, carefree joy of childhood

IF YOUR PROGRAM WOULD LIKE TO PLANT A PINWHEEL GARDEN,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAUTAUQUA CHILD CARE COUNCIL
TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE PINWHEELS!

LORI GOULD 716-661-9430 EXT . 2289
lgould@chautopp.org

Pinwheel Planting Ceremonies
for Chautauqua County

Jamestown City Hall April 1st 1:00 pm

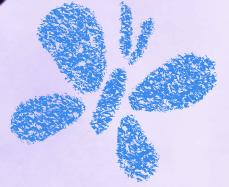
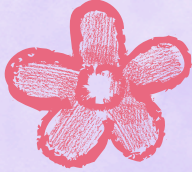
Dunkirk City Hall April 14th 1:00 pm

Mayville Family Court April 17th 12:00 pm



Office of Children and Family Services

Regulations Review



GFDC 416.10(b)

SACC 414.10(c)(1-2)

FDC 417.10(b)

DCC 418-1.10(c)(1-2)

In accordance with the provisions of sections 413 and 415 of the Social Services Law, caregivers must immediately report any suspected incidents of child abuse or maltreatment concerning a child receiving child care to the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment or cause such a report to be made when the caregiver has reasonable cause to suspect that a child coming before them in their capacity as caregiver in a day care is an abused or maltreated child. Such report must be followed by a written report within 48 hours, in the form and manner prescribed by the Office, to the child protective service of the social services district in the county in which the child resides.

Who are Mandated Reporters?



New York State recognizes that certain professionals are specially equipped to perform the important role of mandated reporter of child abuse or maltreatment.

Mandated reporters are required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when they are presented with a reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment.

When operating in their professional role caregivers are legally mandated to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment whenever they are practicing their profession.



Do you suspect abuse or maltreatment?

Mandated Reporters
1-800-635-1522

If you believe that a child is in immediate danger, call 911 or your local police department.

You can complete the required Mandated Reporter Training on these training websites:

[Mandated Reporter Training - ECETP](#)

[Mandated Reporter Training - Resource Center](#)



Professional Development



April is the Month of the Young Child in Chautauqua County. The MOYC is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 60,000 members and a network of 51 Affiliates.

The purpose of the MOYC is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The MOYC is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

This year's theme in Chautauqua County is: Small Hands Can Change the World! There are many activities and opportunities this month to demonstrate how even the smallest hands can make a big difference in this world.



Lakeshore Family Center MOYC Activities Schedule

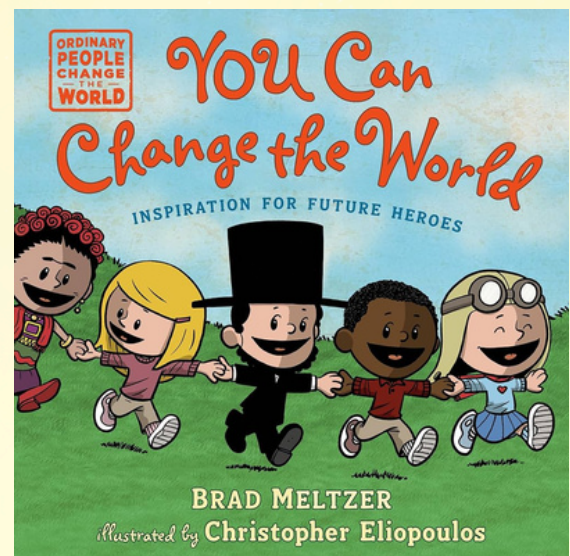
April 11th 10:00 am Children's Yoga
April 18th 10:00 am "MOYC Rocks!"
April 25th 10:00 am Music & Movement

*For all in person activities, children must be accompanied by an adult.
*For more information contact Virginia Miller at 716-934-2353

Check out NAEYC's
Week of the Young Child
April 11-17, 2026
[CLICK HERE](#)

