



childcarerockland.org | info@rocklandchildcare.org | (845) 425-0009

Rockland Child Care News

January-April 2026



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Stacie Mazza

Girish Narasimhan

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Mission Statement

To promote, support and enhance the healthy development of all children by:

Providing resource and referral services for families seeking accessible, affordable, quality early childhood and school age care and education;

Offering training, support and resources to the early child care and education workforce as well as public and private schools;

Connecting with business leaders and public officials to emphasize the value of quality child care to the economic vitality of Rockland County;

Advocating for increased investment in quality child care and education;

Collaborating with strategic partners to enhance our collective abilities to address the needs of the community now and in the future.

A Warm Welcome to All New and Renewed Licensed and Registered Child Care Programs

Family Child Care Programs

Namaraya, LLC

Child Care Centers

Kiddie Center New York, LLC

Sonshine Community Nursery & Day Care

Group Family Child Care Programs

Ana Gomez Nunez

Bright Futures Care, Inc.

Circle Time NY, Inc.

Dayri Yaque Palma

Donald Day Care, Inc.

Giggles For You, LLC

Kids in Action NY, Inc.

Kreating Stars, LLC

Ready, Set, Grow, Family Daycare, Inc.

Sarah Krohn

Sunshine Family Daycare

Yeimi Perez De Strausbaug

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

**Thank you to the Family and Group Family Child Care providers,
Center-Based programs, School Age Care programs and community members
who paid membership between September 2025 - December 2025**

Alexandra Gatti

Bright Horizons Children's Center, LLC

Dreamy Days Family Daycare

Goddard Hastings on Hudson

Growing Hearts Family Daycare Corp.

JCC Rockland, Inc.

Kidsnett Child Care Program, Inc.

KJMLDC Early Head Start

Leticia Valerio Rodriguez

Lidia Camacho

Luisa Ryner

Maria Silva

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is a contract agency of the County of Rockland, NYS Office of Children and Family Services, and NYS Department of Health. We are also supported by our members. Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is Best Practices Certified by the New York State Standards of Excellence Certification Program for The Field of Child Care Resource and Referral.



Message From Our Outgoing Interim Executive Director

Dr. Heidi McCarthy, Outgoing Interim Executive Director

As I end my time as Interim Executive for Child Care Resources of Rockland, I want to express my gratitude for the critically important roles you all play every day to care for and nurture children. Your commitment to creating safe, supportive, and enriching environments makes a lasting difference in the lives of children, families and communities. While I recognize the challenges and responsibilities that come with these important roles, your efforts ensure that children have the foundation they need to thrive—socially, emotionally, and academically.

As we enter 2026, I encourage you to continue striving for excellence and advocating for quality child care in our communities. Your voices are essential in shaping policies and systems that prioritize our children's well-being and development. Through increased funding, ongoing improvement and innovation in child care will not only strengthen programs but also elevate the standard of care for every child.

Thank you for your dedication and partnership. Under the leadership of the new Executive Director, Lucia Montone, I am confident that the work to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and succeed will continue.

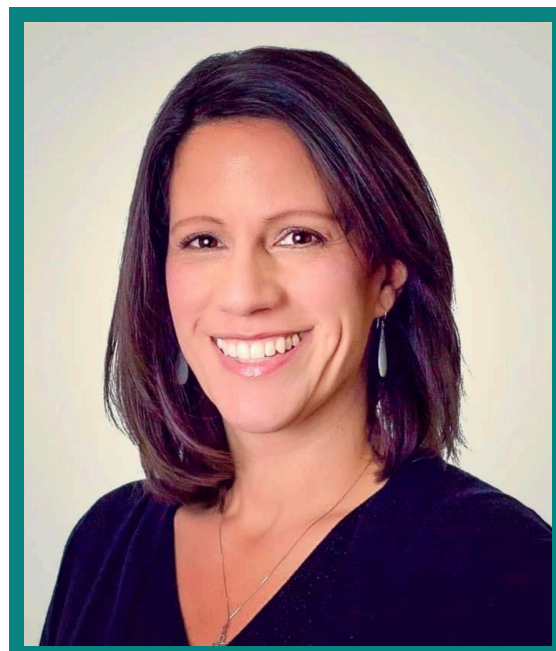
Message From Our Incoming Executive Director

Lucia Montone, Executive Director

I am honored to join the Child Care Resources Agency as its incoming Executive Director. I step into this role with high regard for the agency's mission and values to support the families, child care providers, and our community partners.

