

The CHAT

September 2025



Back to School means back to a routine!
Set children up for success by creating a consistent morning & evening schedule.

The night before school starts, have a party to bid farewell to Summer and welcome the new school year!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL



International Literacy Day

September 8, 2025



The Book Nook



The Little Yellow Bus

The Little Yellow Bus had prepared for this day for a long time and how great it would be to pick up children and drive them to their school building—all by himself! Yellow wanted to feel excited, but instead, he was filled with first day worries. With a little help and encouragement from Mom and Dad, Little Yellow takes a deep breath, starts his engine, and decides that it's time to prove to himself that he can be brave.



Office of Children and Family Services

Regulations Review

Behavior Management



SACC 414.9 (b) & (d)

GFDC 416.9 (b) & (d)

FDC 417.9 (b) & (d)

DCC 418-1.9 (b) & (d)

(b) The program must use acceptable techniques and approaches to help children solve problems.

(d) Behavior Management 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.



Professional Development



Would you like to learn more about
Mental Health Consultation?



Here are some opportunities available through Mental Health Consultation:

Social Emotional strategies for children birth to five

Consultation regarding children's development,
including strategies for children with developmental
delays and mental health challenges

Focus on Child Care Provider Wellness

Self care events for staff



Mental Health Matters



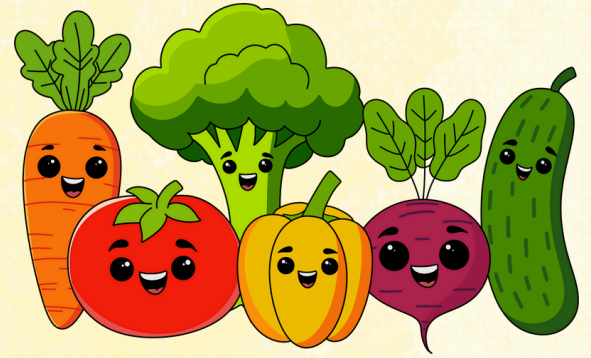
Mental Health Consultation services are available free of charge!

Contact the Child Care Council for more information on how to supplement your
Program and/or Classrooms.

(716) 366-8176 or (716) 661-9430 or childcare@chautopp.org



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.

CLICK THIS LINK TO LEARN MORE!

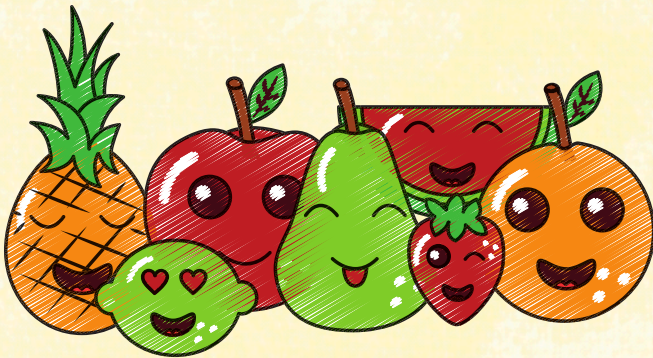


Need CACFP training for 2025?

“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.



Training



Chautauqua Chapter NYAEYC

Early Childhood Conference

SAVE the DATE: Saturday, October 18, 2025

8:00 am-3:30 pm

Keynote: Kenneth Sherman

Chautauqua Lake Central School

100 North Erie St. Mayville, NY

UPCOMING VIRTUAL TRAININGS

Please email bfaulkner@chautopp.org to register and receive the link



NATURE BASED EDUCATION/LOOSE PARTS (OCFS TOPICS 1, 3, 4)

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2025

This training will familiarize you with the concept of Nature-Based Learning and its benefits. We will look at how to incorporate natural materials and loose parts into both indoor and outdoor experiences for children birth to 5. In looking at Nature Based Education, we will discuss the 4 pillars of this philosophy/approach. (1-consistent time, 2-predictable spaces, 3-open-ended materials, and 4-observant instructors) We will end our time discussing and exploring how to plan for safe exploration in your program.

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.

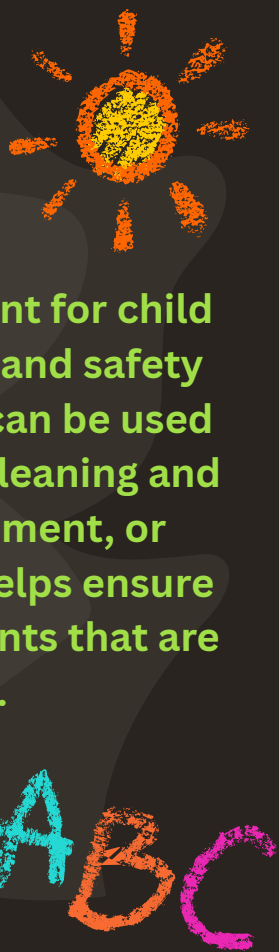




Grants



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.

Click the link to apply now!

Grant Application





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



CAR SHOW

SPECIAL REMOTE
BROADCAST BY KIX
COUNTRY
96.5 FM

FREE ADMISSION!
FOOD!
CAR AWARDS!
MUSIC!



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2025

RAIN DATE SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2025

**CONNECTIONS NORTH PARKING LOT
10825 BENNETT ROAD, DUNKIRK**

12PM-3PM

**HOSTED BY THE CHAUTAUQUA OPPORTUNITIES, INC.
FATHERHOOD PROGRAM**



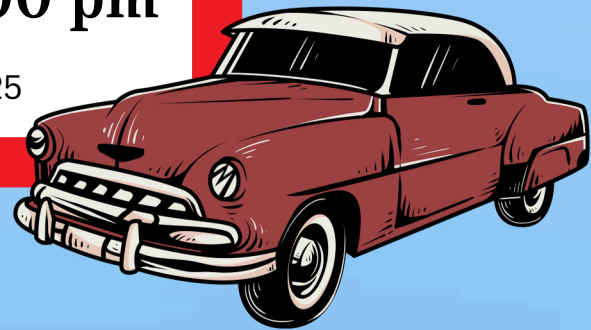
Car Seat Safety Check



The New York State Police will be available to
conduct child car seat safety checks!
New car seats will be available to those whose
current car seats do not meet safety standards.

**This event will take place at
the DAD'S CAR SHOW
on September 6, 2025
from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm**

Rain Date September 13, 2025



Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. Connections North Building
10825 Bennett Road, Dunkirk, NY



CHAUTAUQUA OPPORTUNITIES, INC.
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Child Care Advocacy



<https://www.naeyc.org/about-us>

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.

Together, we work to achieve a collective vision: that all young children thrive and learn in a society dedicated to ensuring they reach their full potential.



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Resources



CHAUTAUQUA OPPORTUNITIES, INC.
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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



naeyc
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>



NEW YORK STATE
Office of Children
and Family Services

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/>

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.



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