

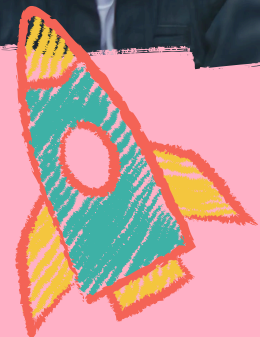
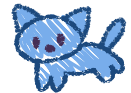
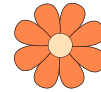


CHILD CARE
RESOURCES
OF ROCKLAND
INCORPORATED

Rockland Child Care News

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

September-December 2025



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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

Dreamy Days Family Daycare

Lily's Sunshine Day Care

Little Winners, Inc.

Sunshine Angel Family Daycare Program

Child Care Centers

BrightPath

Children of America, Stony Point, LLC

Haverstraw Daycare, Inc.

Head Start of Rockland, Inc.

Head Start of Rockland, Inc. Haverstraw Site II

Kids In Action Child Care, Inc.

Lil Hearts

Tiny Toes Daycare of Rockland, LLC

School Age Child Care Programs

Rockland County YMCA

Group Family Child Care Programs

Blooming Buds Family Daycare, LLC

Bright Futures Care, Inc.

Circle of Friends Daycare, Inc.

Darchei Noam Day Care

Gitty Brown

Grins and Giggles Playgroup, Inc.

Growing Together Family Day Care

KiddiePlex, Inc.

Kids Paradise Childcare Corp.

Learn & Wonder Childcare, LLC

Madeline Terrace Group, Inc.

Monsey Daycare, Inc.

Naomi Steinberg

New Hempstead Daycare, LLC

NurturingTinies, LLC

The Giving Tree, Inc.

Tiny Treasures of Rockland

Yenty Jacob, Inc.

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 May 2025 - August 2025**

Carla Barahona
 Robin Basciano
 Brilliant Minds Day Care, LLC
 Rosamarie Bucci
 Elsa Zuniga Sandoval
 Meline Garcia Rodriguez
 Golden Angel Family Daycare Corp.
 Growing Minds Montessori, LLC
 Kiddie Center New York, LLC
 Kids In Action, Inc.
 Learning Spot Day Care
 Yehudis Lov
 Loving Angels Child Care, LLC
 Amarilis Marroquin
 Shena Moskowitz
 Pampered Family Child Care

Peace Through Play Nursery School
 Synthia Philippe
 Red Owl Academy, LLC
 Riverview Nursery School
 Rockland County YMCA
 Shlomo Rosenfeld
 Cindy Salguero
 Sonshine Community Nursery School
 Striving 4 Success II, Inc.
 Miriam Swiatycki
 Jennifer Tenezaca
 The Salvation Army Family Care Center
 Tiny Toes Day Care of Rockland, LLC
 Tutor Time Learning Centers, LLC
 Desiree Watson
 Sarah Weiss

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.



Meet Our New Interim Executive Director

Dr. Heidi McCarthy, Interim Executive Director

Dr. Heidi McCarthy has extensive experience in the field of education where she has worked for over forty years. She has held various positions during her career including twenty-five years as a special education administrator for public schools, and leadership roles in County Departments of Health and non-profit organizations. Heidi is a longstanding member of the Board of Directors of the New York Council of Administrators of Special Education (NYCASE) having held positions of Vice President and President. Heidi's particular areas of interest and expertise include inclusive education, early childhood education and mentoring new leaders and administrators. In 2024, Heidi was honored with the NYCASE Friend of Special Education Award which is given to recognize the lifetime achievement of an individual who has advocated for the needs of students with disabilities and their families by influencing the development of policy or legislation. Dr. McCarthy holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from SUC at Fredonia and Masters of Arts, Masters of Education and Doctor of Education Degrees from Columbia University Teachers College.

Message from Our Interim Executive Director

I am honored to have been appointed by the Board of Directors of Child Care Resources of Rockland as the Interim Executive Director. My fundamental beliefs are consistent with the mission of our organization.