High-quality, accessible child care is essential to children's development. I come to this role with extensive experience in early childhood education. I am committed to building onto the agency's strong foundation, working collaboratively to strengthen support for providers and ensure that children and families receive the resources they need to succeed.

I look forward to listening, learning, and working alongside our dedicated staff and board, to ensure that our agency remains a trusted resource for the community we serve.





Nurse's Notes

Christie Cinquemani, Nurse

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is acknowledged in April when we recognize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

As professionals in the field of early childhood learning and care, we must do our best to promote the safety and wellbeing of children both in and outside of our programs.

The guide below has been developed to help identify resources available to us as mandated reporters. As we strive to recognize signs of abuse and maltreatment, to understand what steps must be taken if we do suspect abuse and or maltreatment, and when we have discerned that a family is in need of essential necessities like food, healthcare and housing without having to report them it is important to remember that we have these resources to support our work.

- **Be sure to take the State's newest online Mandated Report Training by November 17, 2026** (if you haven't already). All licensed or registered child care providers are required to take this training to be in compliance with N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 413(5). This 2-hour self directed training has been updated to include training on implicit bias and provide information on the OCFS' HEARS (Help, Advocate, Reassure and Support) family line. Links to register for this training can be found on the Office of Children and Family Services website or you can use this link <https://nysmandatedreporter.org/RegistrationInstructions.aspx> . You will need to have or create a HSLC account to sign up. If you are a director, make sure this training is completed by all staff.

Complete your Daily Health Checks. All licensed and registered child care providers are required to conduct daily health checks per OCFS regulation. This daily routine creates the opportunity to identify potential symptoms, signs and trends indicative of child maltreatment. It is a safety measure that can support your decision making and provide opportunities for intervention.

Know who to call and keep the numbers available in your program.

The OCFS H.E.A.R.S. Telephone Line 1-888-554-3277

The H.E.A.R.S. (Help, Empower, Advocate, Reassure and Support) family line assists families by providing resources and referrals to a variety of services such as food, clothing, housing, childcare, parenting education and more. Representatives are available to help Monday through Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm.

If you know a family that could use support, please ask them to call the OCFS H.E.A.R.S. family line at 1-888-554-3277.

NYS SCR Mandated Reporter Specific Telephone Line 1-800- 635-1522.

All child day care workers are Mandated Reporters. As a Mandated Reporter you are required by law to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR). The State Central Registry (SCR) is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

You will find these numbers on page 11, ready to be posted on your refrigerator

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





Registration

Edna Saravia, Program Standards and Support Coordinator

A Few Things Everyone Needs to Know About Child Care

While you might be trying to help your community by watching children, if you are doing so without a child care license, you may be doing so illegally! In New York State you must obtain a child care license to open a child care business- it is the law. If you care for children and do not have a child care license you risk being visited by the state and being fined. If you know of any illegal situation, call Child Care Resources of Rockland to make a report- (845) 425-0009 x0, we can help. The Good News is- If you want to become a licensed child care provider help is nearby- call Child Care Resources of Rockland at (845) 425-0009 x0 and we will help you. We have Spanish speaking staff. With a child care license, you can care for children in your home or open a center. Licensed child care programs are eligible to care for children whose families are eligible for child care subsidy money. Parents, when looking for child care, call Child Care Resources of Rockland for help- (845) 425-0009 x0- it is free! Child Care Resources of Rockland has served the county for over 50 years, and we have a database that contains information on all regulated programs in Rockland County. The service is free! Need help? Call Child Care Resources of Rockland at (845) 425-0009 x0 or send us an email at Info@rocklandchildcare.org.

