



Rockland Child Care News

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

May-August 2024

WE MOVED!

**Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.
40 Ramland Road, Suite 209
Orangeburg, NY 10962**





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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



Child Care Centers

Hebrew Academy For Special Children, Inc.

Nyack's Little House of Explorers

Riverview Nursery School

Family Child Care Programs

Giribel Bueno

RS Deals Corp.

School Age Child Care Centers

Festaville at the Clarkstown Center

JCC Rockland, Inc.

YMCA @ Montebello Elementary

YMCA @ Stony Point

Group Family Child Care Programs

Bright Beginnings of Rockland Inc.

Cozy Kids Inc.

Margulya Horowitz

Kids Paradise II

LETA AV INC.

Little Artist Daycare Corp.

Rs Supply Center Inc.

Safe At Play

Sandoval Family Childcare Inc.

Shaindel Spitzer

Tiny Tots Inc.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



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 DECEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

- Lana Benim
- Donisia Decicco
- Claudine Sterlin-Desir
- Brian Dolan
- Rosa Garcia
- Tina Guarasci
- Sophia Zuniga
- Robin Korines
- Tzirel Lichpman
- Yomaira Martin
- Maira E. Mazariego
- Beatrix Stefan
- Miriam Swiatycki
- Regina Szaboova

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is a contract agency of the County of Rockland, NYS Office of Children and Family Services, NYS Department of Health, and the United Way of Rockland County. Additional funding for Special Needs Services is provided by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). 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.





**Dr. Keishea Allen,
Executive Director**

Child Care Resources of Rockland Inc. is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. The organization was founded in 1974 by Phyllis Helbraun with a grant from The National Council of Jewish Women, Rockland Section, to advocate for better child care funding, higher standards, and improved program development. One would think that over fifty years, countless accomplishments have been made to further the cause of child care. Accomplishments have been made, but not nearly enough to ensure that every child, every family has access to high quality and affordable child care programs. Not enough has been done to ensure livable wages and benefits for the employees of child care programs. “The people who work in child care, mostly women, are paid some of the lowest wages of any service-sector employees in Hudson Valley. The average wage is low enough that many child care workers qualify for food assistance, housing vouchers, home heating subsidies, and other social service programs (Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, 2024).”

Not enough has been done to ensure program owners and directors have the resources necessary to effectuate excellent programs for children, families, and the employees they serve. “Child care experts said that low pay makes it difficult to recruit child care workers, contributes to high turnover among staff in child care centers, and often leads to lagging morale among workers who chose to dedicate their lives to a high and worthy cause – early childhood education (Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, 2024).” Fifty years later we face some of the same issues, reduction in providers, lack of child care employees, low wages, closures of programs due to lack of resources and regulations that at times impede business owners and discourage them from continuing in the field, and reduction in businesses opening child care programs to serve the needs of their employees.

According to data provided by the New York State Office for Children and Family Services, the Hudson Valley region had 1,685 child care providers operating in 2023, versus 2,308 child care providers in 2007. This marks a 27% decline in licensed child care businesses in the region (Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, 2024). These challenges are before one compounds the universal pre-kindergarten (UPK) conundrum affecting all child care programs. With the implementation of UPK, came damaging effects on child care programs. The income that was once generated for programs serving pre-kindergarten children has been mostly eliminated from providers with the implementation of UPK. As the state now pays for UPK services, most parents take advantage of this option to save money. An unintentional cause of UPK, is the severe reduction in child care programs or the forced closing of some programs, due to the loss of the pre-kindergarten revenue.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, child care should not cost a family more than 7% of its annual income. In 2022, the national annual average price of child care was \$10,853 for one child, or approximately 10% of the median income for a two-income household. Simply put, the cost of child care continues to increase, while resources stall for child care providers. If swift action is not levied to resolve the child care crisis, we run the risk of most providers and owners opting out of this business and going elsewhere to receive a living wage that allows them to provide for themselves and their families. When children no longer have access to quality child care, their preparation for school is drastically impaired and causes severe delays for some children. The exposure to reading, socialization, intervention services when needed, and healthy food all but disappears for some children, when they no longer receive quality child care. Let us continue to advocate for all children to receive a quality and affordable child care program. When all children learn, we all succeed!

Resources:

Child care in the Hudson Valley. Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress (2024). Child care in the Hudson Valley (arcgis.com)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHILD CARE IN ROCKLAND



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. We will help you and 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.

Child Care Resources of Rockland has served the county for 50 years, and we have a database that contains information on all regulated programs in Rockland County.

Need help? Call **Child Care Resources of Rockland** at (845) 425-0009 x0 or send us an email at info@rocklandchildcare.org

Algunas Cosas que Todos Deberian Saber acerca del Cuidado Infantil

Mientras usted está tratando de ayudar a su comunidad cuidando niños desde su casa, si lo está haciendo sin una licencia para cuidado infantil, **lo estaría haciendo ilegalmente!**

En el Estado de Nueva York usted tiene que obtener una licencia para abrir un negocio de cuidado infantil. Lo dice la ley!