We are facing uncertain times, where funding cuts threaten child care and community supports. It is during times like these that we must increase our visibility in the community and work together to advocate for what we all believe; that ALL children deserve quality child care and early education. In the short period of time since I assumed my position, I have been extremely impressed by the deep commitment and dedication our staff have towards the mission. We hope you will join us in spreading our word far and wide and letting our collective voices be heard through our advocacy for all the children in our community. We look forward to your partnership and remain available to support the pivotal work of those who educate and care for our children.

TOGETHER, WE CAN SUPPORT ALL CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY



**YOUR VOICE
MATTERS**



Nurse's Notes

Christie Cinquemani, Nurse

An essential need in child care programs at the beginning of the year is gathering vital information about each child. This may include vaccination records, details about any allergies, health conditions, or medications. This information is vital for ensuring the child's safety and well-being within the program.

Vaccine Records:

Programs need to confirm that children are up to date on their vaccinations to maintain a healthy environment. Detailed immunization data is available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/recordreqs/childcare-school.html>
 and www.health.ny.gov



Allergies, Health Conditions, and Medications:

It is imperative to ensure that a thorough history of any known allergies, health issues, or medications a child takes facilitates appropriate care and ensures their safety while in your care. Further information on how your program must address allergies in your program can be found at:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/policies/Childcare-Policy-24-11-Anaphylaxis-Policy.en.pdf>

Emergency Contacts and Pick-up Authorization:

Having the necessary information about emergency contacts and authorized pick-up individuals is essential for managing situations that may arise.



Staff Certifications:

It is also important to ensure all staff members have the required certifications and training based on their roles and state/local regulations. Checking that your program's MAT (medication administration training) certificates are active, and the trained staff have a current CPR and First Aid certificate is key. Some reminders about CPR and First Aid Certification: **+**

- Required on Premises: All child day care programs must have at least one staff person with a valid CPR and First Aid certification on the premises during operating hours.
- Age Appropriateness: The certifications must be appropriate for the ages of the children in your care.
- Available for Review: The certifications must be on file and available for review.
- In-person Competency: CPR and First Aid certifications must comprise of an in-person competency component.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all child care workers, including those in home-based facilities, be trained in basic first aid and CPR.





Registration

Shakia Reynolds, Standards and Support Specialist

It's no secret that a visit from your licensing agency can be an anxiety-driven process or may feel overwhelming. One way to overcome those feelings is to have systems in place at your program to ensure all paperwork required for that inspection is on site and readily available. As written in the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) child care regulations, the program must maintain on file, available for inspection by the Office or its designees at any time, the following records in a current and accurate manner (Section 414.15(c)). These records include, but not limited to, copy of evacuation plans, evacuation drills, shelter-in-place drills, approved health care plans, child "blue cards" and child medical statements with current immunization records. But did you know some records must be maintained and some documents must be posted visible for all? To ensure documents are well-maintained and easy to access during reviews, we recommend organizing them in labeled binder. This helps keep everything neat, consistent, and ready when needed. For documents that must be visible, creating a program information board is key to keeping documents readily available. Some examples of these documents are New York State Child Day Care Regulations for the modality of your program, license or registration for the current application period, emergency diagrams posted in every approved space, emergency phone numbers, compliance history, daily schedule and certificate of occupancy for school-age child care programs. Having these systems in place will make any inspection go more smoothly and efficiently. Take some time to look at your own programs, maybe set up a system for documentation review every 3 months to ensure your paperwork is current and not out of date. The key to a successful program is organization and proper record keeping. If you're unsure about which documents are required, feel free to contact your licensor or registrar for guidance. The child day care regulations are available to you not only as a resource but also as a guide.



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

CCRR Staff are always working behind the scenes to make sure support is available when needed



Pictured: Chantel Pittman, Diana Santos, Kathleen Siuro and Christina Espindola



Pictured: Chantel Pittman and Diana Santos



Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Roxana Halo, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

Working on Smooth Transitions

Why are smooth transitions vital for infants and toddlers?