Annual Meeting 2025





Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Roxana Halo, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

5 Tips for Promoting Smooth Transitions in Day Cares

Transitions can be difficult for children so how can you implement effective transitions in your program? Consider flexible transitions tailored to the children's pace and individual needs, as well as productive transitions that incorporate meaningful learning experiences and connection. Thus, these five tips can help you go from one activity or routine to the next in a much smoother way while creating a positive environment in the classroom:

1. Start the day with a welcoming attitude, greeting the children and parents. Tell them about any fun activities you may do and reassure them that their parents will pick them up at the end of the day. This will help prepare the children for the day ahead.
2. Put up a visual schedule in your program with pictures (e.g., lunch, nap time). Point it out as you talk to the children about what you are doing in the day, and refer to it as needed, especially when they are having a hard time transitioning.
3. Give the children enough notice when moving from one activity to the next. Remind them how much time they have left so they can prepare to go back inside after outdoor time, or finish their food, game, or project. Using a timer can be helpful.
4. Be present and supportive during the transitions when children are struggling to finish their meal, getting their shoes on, cleaning up, etc. Assist them and talk to them, using these moments to teach them skills and connect with them.
5. Make transitions fun by implementing music, songs, dances, and games. Have a clean-up song when it's time to pick up toys. Set up a game or a dance about lining up to go back inside after outdoor playtime. Help them enjoy their transitions!

Reference:

NAEYC. (2018). Reducing Challenging behaviors during transitions: Strategies for early childhood educators to share with parents. <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/sep2018/reducing-challenging-behaviors-during-transitions>

ECLC Leadership Summit 2025



CCRR Staff attended ECLC's
Leadership Summit



**Heidi McCarthy, Shakia Reynolds
and Mariah King**

Philanthropy Day



Vivian England and Heidi McCarthy



Fresh Produce Collaboration

DONATED BY: **Montefiore** | **Nyack**



Jill Halpern and Peggy Sall,
Family Resource Coordinator
Fleetwood/Eldorado Elementary
Schools



Melissa Wirchansky,
Madison Wirchansky and Nick Lange
Fleetwood Elementary School



Maira Mazariego
Mi Bendición
Family Day Care, LLC



Sharon Frazier
Tots 2 Teens, LLC

Starting the Year Strong: Business Goals and Focus Areas for Child Care Providers

Allison Wojciechowski, Business Support Specialist

How a Business Support Specialist Can Help You Make This Your Most Successful Year Yet

The start of a new year is the perfect time for child care providers to pause, reflect, and reset. Whether you operate a home-based program or a center-based facility, taking time to establish clear business goals helps you stay organized, financially stable, and prepared for the months ahead. It also ensures that your program continues to meet the needs of children and families while remaining compliant with state requirements. This year, consider focusing on the areas below—and remember that our Business Support Specialist, Allison Wojciechowski, is here to help every step of the way.

1. Review and Update Your Business Plan

Even well-established programs benefit from revisiting their business plan each year. This includes reviewing your mission and vision, identifying new needs in your community, and updating program offerings.

A Business Support Specialist can:

- Help you assess current market demand in your area.
- Review or build a business plan with you.
- Support you in identifying growth opportunities.

2. Strengthen Your Financial Foundation

Early in the year is an excellent time to revisit your budget, examine tuition rates, and organize financial records. Focusing on strong fiscal management sets the tone for a sustainable year.

Key tasks may include:

- Updating your annual budget
- Setting or adjusting tuition and fees

Reviewing the Iron Triangle of Child Care (full enrollment, collect on time, cover the cost)

A Business Support Specialist can help you analyze financial data, calculate your time-space percentage (for home-based providers), and create simple systems to track income and expenses.

3. Evaluate Program Policies and Procedures

New year, new policies, at least after a review! Policies should reflect your current practices, licensing regulations, and best practices.

Providers should consider reviewing:

- Family Handbook
- Staff Handbook
- Contracts and enrollment paperwork
- Attendance, tuition, and late-pickup policies

Business Support Specialists can guide you in aligning your policies with state regulations and ensuring your documentation is clear, effective, and family-friendly.

4. Focus on Marketing and Enrollment

January is a high-enrollment inquiry period for many providers. It is the perfect time to refresh your marketing strategy—both online and in your community.

You might:

- Update your website or social media pages.
- Review your photos, program descriptions, and branding.
- Prepare enrollment packets.
- Establish new referral networks.