Si usted está cuidando niños y no tiene una licencia de cuidado infantil, se está arriesgando a tener que recibir una visita por parte del Estado y a pagar una multa.

Si usted conoce de alguna situación ilegal, llame a la Oficina de Recursos de Rockland para el Cuidado Infantil -

Child Care Resources of Rockland (por su nombre en Ingles) para reportarlo al (845) 425-0009 x0, nosotros le podemos ayudar.

La buena noticia es que, si usted desea convertirse en una proveedora de cuidado infantil licenciada, la ayuda está cerca de usted.

Lláme a la Oficina de Recursos de Rockland para el Cuidado Infantil -**Child Care Resources of Rockland** al (845) 425-0009 x0.

Le ayudaremos. Nuestro equipo habla español.

Con una licencia de cuidado infantil, usted puede cuidar niños desde su casa o abrir un centro.

Los programas de cuidado infantil licenciados, son elegibles para cuidar niños cuyas familias califican por el subsidio monetario de cuidado infantil.

Padres, cuando esten buscando por cuidado infantil, llámen a la Oficina de Recursos de Rockland para el Cuidado Infantil -

Child Care Resources of Rockland para pedir ayuda al (845) 425-0009 x0.

La Oficina de Recursos de Rockland para el Cuidado Infantil -**Child Care Resources of Rockland**, ha servido al condado por 50 años, y tenemos una base de datos que contiene información de todos los programas regulados en el condado de Rockland.

Necesita ayuda? Lláme a la Oficina de Recursos de Rockland para el Cuidado Infantil -Child Care Resources of Rockland (por su nombre en Inglés) al (845) 425-0009 x0 o envíenos un email a info@rocklandchildcare.org



CCRR STAFF MOVING FORWARD



CCRR staff watching the solar eclipse



Anne Nissen, CCRR Board President and Kari Davie





NURSE'S NOTES

Christie Cinquemani, Nurse

Please be aware that measles cases have been reported recently in multiple areas of the country including New York City, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Health Care Providers should be on alert for patients who have: (1) febrile rash illness and symptoms consistent with measles (e.g., cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis), and (2) have recently traveled abroad, especially to countries with ongoing measles outbreaks. Measles is one of the most contagious infections and individuals are contagious from four days before to four days after rash onset.

Providers are asked to:

- Prioritize efforts to ensure all patients are up to date on MMR and all other vaccines. People 6 months of age or older who will be traveling internationally should be protected against measles.
- Consider measles in patients without MMR documentation or proof of immunity, with fever and rash, regardless of international travel; but ask about recent international travel, exposure to international travelers, or people with measles
- Promptly isolate patients suspected of having measles (in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room, if possible)
- Cases of suspected measles should be reported immediately to the local health department of the patient's residence. Do not wait for laboratory confirmation to report.

Measles is wildly contagious. Nearly 1 out of every 3 children under the age of 5 who catches measles ends up in the hospital. Measles typically starts like a bad cold with symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose and conjunctivitis (pink eye). A rash then starts to develop on the head and spreads down to the rest of the body. Many children also get ear infections.

While the main symptoms of measles are bad enough, the reason we vaccinate against measles is to prevent the complications associated with it—such as pneumonia and encephalitis (an infection of the brain).

Enforcement of Immunization Requirements:

- Public Health Law requires child care/preschools to exclude children who are not in compliance with required immunizations by age.
 - Children who are noncompliant are those for whom the child care/preschool has not received:
 1. A valid immunization record,
 2. Other acceptable proof of immunity (diagnosis of disease or serological evidence of immunity to the diseases specified in the NYCRR 66-1),
 3. A valid medical exemption,
 4. A child/children being “in process” of receiving their immunizations.
-



ARE SOME YOUNG CHILDREN AT A GREATER RISK FROM THE MEASLES VIRUS DURING AN OUTBREAK? WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN PARENTS DO TO PROTECT THEIR LITTLE ONES?

- The recommended age for the first dose of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is 12 to 15 months of age.
- If you live in a community experiencing an outbreak, or if you travel internationally, your baby may be vaccinated as early as 6 months of age. Talk with your child’s pediatrician if this applies to you. If there is not measles circulating in your community, thanks to vaccines, the risk to your baby is low. Good hand hygiene is always a good idea. So, just as you would to prevent germs at any time, wash your hands using soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Remind others in your home or anyone who is near your baby to do the same.
- If you're unsure whether you're immune to measles, you should first try to find your vaccination records or documentation of measles immunity. If you do not have written documentation of measles immunity, you should get the MMR vaccine. There is no harm in getting another dose of MMR vaccine if you may already be immune to measles (or mumps or rubella).
- At most risk for severe disease are: unvaccinated people, especially children under age 5 years; people who have weakened immune systems.