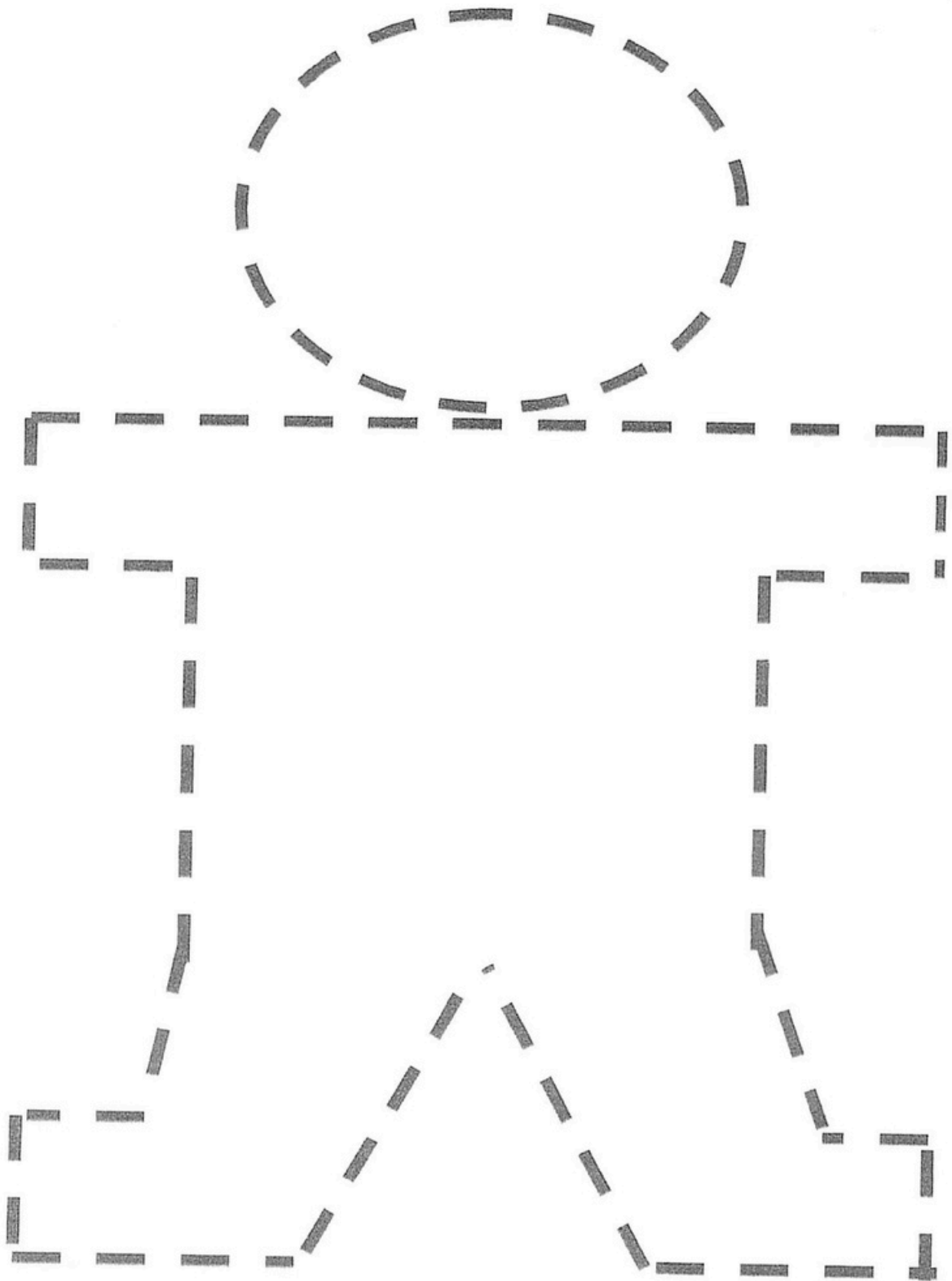
Attached, please find a copy of the MOYC doll pattern—which has been our logo for many years. We encourage you to decorate it and display it prominently in a window or bulletin board—wherever it will be most visible, to draw attention to our special celebration!

Copies of the book: "You Can Change the World" by Brad Meltzer have been purchased and provided as gifts to every Children's Library in Chautauqua County. The books are provided to our youngest readers to help them express ways that they can make a difference in the world.



A virtual reading of this book can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7brBXqSGU8&t=63s>

MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD





CACFP & Nutrition



Preventing Dehydration

Preventing dehydration in Children Improves their physical and mental health. Something as simple as drinking water can make a big difference in a child's physical health and mood.

SIGNS OF DEHYDRATION

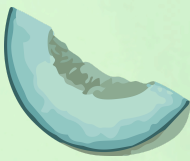
Dehydration in children often shows up in behavioral changes including irritability, crankiness, listlessness, or unusual drowsiness.

Even mild dehydration can greatly alter a child's mood, energy level, and cognitive abilities. Common signs include decreased urination, dry mouth, thirst and constipation. Severe cases require immediate medical attention.

WAYS TO PREVENT DEHYDRATION

Children are required to have access to water throughout the day. Provide a dispenser and disposable cups or give each child a cup of their own with their name.

Offer children water-rich foods like cucumbers, watermelon, oranges, celery, iceberg lettuce, zucchini, tomatoes, strawberries, cantaloupe, and honey dew. Make homemade frozen pops with water and fruit.



The Northeast Colorado Department of Health has tips on how to make infused water that will entice children to drink more.

Click Here → [INFUSED WATER](#)

Check out this link and find ideas for creating banana dolphins and other fun fruit animals for children.



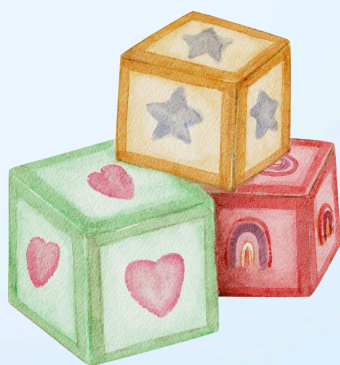
Click Here → [Banana Dolphins](#)

Caring Beyond Limits Grant

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL BACKPACKS

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.

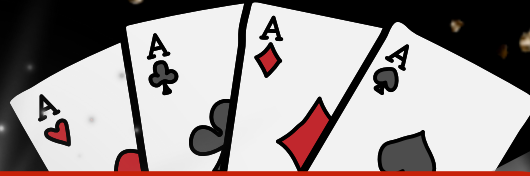


Click Here
to Apply!



[Grant Application](#)

Provider Appreciation Day



CASINO Night

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cassadaga American Legion

228 Maple Ave. Cassadaga, NY

Food, Fun & Games!



Raffle Baskets

Door Prizes

Scan the QR Code or
Click the Link



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Registration Deadline: April 10th





Chautauqua County Chapter of NYAEYC Annual FALL Conference.

Join us for a great day of training and professional development opportunities, including several workshops and a keynote speaker.

More information to follow soon!



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

