

# CARING CONNECTIONS

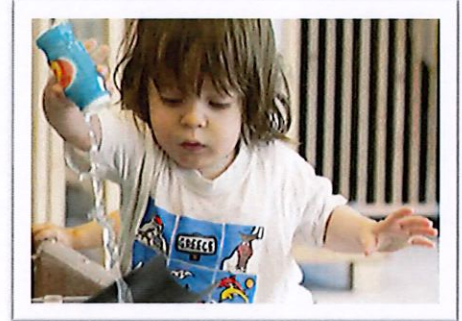
A NEWSLETTER FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS FROM CARE ABOUT CHILDCARE AT USU

July, August, September 2024

## Summer Fun and Learning

Summer weather offers many opportunities for fun and learning through water play. Puddles, spray bottles, sprinklers, hoses, and water tables naturally fascinate young children; and water is one of the basic raw materials for learning mathematics and science, developing language, and fostering social skills. Following are some ideas for safe, fun, and educational water play:

- Mathematic concepts can be experienced using a variety of inexpensive materials. Assorted containers and funnels can help children develop concepts such as empty/full, before/after, shallow/deep, and heavy/light.
- Individual water tubs at a table are great for enhancing fine motor skills. For younger children, eye-hand coordination can be practiced by retrieving objects with tongs, aquarium nets, scoops and fingers.
- Children can learn measurement by using measuring cups or discovering the best way to squirt long and short distances using squeeze bottles.
- A child's vocabulary is enriched as she uses words such as funnel, surface, float, and strain.
- Adults can promote language and math concepts by adding foam or rubber alphabet letters or numbers to a container filled with water to be fished out with nets. They can name the letters or numbers they catch, spell out their names, or see who can catch the highest or lowest number.
- Make cleaning up part of the learning experience using clothes and short-handled mops to do "grown-up" work.



- Even on cool days, children can "paint" with water outdoors. Set up a paint shop by providing a large paintbrush and partially fill a large can or small pail with water. They can pretend to "paint" the sidewalk, fence, slide, and other outdoor equipment.
- Provide a water tub for experiments and projects. Boats can be made from found objects or heavy aluminum foil.
- Create a dramatic play area for children to wash doll clothes in a tub of sudsy water and hang them up with clothespins to dry in the sun.

Source: Early Years Are Learning Years from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

## Would you like a training plan designed just for you?



Care About Childcare USU will send you an individualized plan to assist you in getting the training you need to advance on the Career Ladder, get your CDA, receive points for CCQS or accomplish any goals you have. Call Lisa at 435-797-0451 or [lisa.reeder@usu.edu](mailto:lisa.reeder@usu.edu)

CARE ABOUT CHILD CARE - UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

# PROVIDER NIGHT POISON PREVENTION



Come join us for an evening learning about Poison Prevention with a speaker from the Bear River Health Department. Networking and resources will be available, as well as refreshments.

This event will be held at the Logan Care About Child Care office on August 15, 2024 and will start at 6:30pm.

Please RSVP to ensure your spot by calling us at (435) 797-1552 or email us at [childcare.help@usu.edu](mailto:childcare.help@usu.edu)



Emma Eccles Jones  
College of Education & Human Services  
UtahStateUniversity



CareAboutChildcare

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## Professional Development

Taking classes is a fantastic way for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) to enhance their skills and stay current with the latest in early childhood education. These classes offer fresh insights and practical strategies that really work, like positive reinforcement, developmentally appropriate practices, and observation techniques. By learning the latest techniques, you can create a more supportive environment for the children. Not only does this make your classroom a happier place, but it also helps children thrive. Plus, ongoing education helps you grow professionally and stay excited about your important role. Invest in yourself and the children by taking classes that keep you up-to-date and confident in your teaching!



Virtual: Healthy Care (2022): July 8, 15, 22, 29 from 6:30-9:00 pm

Virtual: CCQS: From Application to Award for Centers July 9. 6:30-9:30 pm

Virtual: Special Needs Course 1 Aug 6, 13, 20, 27 from 6:30-9:00 pm

Virtual: School Readiness, Course 1: Lifelong Learning Practices and Social Studies Aug 7, 14, 21, 28 from 6:30 -9:00 pm

Virtual: Family Child Care, Course 1: Relationships September 3, 10, 17, 24 from 6:30 -9:00 pm

Virtual: Looking to Learn September 4, 11, 18, 25 from 6:30 -9:00 pm

Virtual: Theory and Best Practices, Course 1: Maslow and Attachment Theory Sept 5, 12, 19, 26 from 6:30 -9:00 pm

### Upcoming Statewide Conferences:

Salt Lake Community College Business Summit- Child Care IS Business. Held on August 3, 2024 at 245 S West Temple, Salt Lake City.