Your Business Support Specialist can help you create or revise a marketing plan, identify your unique program strengths, and develop messaging that attracts the right families.

5. Strengthen Your Leadership and Professional Growth

Your growth as a child care business owner or director is essential to your program's success.

Consider setting goals related to:

- Time management and organization
- Staff coaching and communication.
- Executive function skills
- Leadership or business training opportunities

Start Your Year with Support

Setting clear goals now can set the tone for a productive, organized, and fulfilling year. You do not have to navigate it alone. Reach out and connect with our Business Support Specialist, Allison who can help you streamline your operations, strengthen your program, and position your business for long-term success.



A Sense of Belonging

Diahann Darwood, Quality Enhancement Specialist

Every child deserves to feel like they belong. Whether the feeling is at home, at school, or even in their community; the sense of belonging is priceless. When children feel seen, heard, valued, and included, their confidence is built. They feel safe to be curious about the world. And they gain a strong sense of who they are over time.

This year's Teachers Transitions Conference focuses on the theme of belonging because it is the foundation for social emotional growth and positive relationships.

Teachers play a huge part, but families have the biggest role in nurturing a sense of belonging long before a child enters school and when they are not in school. Small everyday moments send powerful messages that say, "You matter here." This can look like:

- Noticing and naming your child's efforts and emotions.
- Inviting their ideas and offering simple choices throughout the day.
- Celebrating their strengths, personality traits, and progress they make each day.
- Including children in routines, family traditions, and family responsibilities.
- Sharing stories from your childhood or culture to build connections.

When children consistently feel understood, listened to, and valued at home, they bring that confidence into their classrooms. They can build friendships and help other children feel like they belong. They even feel more comfortable being themselves and trying new challenges. So, as you interact with your child, remember you have the power to make them feel like they matter, like they belong.

Visibility: Brick-A-Palooza

CCRR staff and board members attended the Brick-A-Palooza community event.



Heidi McCarthy, Board Member Liana Sargsyan-Quinn,
Ines Ortiz and Shakia Reynolds



Board Member Juliet Allen, and Ines Ortiz

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Hedy Scrima Quality Enhancement Specialist

Hedy Scrima came onboard to Child Care Resources of Rockland in November of 2025. In her role as Quality Enhancement Specialist, she will be supporting Child Care Centers, Group and Family Day Care and School Aged Child Care Programs through guidance, professional development and provision of classroom materials. Hedy has rich experience in the field of early childhood education where she has worked for over 20 years. She has held various positions during her career including, but not limited to, classroom teaching and training. Hedy is excited to be working in her new position and looks forward to meeting and supporting childcare providers.



Palisades Credit Union Check Acceptance

We extend our sincere gratitude to Anthony Kurdziel, President/CEO of Palisades Federal Credit Union for their generous contribution to CCRR. Their support enables us to continue providing vital services to families in our community.



Pictured: Shakia Reynolds, Diana Santos, Blanca Gerena, Jill Halpern, Edna Saravia, Anthony Kurdziel (President/CEO of Palisades Credit Union), Heidi McCarthy, Hedy Scrima, Kathleen Siuro, Jenny Spampinato, Ines Ortiz, and Kari Davie



Agency Updates and Resources

Office Information

Office Closures

New Year's Day, Thursday, 1/1

MLK's Birthday, Monday, 1/19

Presidents' Day, Monday, 2/16

Staff Directory

Executive Director

Lucia Montone x615

Director of Family, Community and Operations Services

Christina Espindola x610

Director of Program Standards, Support and Professional Development

Vacant

Finance Coordinator

Kathleen Siuro x662

Business Support Specialist

Allison Wojciechowski

Cell: (845) 422-7505

Child and Adult Care Food Program Coordinator

Chantel Pittman x633

Data and Operations Specialist & Creating Healthy Schools and Community Specialist

Kari Davie x421

Nurse

Christie Cinquemani x612

Kristin Saunders - Cell: (845) 721-5351

Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

Roxana Halo x613

Infant & Toddler Specialist & Professional Development Coordinator

Jenny Spampinato x419

Legally Exempt Enrollment Coordinator

Ines Ortiz x411

CACFP Specialist & Operations Specialist

Diana Santos x223

Program Standards & Support Services Coordinator

Edna Saravia x475

Program Standards & Support Specialists

Blanca Gerena x487

Jill Halpern x456

Shakia Reynolds x620

Quality Enhancement Specialists

Diahann Darwood x0

Hedy Scrima x614

Resource & Referral Coordinator, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator & Technology Coordinator

Vicky Saravia x458



Cut Out and Post!

