

The CHAT

March 2026



SPRING into Reading!



March is National Reading Month

National Reading Month is a nationwide celebration every March that encourages children, families, and communities to make reading a daily habit.

Daily at-home reading builds vocabulary, strengthens comprehension, and boosts creativity. You can inspire joyful learning experiences, promote literacy engagement and support every child's path to confidence, curiosity and future success!

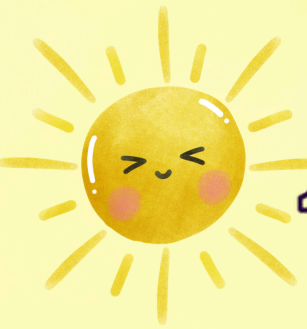


You can find **MAGIC**
WHEREVER you look.
Sit back and **RELAX**,
all you **NEED** is a **BOOK**.
-Dr. Seuss



Celebrate
Dr. Seuss's Birthday
March 2nd!





Office of Children and Family Services

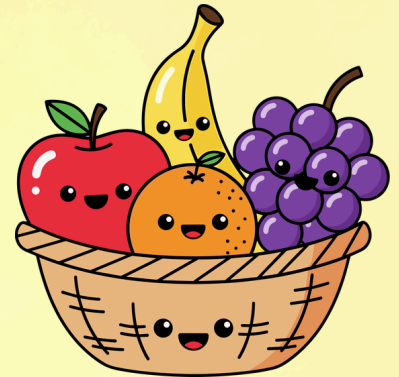
Regulations Review

GFDC 416.12(ah)

SACC 414.12(u)

FDC 417.12(ah)

DCC 418-1.12(u)



THE PROGRAM MUST SHARE INFORMATION ON HEALTHY FOOD AND BEVERAGE CHOICES AND THE PREVENTION OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY WITH THE PARENT.



Healthy Eating Means
Healthy Minds and Bodies

**Click on these links to access
valuable nutrition information that
you can share with families!**

<https://www.healthychildren.org>

<https://www.realfood.gov>

<https://theicn.org>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov>



HEALTHY
EATING

Professional Development

WHY BEST PRACTICES ARE IMPORTANT: PRINCIPLES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

The following list is from Alanis, I., & I.U. Iruka, eds. with S. Friedman. 2021.
Advancing Equity and Embracing Diversity in Early Childhood Education:
Elevating Voices and Actions. Washington, DC: NAEYC.

Early childhood is a valuable and vulnerable time in the human life cycle. Each individual child, family and early educator is unique, each belonging to multiple social and cultural groups. Learning is a social process profoundly shaped by one's own culture, social interactions, and language.

Language and communication are essential to the learning process. Families are the primary context for children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. Learning emotions and memory are inextricably interconnected in brain processing networks.

Toxic stress and anxiety can inhibit the learning process. Children's learning is facilitated when teaching practices, curricula and learning environments build on their strengths that are developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate. Reflective practice is required to achieve equitable learning opportunities.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS TO INCORPORATE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING BEST PRACTICES.

1. Plan different types of cultural days throughout the year ahead of time as well as incorporating culture in each classroom daily.
2. Ask parents/guardians to provide photos of their families and details of their families to add to a world origins wall map.
3. Find where each child's name comes from and the meaning of the name (these can be displayed).
4. Display pictures of different architecture from around the world in the gross motor/block areas. If they are laminated, they will last a long time!

5. Display posters/images of children and people from different races, ethnicities, ages, genders, gender identities/expressions, abilities, and sexual orientations.
6. Have regular group discussions with the children on cultural diversity, acceptance, similarities, and differences between people, etc.
7. Have multicultural crayons available for children.
8. Have sensory tools, items, and toys available for children to use (ex. noise-cancelling devices and fidget toys).

CACFP & Nutrition

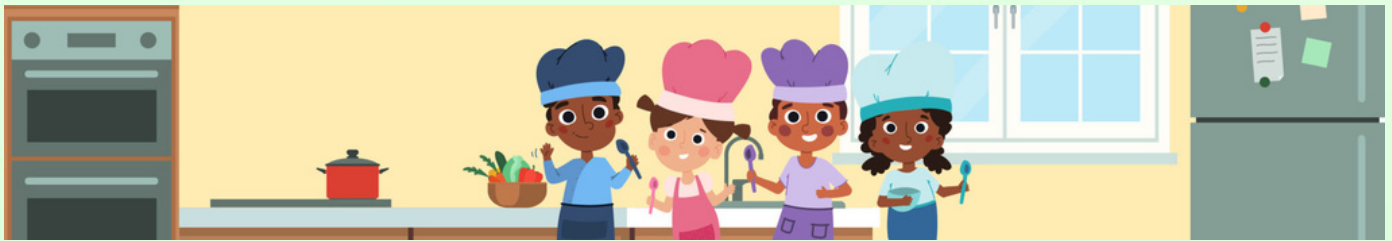
National CACFP Week is March 15-21, 2026



What is National CACFP Week?



CACFP Week is a national education and information campaign sponsored annually the third week of March by the National CACFP Association. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. The CACFP brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in child care centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care.



Stirring Up Goodness!

This year, we're highlighting how the CACFP is Stirring Up Goodness across the country, with its positive impact and the people who make it happen, one meal at a time.

For more information about
National CACFP Week
and to access a valuable Resource Guide
Click Here



[https://www.cacfp.org/
national-cacfp-week-main/](https://www.cacfp.org/national-cacfp-week-main/)

Business Specialists

ATTENTION ALL FDC/GFDC PROVIDERS!



Do you need support and guidance on sustaining your daily in-home childcare operations?

JOIN OUR BUSINESS GROUP!

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!

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

MEG RODGERS
716-661-9430 EXT. 2286
MRODGERS@CHAUTOPP.ORG


LORI STEWARD
716-661-9430 EXT. 2260
LSTEWARD@CHAUTOPP.ORG

Grants



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.



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.

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

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



Child Care Advocacy

Coming Next Month...

April is the Month of the Young Child



Time to plant your Pinwheel Gardens
in recognition of Child Abuse
Awareness and Prevention.

If you would like to receive Pinwheels for your program,
please contact the Chautauqua Child Care Council at
716-661-9430 ext. 2289 or lgould@chautopp.org



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