Conference on Strengthening Early Childhood Programs September 20 & 21, 2024 Utah State University Eastern; Jennifer Leavitt Student Center | 490 N. 300 E., Price, Utah

<https://eastern.usu.edu/childcare/conference/#:~:text=September%2020%20%26%2021%2C%202024>



## Upcoming National conferences:



- The NAFCC Conference will be held from July 24<sup>th</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in St. Louis, Missouri. <https://nafcc.org/conference/>
- The Early Educators Leadership Conference: Igniting Innovation in Early Childhood: From Passion to Action will be held from October 16<sup>th</sup> to October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Washington DC. <https://www.cdacouncil.org/en/annual-conference/>
- The NAEYC annual conference will be held from November 6<sup>th</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Anaheim, CA <https://www.naeyc.org/events/annual>

## Provider Spotlights for Endorsements and Career Ladder:

Congratulations to our fantastic providers Amanda Nielson and Kallie Anstine for receiving their Special Needs Endorsement last quarter!

There were also 24 Early Childhood Educators who received new Career Ladder levels. Congratulations on your achievements!

Your hard work and dedication are making a profound impact, shaping the future one child at a time. Here's to celebrating your success and looking forward to even greater accomplishments ahead. Thank you for your inspiring dedication and for being the heart of our community's growth and development.





## Make your Child Care program POP!

Each quarter, Care About Childcare offers insightful classes designed to educate Child Care providers on the intricacies of their business. These classes serve as invaluable resources in establishing a solid foundation for Child Care programs and fostering professional relationships with the families they serve. One of our upcoming classes this quarter may align perfectly with your needs:

- Family Child Care, Course 4: Professional & Business Practices (Levels 5-8).
  - Course dates: 8/12/24, 8/14/24, 8/19/24, and 8/21/24.
- Creating Good Child Care: Effective Program Management (Levels 2-3).
  - Course dates: 8/12/24, 8/13/24, 8/14/24, and 8/15/24.

To join this course, or any other course you may be interested in, go onto your profile page on the Care About Childcare website. Choose the Professional Development tab and choose the course calendar to select the classes and simply check out.

As we head into the summertime, many of our local families are looking for childcare and we at Care About Childcare send out multiple referrals for the providers in our region. Providers that are taking advantage of their CAC program profile can greatly benefit from these referrals, particularly in high demand times. To ensure that you are being included on referral forms please log in into your program profile and ensure you have all these pieces of information updated, otherwise you may be missing out on potential referrals.

- **Hours of operation**
- **Updated vacancies**
- **Up to date contact information**
- **Attributes of your program**

To further bolster the attention for your program consider adding photos of your program on your program page and add a program message for those viewing your profile through Care About Childcare. Doing this will further the interest of many parents who want to get a clear look at where their children will potentially be spending so much of their time every day. It is important to give families information as to how your program runs and what makes your program stand out from the rest. Be proud of all the hard work you do and don't be shy to share with families why your program is the best!



**SAVE THE  
DATE!**



**Utah State Board of Education**

Utah Preschool Conference

**October 25 & 26, 2024**

**Utah State Capitol – Salt Lake City**

**Join us for a free day of preschool and early childhood  
education professional learning!**

**Watch for more information coming soon!**



# CPR RESOURCES



## **Logan Regional Hospital**

[Intermountainhealthcare.org/classes-and-events/list/heartsaver-first-aid-cpr-aed-skills-class](https://intermountainhealthcare.org/classes-and-events/list/heartsaver-first-aid-cpr-aed-skills-class)

435-716-5315

## **USU Health & Safety CPR**

[usu.edu/campusrec/aquatics/health-and-safety-courses](https://usu.edu/campusrec/aquatics/health-and-safety-courses)

435-797-0453

## **Private: Corey Wiley**

435-881-3925

Groups-only

## **The Wright School**

[thewrightschoolmss.com/cpr](https://thewrightschoolmss.com/cpr)

