



CARING FOR KIDS

A Quarterly Newsletter from Child Care Resource & Referral

Please join us for our Quarterly Provider Webinar!

July 27, 2022
1:00–2:00 pm

You can also view the recorded webinar at a later time. The link to the recording will be emailed to providers within 48 hours of the meeting.

Participants will receive important updates from Episcopal Children's Services staff:

SR Education Department-
SR CLASS Assessments, Blackboard Courses, updates and requirements

CCRR, Provider Services, Contracts, and Family Services-
Provider Portal review, updates, and requirements

R.S.V.P. by **July 25** with Ashley Rich at (904) 726-1500 x 2274 or
Ashley.Rich@ecs4kids.org.

Please provide the following information:

- Your Full Name
 - Center Name
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
-

ASQs: IMPORTANT Reminder !

SR Families now have the first option to complete the ASQ and ASQ-SE (Social Emotional) within the Family Portal during enrollment. If the family defers the screening or does not complete the screening within 5 days, the provider will need to complete the ASQs within the Provider Portal. **Please be sure to check your portal account periodically and complete any outstanding ASQs.**

For ASQs that the parent/guardian are unable to complete, Providers will be required to complete ASQs annually at **redetermination** and at the time of **enrollment**. **Please note that due to a recent Rule change, the ASQ-SE is now required, if the parent chooses for an ASQ-SE to be completed. This means providers will be required to submit ASQs and ASQ-SEs for children as specified by the parent/guardian.**

We greatly appreciate your patience as our team learns these new functionalities along with you. If you have any questions, please contact your Screening Specialist or Amanda Griffis at Amanda.Griffis@ecs4kids.org.

School Readiness Program

School Readiness Services (also known as subsidized child care) is available in Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Putnam and St. Johns Counties through Episcopal Children's Services. Families must qualify and there is often a waitlist, so it is important to apply for services as soon as possible. All registration is done entirely online so any parent/guardian wanting to apply for the School Readiness Program will need to apply at the following link:

[Click Here To Apply](#)

Please note: All applicants will be required to upload *ONE* supporting document per adult in the household to verify eligibility. A list of acceptable documents will be available during the application process based on the information provided in the application. Applications cannot be approved without the supporting document.

CCR&R One Stop Offices

Bradford County One Stop

Phone: 904-964-1543
1080 North Pine St., Starke, FL 32091
Fax: 904-964-5863

Putnam County One Stop

Phone: 386-385-3450
821 State Road 19 South, Palatka, FL 32177
Fax: 386-530-2692

St. Johns County One Stop

Phone: 904-770-2565
5 Clark St., St. Augustine, FL 32084
Fax: 904-429-7604

Clay County One Stop

Phone: 904-213-3939
1845 Town Center Blvd., Suite 150,
Fleming Island, FL 32003
Fax: 904-278-2099

Nassau County One Stop

Phone: 904-432-0009 ext. 2626
96042 Lofton Square, Yulee, FL 32097
Fax: 904-277-7219

Baker County One Stop

Phone: 904-259-4225
418 8th St., Macclenny, FL 32063
Fax: 904-259-9169

CCR&R

Child Care Resource and Referral offers free information and referral services to families who are looking for child care. There are no charges/fees associated with a provider listing in the CCR&R database or for referrals to your program.

Our agency maintains a database of all legally operating child care programs in Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Putnam and St. Johns Counties and we are required to update this information annually. This information is maintained in the Statewide Provider Portal.

The Provider Portal is an online database for child care providers and Early Learning Coalitions. This database administers the School Readiness, CCR&R, and VPK Programs.

We encourage you to complete this process and share your child care program's information with us as it will be used on a statewide level to give state officials, agencies, the legislature and the governor's office a picture of Florida's child care

community. Completing the provider update process is also a great opportunity to market your program, at no cost to you, to a wide range of families who may or may not know about the services you provide. Our office provides information and provider listings about available child care programs to families seeking child care. It is critical that this information be accurate to match families up with programs that most closely match their needs.

If you have not already completed the registration process for an account, please start the process now by going to the following link:

[Click Here for the Provider Portal](#)

After you register for an account, an ECS staff member will activate it. Once your account is activated you will be able to complete the Provider Portal Profile, which is the online version of the Provider Update Form. Once a Provider Portal Profile is completed, it can easily be updated on an annual or as needed basis so that your programs most up-to-date information is readily available to families seeking assistance with finding a child care provider. In the future if you become a contracted School Readiness or VPK provider, information already entered into the Provider Portal Profile will prepopulate into your contract. The staff of CCR&R strives to provide families with the most up to date and accurate information possible about provider services. It is important that you call us as changes occur to report changes in your hours, vacancies/enrollment, rates, recent training, and any special services you may be providing. We want to help you succeed in your business of providing quality child care and early education services. For any additional questions, please contact Sarah March at 904-726-1500 x 2206 or Sarah.March@ecs4kids.org

Training Tidbits

Check out the great trainings we are offering this quarter! If you need in-service hours, CEUs for your CDA renewal, or want to keep up with the current information in the field of Early Childhood Education, visit our website to see what we have to offer! Also visit the links to other sites with information about available training opportunities and scholarships.