Sources:

The American Academy of Pediatrics.

Cdc.gov

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Christie Cinquemani

Nurse



I spent most of my life in Rockland County, and I have always wanted to make a difference in people's lives. From a young age I set my goal to become a nurse. I found my calling at age 12, with an experience I had with my grandmother when she was very ill. I spent most of my nursing career in the pediatric population, and although I have experience working with other age populations, in other settings, my favorite has been pediatrics. I went to Dominican University and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing and I became licensed as an RN in 2008.

I am married and enjoy raising our 3 year old son.

I am a member of the American Holistic Nurses Association and I have a certification in guided meditation.

My hopes are to continue to be helpful in this role, enhancing quality care for children and families.



Learning Through Play: Making the Most of Playtime

Jenny Spampinato, Infant and Toddler Specialist/
Professional Development Coordinator

Playtime is a very special time for young children. Not only is play fun but it is essential for their development. There is more to play than meets the eye. Play can be seen as a child's "work", it is their way of learning about the world around them. Through play, infants and toddlers enhance their imagination, test out new skills, learn about relationships with others, and explore their creativity. To a young child, any activity can be considered play; whether it is rolling a ball, dumping a toy bin, or painting their hands. Play time is crucial.

As parents and early educators, you are the biggest supporters of children's learning and are their first playmate. By incorporating play throughout the day, you are promoting language, cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. So, how can you make the most of playtime? First, follow the child's lead; present a toy, object, or activity to the infant or toddler and observe what they do. Keep in mind it's okay if it's not the "right" way. Let the child show you the "new way" or way in which it piques their interest. Naturally, we want to show a child how a toy works but holding off on doing it for them is important. By giving them time to explore you are encouraging them to try it on their own and at their own pace. By providing just enough assistance to keep frustration minimal, we are motivating them to learn a new skill.

Reading a child's signals and subtle cues is critical, keep in mind they might not be able to communicate using words when they have had enough or have become discouraged. A child will display this in other ways such as using sounds, gestures, or facial expressions to convey meaning. Being able to read the signs preceding a tantrum will assist you in knowing when it's time to step in or switch to a new activity or toy. By doing this you are also learning what activities and materials the child prefers.

Look at the space and environment: is it child-friendly and child-safe? Are there too many distractions or too much noise? Taking variables such as lighting, sound, and environment into consideration can help determine if it is a good place for the activity or material chosen. Checking the space beforehand can prevent accidents, over stimulation, or tantrums.

We have all heard the expression "Again! Again!" While the desire to do things over and over is not always exciting for adults, it is for young children. This continuous action provides time for the child to practice and master a challenge or new skill. They are rewarded with a sense of confidence that they can do it! The more experience provided to master a new skill, the more likely the child will take on more challenges. Learning continues and the cycle starts again. Remember, repetition plays a fundamental role in child development.

For more information on play, please contact:

Jenny Spampinato, Infant and Toddler Specialist/ Professional Development
Coordinator

(845) 425-0009 x419 | jennys@rocklandchildcare.org



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Youth Fest 2023



Diahann Darwood



Children having fun with the activities at CCRR's booth



Keishea Allen & Angela Reyes



OCFS visits CCRR and Ines Ortiz



Gila Butrimovitz, CCRR Board Member and Christina Espindola



First workshop in the new office!



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Angela Reyes,

Director of Program Standards, Support and Professional Development

OCFS Division of Child Care Services is now hosting a bimonthly Community Conversations call for child care providers and early educators. The first call took place in February so be on the lookout for the next one in June. Providers will have access to a YouTube Live Stream in English as well as a Zoom Webinar in Spanish.

If there is something you are eager to learn about or if you have a question about upcoming child care opportunities, providers can send questions to: ocfs.sm.dccsinfo@ocfs.ny.gov

Did you miss the call? Recordings will be posted online!



STABILIZATION GRANT

**Allison Wojciechowski,
Business Support Coordinator**

In 2021 OCFS announced the Stabilization Grant for eligible child care providers in NY state to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The application period was from August 3, 2021, through November 30, 2021. Once providers applied and were approved, they began to receive grant payments in six equal installments.



Providers could use these funds for expenses such as:

- personnel costs
- rent
- facility maintenance or improvements defined as minor renovations
- personal protective equipment
- purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to COVID-19
- goods and services necessary to maintain or resume providing child care services
- mental health supports for children and employees and
- health and safety training.



