

The CHAT

June 2026



Chautauqua
Child Care Council
Child Care Keeps Chautauqua County Working

hello
sunshine



National Safety Month

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH IS AN ANNUAL OBSERVANCE HELD EVERY JUNE IN THE UNITED STATES, LED BY THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL (NSC), TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE LEADING CAUSES OF PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS AT WORK, ON THE ROAD, AND IN OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES.

DAYCARE SAFETY RELIES ON MAINTAINING STRICT CAREGIVER-TO-CHILD RATIOS, THOROUGHLY VETTED STAFF, AND SECURE, HAZARD-FREE FACILITIES. TO ENSURE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, FACILITIES MUST UPHOLD ROBUST HEALTH, SANITATION, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.



For more information

[Click Here](#)



June 1-7

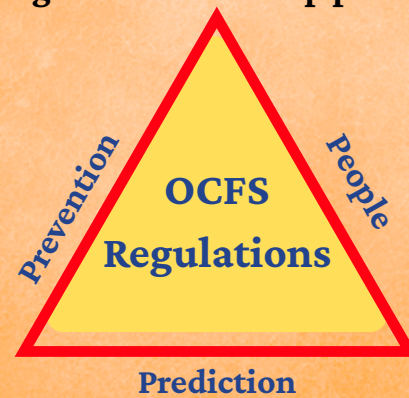
National CPR and AED Awareness Week aims to encourage people to learn lifesaving CPR skills.



[CPR/First Aid Training](#)

THE INJURY PREVENTION TRIANGLE

is a useful tool to help Providers understand how the OCFS Regulations can help prevent injuries.



Who are the people involved in the program?

What do you predict could happen?

What steps can you take to prevent injury?

How do the Regulations apply?



Office of Children and Family Services

Regulations Review

EMERGENCY

Preparedness



GFDC 416.5(b)

FDC 417.5(b)

DCC 418-1.5(b)

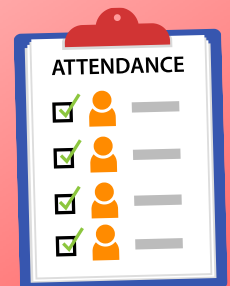
SACC 414.5(b)

THE REGISTRANT MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN EMERGENCY PLAN AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION DIAGRAM USING THE FORMS FURNISHED BY THE OFFICE OR AN APPROVED EQUIVALENT FORM. PRIMARY EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON THE SAFE AND TIMELY EVACUATION AND RELOCATION OF ALL CHILDREN. THE PLAN MUST ACCOUNT FOR THE VARIETY OF NEEDS OF CHILDREN, INCLUDING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PROGRAM IMPLEMENT AN EMERGENCY PLAN TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF THE CHILDREN IN CARE.

THIS INCLUDES:

- **POSTING AND FOLLOWING SAFE EVACUATION ROUTES (PRIMARY & SECONDARY)**
- **REGULAR EVACUATION DRILLS**
- **DESIGNATION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY RELOCATION SITES**
- **STRATEGY FOR SHELTERING IN PLACE**
- **STOCKED FIRST AID KITS AND EMERGENCY BAGS**
- **NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES AND CHILDREN'S PARENTS/GUARDIANS**
- **PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE REUNIFICATION OF CHILDREN & PARENTS/GUARDIANS**



REMEMBER

NAME TO FACE

Professional Development


BE
kind
to everyone

Please join Allison MacKenzie, Health Coordinator of Fredonia ABCD Child Care Center and Rebecca Reed, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant of COI Child Care Council in a *KINDNESS Rocks Project*.

We will be painting and sharing kindness rocks with other childcare providers as requested. Children learn what they live by sharing kindness rocks and building friendships and resilience.

Please contact Rebecca Reed at (716) 366-8176 x 3216 if you would like to join in on the *Kindness Rocks Project*.



Kindness Matters

How to Create a Sensory Space

Creating a sensory room involves designing a dedicated space to help children regulate their senses, reduce anxiety, or find focus. You can build a highly effective area—whether a full room, a quiet corner, or a closet conversion—by balancing lighting, textures, sounds, and movement to meet specific sensory needs.