Know who to call and keep the numbers available in your program.

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

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

40 Ramland Road, Suite 209

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Phone: (845) 425-0009 | (877) 425-0009

Fax: (845) 425-5312

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30am - 5:00pm

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INFANTS * TODDLERS * PRESCHOOLERS * SCHOOL AGERS

Fun & Educational Activities

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

Supplement to Rockland Child Care News
January-April 2026

Fun & Educational Activities in Rockland County

January's Winter Activity is Let's Go Ice Skating

During January, take a day trip with the children to Rockland County's scenic Bear Mountain State Park. Enjoy classic winter fun at the Bear Mountain Outdoor Ice Rink, a beloved seasonal tradition with beautiful views of the mountain.

Read to the children. *Dream Big, Little Pig* by Kristine Tsuya Yamaguchi, is a story about a determined young pig who pursues her dream of becoming an ice skating star, overcoming obstacles through perseverance and self-belief.

Continue the fun by ice skating inside where there is no carpeting. Use paper plates on your feet to glide across the floor like a figure skater.

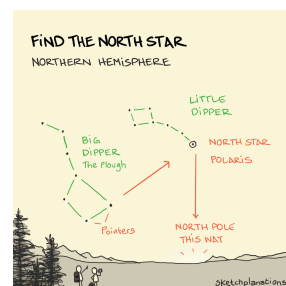
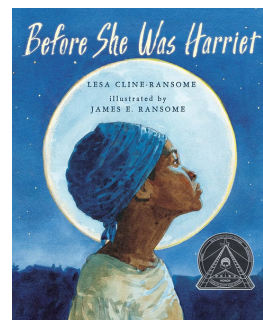
Kristine Tsuya Yamaguchi is an American competitive figure skater, author and philanthropist.



February is Black History Month

For Black History Month in Rockland County, you can visit historic sites like the [Haverstraw African American Memorial Park](#). While at the park you can see the Harriet Tubman statue, "Beacon of Hope," and the kiosk detailing local African American history. It is located near the site of the first African American church in the county.

Read [Before She Was Harriet](#) by Lesa Cline-Ransome to the children. This multi-award-winning picture book uses lyrical verse and stunning illustrations to tell Tubman's life story in reverse, starting from her old age. Harriet Tubman helped 300 slaves reach their freedom by using the North Star (Polaris) for guidance. Here is a map of the North Star. When dark, have the children look outside to see if they can find it.



INFANTS * TODDLERS * PRESCHOOLERS * SCHOOL AGERS

Fun & Educational Activities

Activity Ideas

March Fun at the Parade

Sunday, March 22nd is the Rockland County St Patrick's Day Parade in Pearl River at 1:30pm. You can check the parade route and time on the Town or Orangetown website.

Read St. Patrick's Day by Anne Rockwell to the children. This book is about Mrs. Madoff's class who all wore something green to school on March 17th. Kate played the fiddle and the class danced to Irish music. They learned about St. Patrick and many Irish tales and traditions. Mrs. Madoff taught the children why there are no snakes in Ireland. Not every-one in school is Irish, but we all can celebrate St. Patrick's Day together!

Families can also celebrate at home by baking an Irish Soda Bread. While the bread is in the oven, put on a happy Irish jig and dance. Maybe even try to slither like a ssssnake across the floor. Erin go Bragh!

Class of 2026 Honorees:

Grand Marshal - Patrick Withers

Parade Commander - Colleen Fitzpatrick, Sgt., NYPD

Aide to the Grand Marshal, NYC - Daniel Mulligan

Hibernian of the Year - Mary Mulcahy

Businessman of the Year - Christopher Vergine



Rockland County's Parade will be
Sunday, March 22, 2026.
1:30 PM sharp start!