Smooth transitions provide a supportive and predictable environment that helps young children feel safe and encourages them to explore, learn, and develop secure relationships with their caregivers and peers. Additionally, smooth transitions will help children build trust, which in turn enables them to regulate their emotions and feel less stressed during daily changes.

Tips for smoother transitions with your children:

1. Use a visual schedule. Point out and explain to the kids what activity is coming next and if there are any changes in the routine.
2. Give the children plenty of reminders when they are moving from one activity to the next as time approaches. You can tell them, "We have 15 minutes before lunch, so we have to clean up in a little bit. Kids, we have 5 minutes now before we start cleaning up soon. Now it's time; let's pick up our toys so we can wash our hands and eat. We have pasta today; who likes pasta?"
3. Incorporate fun songs or music into the routines to mark transitions, making them more engaging, and serve as cues for children to follow. You can play lullabies as the children get ready to nap or a clean-up song when it's time to pick up their toys.
4. Minimize waiting time. Prepare the necessary materials and snacks in advance so they are ready for the children. Include the toddlers in the activities by asking them to help you set up or hold things for you. They will love it, and you will boost their confidence!
5. Include the children's interests and pace in the activities to motivate them to transition smoothly. Remember, the activities are designed for children, so create age-appropriate fun activities that they enjoy and work at their own pace to complete. Don't rush them.



References

Mackrain, M., & Tenney-Blackwell, K. (2009). *Infant and Toddler Strategies Guide: DECA*. KPress.



In Memoriam, Stephen M. Fromson



OCTOBER 23, 1949



MAY 25, 2025

IN LOVING MEMORY
of
STEPHEN M. FROMSON

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

In honor of a life that touched so many

CHILD CARE RESOURCES OF ROCKLAND REMEMBERS STEVE

Steve had given an extraordinary amount of time, talent, and treasure to CCRR since 2011. He served as a CCRR board member, Board President, and led the way while CCRR was transitioning staff and location. He took on counseling staff during this trying time, as well as collaborated with realtors, lawyers, and landlords. His volunteerism to multiple organizations beyond CCRR, focusing on the needs of our youngest citizens, had led him to believe we had to do what we could to ensure a successful future for Rockland, but mostly to ensure that each child could meet their potential.

National Small Business Week: Celebrating Child Care Business Owners

Allison Wojciechowski, Business Support Specialist

Aligning Business Goals with the School Year: Strategic Focus for Child Care Providers

As the back-to-school season kicks off, child care providers experience a natural shift in routines, enrollment, and operational flow. For home-based and center-based providers alike, the beginning of the school year is not just a time of transition for children and families, it's also a strategic opportunity for business planning and growth.

By aligning your business goals with the school calendar, you can proactively manage enrollment cycles, enhance program quality, and set yourself up for a successful end-of-year finish. Here are key focus areas for the beginning of the school year, along with end-of-year priorities to ensure your child care business stays strong, resilient, and goal-oriented.

Beginning of the School Year: Strategic Goals and Focus Areas

Reassess Enrollment and Capacity:

- Evaluate current enrollment numbers and compare them to your goals.
- Consider marketing strategies to fill any remaining slots (school-age care, part-time preschool, or afterschool programs).
- Review your waitlist and follow up with interested families.

Review and Refresh Business Documents:

- Update family handbooks, contracts, and enrollment paperwork.
- Make sure all licensing requirements and child records are up to date.
- Conduct an audit of emergency contacts, allergy lists, and immunization records.

Onboarding New Families and Staff:

- Create a strong onboarding process to build trust and set expectations.
- Host an open house or orientation to establish relationships early.
- Provide staff training on new policies, classroom procedures, or behavior management updates.

Establish Clear Communication Routines:

- Use newsletters, apps, or emails to communicate weekly with families.
- Set a consistent tone for professionalism and transparency.