[Click Here for ECS Trainings](#)

[Click Here for CDA Info](#)

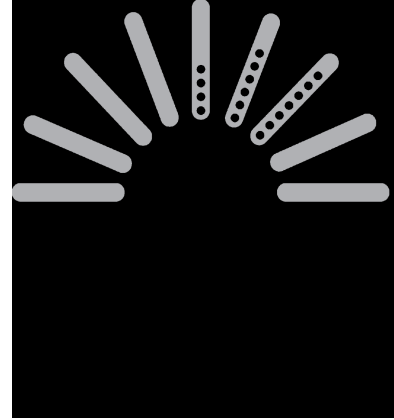


T.E.A.C.H.

The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® Scholarship Program funded by the Florida Office of Early Learning provides scholarships for early childhood

teachers and facility/family home directors to work toward earning a degree in early childhood education (Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's), an Infant-Toddler Certificate, Florida Staff Credential, Director Credential, National CDA Assessment, or credential renewals.

Your T.E.A.C.H. scholarship will cover the majority of the cost of tuition and books, a per semester student access stipend, a tiered bonus structure for degree-seeking scholars, and much more! Contact our office today at 877-FL TEACH (877-358-3224) to see how T.E.A.C.H. can work for you.



[Click Here for TEACH Info](#)

Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy

As the 22-23 VPK program year approaches we would like to remind you of the new Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy. VPK Programs will begin implementing FAST using Star Early Literacy beginning with the 2022-2023 VPK Program Year. This Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring Program is the statewide, standardized program and is required by s. 1002.68, F.S., to be used to assess student achievement of the performance standards established in s. 1002.67(1)(a), F.S., in early literacy and mathematics.

Directors, instructors, and staff members that will be implementing FAST need to complete training in regard to the Renaissance system, Star Early Literacy test administration procedures and requirements and how to support staff and students prior to administration.

For detailed information and links to registration please visit, <https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/fast>

If you have questions related to FAST using Star Early Literacy training registration, please email VPKFAST@oel.myflorida.com

Family Engagement: Tips to Share with Families

Family Benefits of Going Outside Together

Every parent has the ability to give their children wonderful experiences. It doesn't have to be expensive, and it doesn't have to involve a lot of planning. And there are many reasons why your kids will love it. You can keep it simple, and even local, by heading outdoors.

A fun, simple, and potentially local experience is to head outdoors! Getting out into nature is a wonderful family activity. It incorporates physical activity, family bonding, and learning — not to mention, it's really fun! Here are four great ideas for getting outside together.

- Being Active
- Spending time together
- Learning and Discovering

- Finding Local family activities

For more information check out the links below:

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/family-benefits-of-going-outside-together>



Join our ECS Facebook Group

Join for updates, information, and inspiration for early childhood educators!
Click below:

Join ECS In The Know

Numbers & Websites to Know

DCF Child Care Training Information Center: 1-888-352-2842 or click here: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/training.shtml>

Licensing/Accreditation information: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/child-care/provider-resources.shtml>

Central Directory/FDLRS: 1-800-654-4440
(child screenings/evaluations)

Florida KidCare

Florida KidCare is our state's children's health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19. Eligibility for Florida KidCare is based on child's age and family income.

To receive more information, visit www.floridakidcare.org or call 1-800-540-5437.

Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

If you suspect or have concerns that a child is being abused and/or neglected, you should report it **immediately to the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)**. Florida law requires that **ANY** person in Florida who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused, neglected, or abandoned by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver or other person responsible for the child's welfare **MUST** immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the Florida Abuse Hotline of the Department of Children and Families.

Online Reporting Form: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline/report-online.shtml>

Learn the signs of Child Abuse at: <http://www.onewithcourage.org/learn-the-signs/>

Warm Line: 1-800-238-3463

Do you have a concern about the health, development, disability, or special needs of a child? If so, please call the Warm Line: Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford-Ext. 2212; Putnam & St. Johns- Ext. 2227. The purpose of the Warm Line is to provide advice to childcare personnel concerning strategies, curriculum, and

environmental adaptations that allow a child to derive maximum benefit from the childcare experience.

Do You Suspect Fraud?

Whether it's a member of your family, a neighbor, friend or someone you don't know. Public assistance fraud is not a victim-less crime. Real people, real families are hurt when public benefits are provided to unqualified individuals who use fraudulent information or references. School Readiness is supported by state and federal taxes and because of this, we are obligated to be good stewards of the funding. If you are aware of an individual committing fraud against the School Readiness and/or Voluntary Prekindergarten Programs, please contact ECS by either calling 1-800-238-3463 ext. 2246, or by emailing fraud@ecs4kids.org. Information provided will remain confidential.



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