470-257-8965

## **Private: Ben Berezary**

435-764-2810

Groups-only

## **Bridgerland Technical College**

[bech.edu/heartsaver-first-aid-cpr-aed/](https://bech.edu/heartsaver-first-aid-cpr-aed/)

435-753-6780

## **Private: Brandon Woods**

[cprplus.skills@gmail.com](mailto:cprplus.skills@gmail.com)

801-920-5548

Groups-only



## CAC-USU Resource Spotlight: Sorenson Legacy Foundation Center for Clinical Excellence

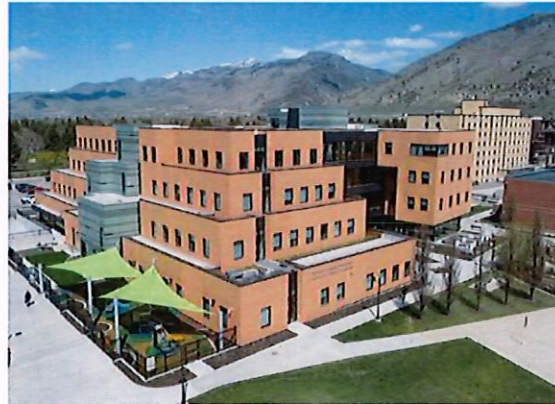
The Sorenson Center offers a variety of in-person clinical services to residents of the Cache Valley community. They also offer telehealth throughout the state of Utah. The services are provided by licensed clinicians and graduate students in training who work under the supervision of licensed clinicians. They offer evidence-based services grounded in research and collaborate with clients to best address presenting concerns. The staff specialize in specific areas allowing them to provide a wide range of services delivered or overseen by experts in their fields. Their many services include: Mental Health, Speech and Hearing, Developmental Assessment and Treatment and Educational programs.

### Contact information:

Sorenson Center

6405 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-6405  
[435-797-4200](tel:435-797-4200)  
[scce@usu.edu](mailto:scce@usu.edu)

Fees: Sliding Scale



## Child Care Quality System:

We all recognize the benefits a high quality child care program provides for children. Congratulations on taking the first step by becoming licensed through the Utah department of Health and Human Services!

Quality early childhood experiences lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning and development. During these formative years, children's brains are rapidly growing and shaping, making the quality of their environments and interactions paramount. Early childhood education not only prepares children for school but also has lasting effects on their social, emotional, and cognitive development. Each Child care program is unique. Utah's Child Care Quality System (CCQS) was developed so you have options to show how your program pursues quality! Come learn about the 5 domains on the CCQS framework as you enhance the quality of your childcare.

Beginning in September applications will be open to join the Child Care Quality System cohort! Moving forward on the journey towards quality, the second step is understanding and applying the CCQS framework. We will meet once each month, to help you learn more about the system and prepare for a quality rating. For more information contact Lisa Reeder, 435-797-0451, [lisa.reeder@usu.edu](mailto:lisa.reeder@usu.edu)







## CCQS Support: Engaging Children in Nature and Science

The summer season presents an ideal occasion for educators to assess and refresh their collection of nature and science materials. Opportunities for children to interact with nature begins by simply taking children outside to experience elements like the wind, trees, and grass firsthand. But even indoors, you can bring nature to them! You can incorporate living plants, animals, or natural objects such as leaves and pine cones into the learning environment. Utilizing resources like books, pictures, and toys that authentically represent nature, further enhances children's engagement and understanding. Children have a natural curiosity for the world around them. Take a moment to consider how you can use the suggested items and reflective questions provided below.

**Experiences with natural objects include children observing, using, and/or playing with appropriate things, such as those listed below:**

- Sturdy, unbroken seashells
- Pine cones (that don't cause puncture wounds to children's hands)
- Different types of natural wood, such as tree bark or wood slices (no splinters)
- Seeds or pits from fruit (that don't cause a choking hazard for children who are putting things in their mouths)
- Gourds and pumpkins of various colors, sizes and shapes
- Dried flowers
- Sand or water play (with toys)

Other examples for children to view nature more closely:

- Classroom pets (rabbit, turtle, and gerbil to watch but not touch)
- Butterfly hatching kits
- Ant farm with ants
- Fish tank with living fish
- Terrarium with plants and animals
- Crickets in a large container with plants
- Bird feeder placed so that children can easily see in through a window



### Reflective Questions for Thoughtful Exploration:

- Do you schedule specific opportunities for children to venture outdoors and interact with nature?
- What thought-provoking questions can you pose to ignite their enthusiasm for science and the natural world?
- How can you facilitate their current interests?
- What interesting materials can children explore indoors?
- Which engaging tools, such as magnifying glasses, plastic tweezers, or microscopes, can we introduce to enhance their experience?
- Do you have access to additional natural materials or living things in your outdoor environment?
- How can you help guide children's understanding of how the world works?
- How can you bring nature and science into your activities throughout the year, not just in the summer?