Set Program and Business Goals:

- Define educational or developmental goals for the children in your care.
- Establish 2–3 business goals for the fall

End-of-Year Business Focus: Reflect, Celebrate, and Plan Ahead

Evaluate Business Performance:

- Review financial statements, including income, expenses, and profit margins.
- Assess what worked well this year and what needs to improve.
- Conduct surveys with families and staff for honest feedback.

Prepare for Tax Season:

- Organize all receipts, invoices, mileage logs, and expense records.
- Update depreciation and time-space percentage records if you are home-based.
- Schedule time with a tax professional to ensure compliance and deductions.

Celebrate Milestones and Acknowledge Growth:

- Recognize staff accomplishments with a small celebration or award.
- Share end-of-year highlights with families to build community pride.

Set Goals for the New Year:

- Identify key focus areas for January and beyond (staff recruitment, professional development).
- Build a plan for continuous improvement and sustainability.

Market Your Program for the New Year:

- Begin early outreach for January or summer openings.
- Share testimonials and photos from the year (with permission) on your website and social media.
- Update your program listing with your local CCRC and other directories.

Tying your business strategy to the school calendar provides a natural rhythm to your planning and allows you to be both proactive and intentional. The beginning of the school year is a time to refresh and realign, while the end of the year is ideal for reflection, evaluation, and future planning. By focusing on these cycles, child care providers can strengthen their business operations, better serve families, and build long-term success.



Great Children's Books for Fall Reading

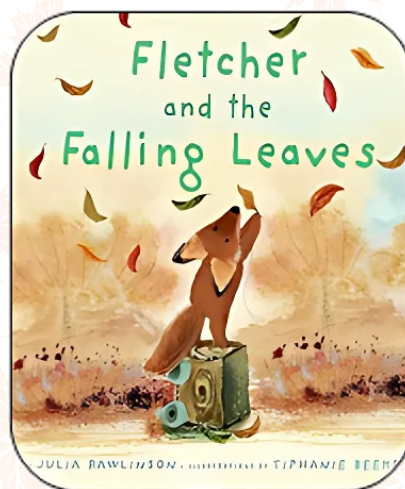
Jessica Malas, Quality Enhancement Specialist

Harvest a Love for Reading This Fall

Autumn is more than just crisp air and colorful leaves—it's the perfect season to nurture a lifelong love of reading. As the days grow cooler, it's a wonderful time to curl up with a good book, sip something warm, and dive into new seasonally relevant stories. From cozy reading corners to book-themed nature walks, fall offers endless opportunities to keep young minds curious and inspired. Embrace the magic of the season by making reading an adventure—whether indoors or out—and watch your child's imagination and literacy skills grow with every page.

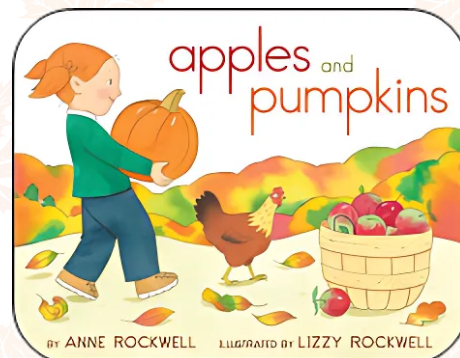
Here are some fantastic fall-themed books to include in your autumn reading plan for young children (ages 3–5):

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves by Julia Rawlinson introduces us to Fletcher, the fox notices the leaves are changing and falling, and he becomes worried that something is wrong with his favorite tree. This gentle, heartwarming story helps young readers understand the natural changes that come with the seasons and reassures them that change can be beautiful.



Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert is a visually stunning picture book follows Leaf Man as he drifts across the fall landscape. The creative use of real leaf shapes in the illustrations encourages children to explore nature, use their imaginations, and even try making their own leaf art.

Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell is a simple, classic story about a child's autumn day visiting an orchard and a pumpkin patch with family. This book is perfect for introducing young children to fall traditions and vocabulary, from apple picking to carving Jack-O'-Lanterns.