Here are some ideas and suggestions on how you can create a calming space for children with sensory needs:



1. Choose a dedicated space in your daycare that is specifically designated for sensory play.
2. Implement furniture that is soft and comfortable, such as bean bags chairs and cozy cots.
3. Incorporate a variety of textures such as soft blankets, textured pillows, riveted objects, and squishy toys.
4. Weighted blankets and lap pads can help make children feel safe and secure.
5. Implement soft lighting, string lights, or projections of stars & oceans.
6. Use visual aids such as lava lamps, motion bubble tubes, and soft calming colors.
7. Add safe enclosed spaces like canopies and pop up tents.
8. Reduce overwhelming noise by playing ambient sounds like nature sounds, ocean waves, or soft instrumental music.

For more ideas click this link:

[Create a Calming Sensory Space](#)

CACFP & Nutrition

Whole and 2% Milk Can Be Served to Children Over 2 Years Old

Effective June 8, 2026, the USDA will allow providers participating in the CACFP to serve whole and reduced-fat (2%) milk to children 2 years old and up.

While providers are not required to serve whole or 2% milk to children over 2 years old, they will now have that option.

According to a recent article published by the National CACFP Association,

"Fluid milk is one of the most wasted food items in many programs and the availability of whole and reduced-fat milk could increase consumption. In addition, this flexibility will reduce the burden on program operators to purchase, store and serve multiple types of milk that vary by age group. This will also decrease the likelihood of meal disallowances for the incorrect type of milk being served."

And no more having to buy whole or 2% for the family and 1% or skim for the children in family, group and legally exempt day care!

These are the new milk options for each age group:

Fluid milk served to children 1 year old through 2 years old must be unflavored whole milk.

Fluid milk served to children 2 years old through 5 years old may be unflavored whole, reduced, low-fat, or fat-free milk.

Fluid milk served to children 6 years and older may be unflavored or flavored, whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, or fat-free milk.



FARMER'S MARKET

Chautauqua County Farmers Markets are up and running offering loads of fresh fruits and vegetables along with many other products including eggs, meats, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, herbs, jams, jellies and more. In addition to offering a variety of products, the markets offer an opportunity to support local businesses. The Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau offers a listing of Farmers Markets along with their hours and locations throughout the county.

Click the Link for
More Information

[Farmer's Market](#)

Can't get there during the week?

Visit the Mayville Saturday Evening Market held from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Train Depot. This is the county's only evening market that also offers a variety of entertainment and a location right on Chautauqua Lake.

The Jamestown and Fredonia Farmer's Markets are held every Saturday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Westfield offers a Farmer's Market every Saturday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Some Farmer's Markets run only during late Spring to Early Fall, and some operate year round. Be sure to check schedules.



Business & Training

Saturday PD Sessions

Saturday, June 6, 2026

8:45 am - 1:30 pm

Laughlin Community Action Center
402 Chandler St. Jamestown, NY
2nd Floor Conference Room



OCFS Training Topics to Include:

Neurodiversity in ECE
1 & 3

CACFP My Plate & More
2

Physical Activity Learning Session
1 & 3

Business & Record Management
5

REGISTER HERE

OR

Contact Rebecca Potter at
rpotter@chautopp.org



See what all the BUZZ
is about! Bee part of
our Business Group!

For more information on how you
can access these valuable programs,
reach out today!

Meg Rodgers
716-661-9430 ext. 2286
mrogers@chautopp.org

Our Business Specialists can help you create a business plan which includes budgeting, time and space allocation, insurance needs, retirement plans, child care management systems & much more!

Provider Appreciation Day



THIS IS
HOW WE
ROLL

Resources

The Chautauqua Child Care Council is pleased to announce the addition of the Resource Library to the COI website!

This interactive online library includes informational resources and tools to help providers build sustainable childcare programs that utilize best practices to help support and nurture the health and safety of young children.



Click this link to learn more!

Resource Library



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