## Fingerprinting at CAC-USU

If you or a new employee in your child care program need to have their fingerprints taken, then you can come to the Care About Childcare office in Logan to have your fingerprints completed. Before calling us to schedule your fingerprinting appointment, please visit the Child Care Licensing webpage to submit a background check form. Once you have submitted your form then please give us a call and we will get you scheduled for the soonest available appointment time.

### Times offered for fingerprinting:

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Fridays from 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Beginning July 1, 2024, a payment of \$35 will be required to submit a background check form through the Child Care Licensing website. Those needing to have their fingerprints completed will not be eligible to make a fingerprinting appointment until that background check is submitted and paid for. There are no further payments due to have fingerprints scanned and processed at Care About Childcare.**

### **Licensing requirements for (Family Licensed) fingerprinting:**

*This information comes directly from the Child Care Licensing Website under the rules and requirements section for family licensed providers. Please refer to their website for more information.*

#### **Family Licensed Child Care:**

Hired Staff and Volunteers: Providers must ensure that staff (cooks, drivers, clerks, or caregivers) have submitted a background check through licensing and have fingerprints completed. Volunteers are also required to have background checks submitted through licensing and fingerprints submitted. Before any staff begin work at the program, they must be cleared and associated with your program in child care licensing to meet licensing standards.

Household Members: Providers must ensure that household members who are 12 to 17 years of age must have a background check submitted through licensing. Household members who are 18 and older must have a background check submitted through licensing as well as fingerprints taken. If you have a household member who is working for your child care program, and they are 16 or older, they must also have their fingerprints submitted. Once a household member turns the age of 12, providers have 10 working days to ensure they have their background check form submitted to licensing and authorize that individual.



CARE ABOUT CHILDCARE AT  
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

# ALL MEANS ALL

## INCLUSION TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAM


### Licensed Family Child Care and Centers:


- Complete Special Needs Endorsement (40 hours of training)
- Post an Inclusion Statement to your program's CAC profile
- Compile a local resource list for caregivers and families
- Submit your program's Exclusion Policy
- Set goals for your program based on your training

### Upon completion:

- A \$400 inclusion grant based on goals set by caregiver to be used towards purchasing diverse materials benefiting all children in your program
- A personal \$400 incentive for completing all training and other requirements

**For more information,  
visit [allmeansall.usu.edu](http://allmeansall.usu.edu)  
or contact Care About Childcare**

 **435-797-1552**

 **[Childcare.help@usu.edu](mailto:Childcare.help@usu.edu)**



Emma Eccles Jones  
College of Education & Human Services  
UtahStateUniversity



CareAboutChildcare

This program funding is year to year and is only for providers and programs in Utah.  
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Utah State University, College of Education and Human Services, Department of Human Development and Family Studies.



6510 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-6510  
[www.careaboutchildcare.utah.gov](http://www.careaboutchildcare.utah.gov)

Return Service Requested



Care About Childcare



Emma Eccles Jones  
College of Education & Human Services  
UtahStateUniversity

### *Office Hours*

Monday - Thursday 9am to 5pm  
and 9am to 3pm on Fridays.  
Later times are available by appointment.  
797-1552 or 1-800-670-1552

### *Care About Child*

#### *USU Staff*

**Leah Schilling**  
Director

**Lisa Reeder**  
CCQS Specialist & Training Coordinator

**Jessica Cooper**  
Data Specialist

**Zinthia Cornejo**  
CDA Cohort and Outreach Coordinator

**Kim Dutson**  
Family Child Care Specialist

**Heather Russell**  
Early Childhood Specialist

We can all be reached at  
435-797-1552 or 1-800-670-1552

[childcare.help@usu.edu](mailto:childcare.help@usu.edu)  
[www.cac.usu.edu](http://www.cac.usu.edu)