CCRR's Annual Agency Picnic at Haverstraw Bay Park, Pavilion



Rockland County YMCA Meeting with CCRR Registrars





Agency Updates and Resources

Office Information

Office Closures

Labor Day, Monday, 9/1
Columbus Day, Monday, 10/13
Veteran's Day, Tuesday, 11/11
Thanksgiving, Thursday, 11/27
"Day After", Friday, 11/28
Christmas Day, Thursday, 12/25

Staff Directory

Interim Executive Director

Dr. Heidi McCarthy 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 Specialist

Diahann Darwood x0

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.

The OCFS H.E.A.R.S.

Telephone Line 1-888-554-3277

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. **Monday through Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm.**

NYS SCR Mandated Reporter Specific

Telephone Line 1-800- 635-1522

All child 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.**

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

Orangeburg, NY 10962

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

Fax: (845) 425-5312

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

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seekers with meaningful opportunities in child care.

INFANTS * TODDLERS * PRESCHOOLERS * SCHOOL AGERS

Fun & Educational Activities

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

Supplement to Rockland Child Care News
September-December 2025

Activity Ideas for Infants & Toddlers

Back to School Routines: Why Are They So Important?

With the new school year approaching it's important to think about back to school routines for toddlers. Routines are crucial for our young ones because they provide a sense of security, control and most importantly predictability. When children can predict, it helps them feel more in control of their environment and less anxious about changes, especially those associated with starting school. By fostering independence, organizational skills and self-regulation, routines support cognitive as well as social and emotional development, exactly what we want to see in young children.



Returning to school or transitioning from a camp setting to a school setting can be overwhelming for toddlers. Implementing predictable routines can help children feel safe and secure, easing their transition back to school by reducing their anxiety. When routines are in place that toddlers can follow, they are able to manage a variety of tasks independently, which boosts their sense of accomplishment and overall self-confidence. Routines can assist children in developing self-regulation skills including managing their impulses and delayed gratification, both of which are essential for school success.

A great routine to start implementing is a set daily schedule consisting of a variety of large group, small group, movement, and indoor / outdoor activities. This is something that will take time for children to adjust to but provides predictability. Providing frequent reminders, visual, and verbal cues will help children learn what comes next and what is expected of them. Having a set routine in place for drop off/arrival is also crucial to aid in smooth transitions. Talk with parents about what works best for their child and provide suggestions on how to help assist them to provide a smooth transition.

Resources:

Benderev, M. D. (2023, September 25). Creating routines for love and learning. ZERO TO THREE.
<https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/creating-routines-for-love-and-learning/>



INFANTS * TODDLERS * PRESCHOOLERS * SCHOOL AGERS

Fun & Educational Activities

Activity Ideas for Preschoolers and School-Age Children

Prevent the "Fall Fade": Keep School-Age Kids Engaged

As kids head back into school routines, it's important to support their learning at home to avoid the "fall fade"—a slowdown in motivation or confidence after summer. Here are five simple ways to keep kids learning during the fall months, all while enjoying the season's unique charm:

Fun Ways to Keep Kids Learning This Fall:

✓ Make Reading Extra Cozy

Turn reading into a daily treat! Snuggle up with a blanket, a warm drink, and a good book—whether it's a fall-themed story, a comic, or an old favorite. Create a cozy reading nook and check out your local library's fall reading challenges or book clubs to keep things exciting.



✓ Explore After-School & Weekend Fun

Look for local clubs or programs that make learning an adventure—like fall-themed crafts, science projects, or nature activities. They're a great way for kids to make friends, stay curious, and keep learning outside the classroom.



✓ Go on a Fall Learning Adventure

Head to a pumpkin patch, apple orchard, museum, or garden. These fun outings are packed with learning moments—from how pumpkins grow to local history. Ask questions and talk about what you see—kids learn a lot just by exploring!

✓ Make Fall Hands-On

Bake pumpkin muffins to learn about measuring, rake leaves while talking about trees, or create leaf art. Fall is full of chances to learn by doing—and make great memories along the way!