On July 5, 2022, a second Stabilization Grant called Stabilization Grant 2.0 for Workforce Supports was made available to eligible child care providers. Applicants were able to apply through December 14, 2022. This grant made funds available to continue to sustain child care provider's businesses with a focus on the workforce, requiring at least 75% of the funds to be used for bonuses or increases in wages, contributions towards health insurance costs, contributions to staff retirement plans, supplemental educational advancement or tuition reimbursement, and mental health supports and services for staff.



Under the American Rescue Plan Act authority, providers were able to use Stabilization Grant funds for costs that were incurred after January 31, 2020, as long as those funds were made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and had until September 30, 2023, to spend all the Stabilization Grant funds. The Stabilization Grants assisted 205 providers in Rockland County to sustain their child care businesses. Approximately \$14,563,716.66 in Stabilization Grant funds were disbursed to these 205 child care providers in Rockland County between Stabilization 1 and Stabilization 2.0 for Workforce Supports.

Important Dates

OFFICE CLOSURES

Memorial Day, Monday, 5/27
Juneteenth, Wednesday, 6/19
Independence Day, Thursday, 7/4

CCRR's New Address

40 Ramland Road, Suite 209
Orangeburg, NY 10962

Executive Director

Keishea Allen x615

Director of Family, Community and Operations Services

Christina Espindola x610

Director of Program Standards, Support and Professional Development

Angela Reyes x418

Finance Coordinator

Kathleen Siuro x662

Staff Directory

Business Support Coordinator

Allison Wojciechowski x601
Cell: (845) 422-7505

CACFP Coordinator

Chantel Pittman x633

Data and Operations Specialist

Kari Davie x421

Nurse

Christie Cinquemani x612
Kristin Saunders
Cell: (845) 721-5351

Infant & Toddler Mental Health Specialist

Roxana Halo x613

Infant & Toddler Specialist/ Professional Development Coordinator

Jenny Spampinato x419

Legally Exempt Enrollment Coordinator

Ines Ortiz x411

Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator

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 Specialist

Bonnie Parsekian x493

Quality Enhancement Specialist

Diahann Darwood x614

Resource & Referral Coordinator

Vicky Saravia x458



We want to thank Assemblymember Kenneth Zebrowski for providing professional development funding to the child care community in Rockland County. All classes will be free to members of CCRR, on a first come first serve basis until the funding has been depleted.

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

40 Ramland Road, Suite 209
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Child Care Aware of America Member



SAVE THE DATE

50th Anniversary and Children's Champions Celebration

Thursday, October 10, 2024

The View on the Hudson

101 Shad Row

Piermont, NY 10968



INFANTS * TODDLERS * PRESCHOOLERS * SCHOOL AGERS

Fun & Educational Activities

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

Supplement to Rockland Child Care News
May-August 2024

Activity Ideas for Infants & Toddlers

"With warmer weather on the horizon, take advantage of going outside and exploring with little ones. Taking infants and toddlers outside aids in overall healthy development. Going on nature walks is a great start! Nature walks help improve immune systems, increase creativity and curiosity, and can lessen challenging behaviors.



"While on a nature walk with infants point out and narrate what you see to boost literacy exposure and development. Let them explore freely including touch the grass with their toes. While on a nature walk with toddlers ask open-ended questions to promote curiosity and exploration. Ask what do you see? What do you hear? Talk about the weather, the clouds, trees and grass.

To enhance the experience, provide toddlers with science materials such as magnifying glasses, binoculars, test tubes or tweezers."



INFANTS * TODDLERS * PRESCHOOLERS * SCHOOL AGERS

Fun & Educational Activities

Activity Ideas for Preschoolers

When birds return in the spring, many have flown LONG distances ... and they are hungry! Make an easy bird feeder out of an empty milk or orange juice carton by decorating with colored tissue paper or other colorful paper. Include a perch, like a wooden spoon or a chop stick. Just add a pile of bird seed, and the birds will come. Try to hang in or near a tree and near a window so children can watch the fun.



Another fun craft is to make coffee filter butterflies. Simply allow child to color a coffee filter with water-based markers, then mist with a spray water bottle. When dry pinch together with a pipe cleaner or a clothes pin. Each one is different but beautiful!



School Aged Activity (Parent Friendly)

Try Chemical Reaction Science with your kids!

Baking Soda and Vinegar Volcano:

Create a classic erupting volcano by combining baking soda and vinegar in a volcano model (use an empty water bottle). The chemical reaction produces carbon dioxide gas, causing the "eruption."



DIY Slime:

Make homemade slime using a simple recipe that involves mixing glue, water, and borax solution. This activity demonstrates the formation of a polymer through cross-linking reactions between the glue molecules and the borax.



Penny Cleaning:

Fill a small dish with equal parts vinegar and salt. Drop old, tarnished pennies into the mixture and watch as the tarnish disappears, revealing shiny copper underneath. This reaction occurs due to the acidic vinegar and abrasive salt working together to remove the tarnish.

