

The CHAT
July 2026



Chautauqua
Child Care Council

Child Care Keeps Chautauqua County Working

America's
250th
Birthday

4th of July

Fireworks Festivities!

Bemus Point 10pm

Lakewood at Dusk

Mayville 10pm

Dunkirk 10pm

National
Ice Cream
Month!



I'M BORED!

SUMMER ACTIVITY MENU

Fun ideas for sunny days and happy hearts! ♥

BACKYARD FUN

- ★ Have a backyard picnic
- ★ Make sidewalk chalk art
- ★ Build a mini obstacle course
- ★ Watch clouds and make shapes



WATER PLAY

- ★ Have a sponge toss game
- ★ Make a backyard splash station
- ★ Water the garden
- ★ Create a toy boat race



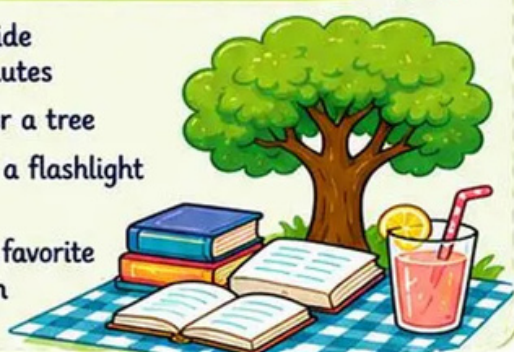
CREATIVE SUMMER

- ★ Paint rocks
- ★ Make a summer memory jar
- ★ Create a lemonade stand menu
- ★ Design your dream beach house



READING TIME

- ★ Read outside for 15 minutes
- ★ Read under a tree
- ★ Read with a flashlight indoors
- ★ Read your favorite story again



FAMILY FUN

- ★ Play a board game together
- ★ Have a family dance party
- ★ Cook a simple snack
- ★ Build a blanket fort



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

- ★ Go on a nature walk
- ★ Look for insects
- ★ Collect interesting leaves
- ★ Create a backyard scavenger hunt



SO MANY WAYS TO PLAY,
CREATE, AND EXPLORE
THIS SUMMER!



Office of Children and Family Services

Regulations Review Daily Activity Schedule



A written daily schedule of program activities and routines is required.



GFDC 416.7(a) FDC 417.7(a)

(a) The program must establish and implement a daily schedule of program activities that offers reasonable regularity in routines, including snack and meal periods, nap and rest periods, indoor activities, outdoor play time and a variety of large muscle activities throughout the day. There must be physical activity, appropriate to the ages of the children in care, every day.

SACC 414.7(a)(1)

(1) The program must establish and implement a written daily schedule of an organized, informal and nonscholastic program activities appropriate to the age, needs and interests of the children, including children with disabilities. There must be physical activity, appropriate to the ages of the children in care, every day.



DCC 418-1.7(a)(1)

(1) The program must establish and implement a daily schedule of program activities that offers reasonable regularity in routines, including snack and meal periods, nap and rest periods, indoor activities, outdoor play time and a variety of large muscle activities throughout the day. There must be physical activity, appropriate to the ages of the children in care, every day.



Professional Development

Use these ideas to make your own self-care checklist this summer. Even small changes to your routine can improve your self-care practice and overall mood. Focus on new ways you can be active, get outside and get involved with your community. Make this summer a season of self-care.



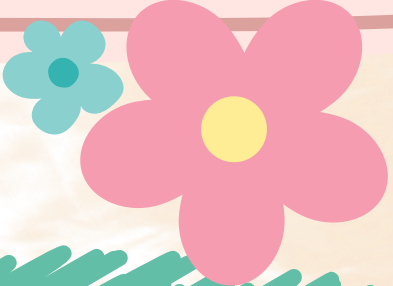
Look for things going on in your community. Search online or in the newspaper for events going on around town. Consider outdoor movies, yard sales, festivals, farmer's markets, concerts or dance classes. Making fun plans can help you feel excited and give you something to look forward to.



Start or continue a journal. Writing can be a great way to express how you feel and check-in with your emotions. Or, it can just be a place to doodle or draw. Make it whatever you need.



Practice mindfulness. Try meditation or make a list of 10 things you are thankful for.



Do a needs assessment. How did your last week go? Is there anything you could do to make next week better? Maybe you need more sleep, more social time or to prepare some healthy meals before your next busy week. Take a moment to reflect and think about how you can make time for whatever you need to best care for yourself.



Make a summer feel-good playlist. Bring on the summer tunes! Music can be an effortless way to improve your mood and motivate you to get moving. Bonus points for listening while exercising or cleaning.

Click the link
for more ideas



Mental Health First Aid



CACFP & Nutrition



Here's what's great about the USDA's Child Nutrition Label Verification Report

Child Care Providers can:

Find CN labels for products they are already using

Find CN labeled products they would like to try

Don't have to contact the company for a Product Formulation Statement

To access the CN Label
Verification Report



[CLICK HERE](#)

Are you serving commercially prepared pizza, chicken nuggets, fish sticks, or plant-based meats? These products require a CN label or a PFS. In the case of commercial pizza, if there is no CN label, only the crust is creditable as part of the meal or snack. If you do not have a CN label for chicken nuggets or fish sticks, you must serve double the recommended serving amount. If you are serving a manufactured plant-based meat alternate, you must have a CN label.

Stay
healthy



SAVE THE DATE

CACFP MURDER MYSTERY

September 16, 2026

6:00 pm - 7:15 pm



Recently, we have seen Nilla Wafers being served as a grain meal component by some providers. Nilla Wafers are not creditable because they are considered a cookie which is a sweet grain. Sometimes, there will be foods that the federal government allows in the CACFP that the New York State Department does not allow. Always follow the NYS DOH requirements.

Business

**NEW GRANTS
Coming Soon!**



**The Chautauqua Child Care Council
will be opening up the 2026-2027
Grants Application Portal soon!**

Nurturing and Inclusive Care Grant

Quality Learning Environment Grant

Strong Business, Strong Program Grant

**Be on the look out for the application
link in future emails and in upcoming
issues of The Chat!**

ANNUAL INCOME UPDATE!



Office of Children
and Family Services

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

Need help paying for child care?

Family Size	*Annual Income Limit
1	\$60,576.10
2	\$79,214.90
3	\$97,853.70
4	\$116,492.50
5	\$135,131.30
6	\$153,770.10

For families with more than 6 people, information on income limits can be found on the web site.

Income limits are updated annually on June 1.

*from June 1, 2026 - May 31, 2027.

***For more information, contact
the Department of Mental Hygiene
and Social Services (DMHSS)
Child Care Unit
716-753-4192***

**For more information about the Child
Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and
Family Share of cost**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Resources

Have you "Checked Out"
the Resource Library?

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



Click this link to learn more!

Resource Library

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.



More 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

