

Rockland Child Care News

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

Children's Champions Celebration

May-August 2015



Each April, during the "Month of the Young Child" Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. (CCRR) recognizes the very special people and groups of people, who have made a significant difference in the lives of young children in our community. We honored the 2015 Children's Champions at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 22, at the Nyack Seaport. We are very grateful to those members of our community who truly take a stand for children. Please join us in honoring this year's awardees:

Nancy Ross

Family Child Care Provider, Sloatsburg
Rookie of the Year Award

Mindy Franzone

Group Family Child Care Provider, Nanuet
Champion in the Trenches Award

Haverstraw Head Start
Dynamic Group Award

Nathan Mungin III

Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center, Executive Director
It Takes a Community Award

Dr. Mary Jean Marsico

Rockland BOCES, District Superintendent
Phyllis Helbraun Award

Mission Statement

Our mission is 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 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.

About Us

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, the NYS Education Department and the United Way of Rockland County. Additional funding for Special Needs Services is provided by Family Support Services, Mental Health Services, and the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities. We are also supported by Rockland Community College and by our members.

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is Best Practices/Quality Assurance Certified by Child Care Aware of America demonstrating the competence in the field of Child Care Resource and Referral in New York State.

Contact us:

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.
235 N. Main Street, Suite 11
Spring Valley, NY 10977

845-425-0009 | 877-425-0009
Fax: 845-425-5312

Hours: M-F 8:30 am—5:00 pm

info@rocklandchildcare.org
www.childcarerockland.org



Nurse's Notes: *Kristin G. Saunders, RN*

Hand Washing: To protect yourself as well as others from the spread of disease causing germs, you must practice hand hygiene. Even if your hands do not seem visibly soiled, touching surfaces and caring for children puts germs on your hands. Many studies have shown that proper hand hygiene reduces colds and diarrhea outbreaks among children and caregivers/teachers.

Hand Washing Procedure:

- Step 1: Moisten hands with water and apply liquid soap.
- Step 2: Rub hands together with soap and water for at least 30 seconds – be sure to include between fingers, under and around fingernails (use a nail brush), backs of hands and to scrub any jewelry.
- Step 3: Rinse hands well under running water with your fingers pointed down so the water flows from wrist to the fingertips.
- Step 4: Leave the water running
- Step 5: Dry hands with a disposable paper towel
- Step 6: Use another piece of disposable paper towel to turn off the faucet, open the door and shut off the light
- Step 7: Discard the towel in an appropriate receptacle
- Step 8: Apply hand lotion, if needed

Note: Commercial “waterless” hand sanitizing gels or wipes are not a replacement for hand washing using running water and soap. They may be used in situations where running water is unavailable. As soon as you can, wash your hands under running water with soap. It is important to know that many of the waterless solutions have high concentrations of alcohol and they may be dangerous to children if ingested.

Tips: Make sinks, soap and towels available. Have supplies nearby for re-stocking and a routine set-up time. Antibacterial soaps are not required nor recommended. Soap and water are best.

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

Family Child Care Programs

Bianca Noelizaire
Carol Mancin
Lidia Camacho
Lynda Fitzpatrick
Kathleen Hargat
Joseline Liston
Norma Francis
Eunice Salva
Dolores Briell

Child Care Centers

Children of America, LLC
Head Start of Rockland, Inc.
Jawanio, Inc.
N.S.C.I.C. Early Head Start | N.S.C.I.C., Inc.
Rockland Opportunity Development Association, Inc.
St. Paul's Christian Day School
West Street Child Care Learning Center
A Starting Place
Liberty Learning Tree, Inc.
Jewish Preschool of the Nyacks

School Age Care Programs

MLK Multi-Purpose Center, Inc.
YMCA at Lakewood Elementary
JCC at Franklin Avenue

Group Family Child Care Programs

Joann Maxwell	Nicaury Delacruz
Avril McCormick	Farida Faroqui
Marisol Melendez	Laura Marino
Majoleine Charlotin	Nadja Garcia
Chavie Einhorn	Vivian Rivera
Rachel Goldman	Kristen Moran
Ratzy Rosenbaum	Miriam Greenfeld
Michelle Dietze	Linda Perini-Nelson
Poonam Mohan	Yudelka Mejia
Judith Katz	
Karen Ryder	

2015 Children's Legislative Forum

We are grateful to all who attended the February 6th Forum and to our speakers: Jean Roemer (L), Chris Jean Baptiste (R), Dr. Cliff Wood, the Honorable Alden Wolfe, Tina Guccione, Marion Breland, Michael Leitzes, Dr. Susan Hoerter, Carol Barbash, Anne Nissen, Charlotte Gossett, and the Honorable Harriet Cornell.



Child Development Associate Certification |CDA

We are accepting applications for the Bilingual/Spanish CDA class that will begin this summer.

For information, contact Maria Rivas:
845-425-0009 x455.

e-CDA—Registration for the online course is ongoing.

For more information regarding the e-CDA course, contact Ellen Mitchell:
845-425-0009 x456.

Activity Corner

Shapes

According to the NYS Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core, (<https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-prekindergarten-foundation-for-the-common-core>) children are expected to demonstrate increasing awareness in their understanding of shapes:

- ◆ Analyze, compare, and sort two-and three-dimensional shapes and objects, in different sizes, using informal language to describe their similarities, differences, and other attributes (e.g., color, size, and shape).
- ◆ Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes.

Math shapes can be taught in an informal way through daily conversation of "Math Talk." Take advantage of the numerous opportunities during the day:

- ◇ Identify the shapes that children use in their artwork, such as "You painted a big circle and a little circle?" and "Your sky has many star shapes."
- ◇ While having snack, talk about the shapes they are eating: circles (cookies), squares (cheese), triangles (crackers).
- ◇ When you are outside point out shapes and the number of sides. How many sides does a yield sign have? Or a stop sign? Look for other shapes, such as rectangular doors and round manhole covers.

- ◇ Don't forget three dimensional shapes! Oranges are spheres. What holds ice cream? An ice cream cone! Can you set up a grocery store in your classroom with many different shapes? Cylinder cans, oval eggs, and cubes. Compare the fruits that you eat. How is a watermelon and a kiwi alike? How are they different?
- ◇ Provide materials for children to make a variety of shapes. Identify the shapes that children make with play dough. Can you make a circle? How can we make that into a sphere? Make three-dimensional artwork and name the shapes: "You made a sculpture filled with paper towel tubes. They are called cylinders."

Infant and Toddler Corner

Infants, Toddlers and the Great Outdoors!

Parental objections, claims of “no time” due to individual routines, fears of children getting dirty, or hurt..... These are just a few of the obstacles to infant-toddler caregivers in centers and family child care homes getting outside. However when we look at the “up” side to outdoor time, it is clear that we must make it happen.

Brain Development

Young children soak up every sound, smell, and experience they have. Their

job is to make sense of how the world works. Brain development depends on their environments and the interactions they are part of. More experiences equal more synaptic connections (connections between brain cells)!

Social Skills

Children learn to play with one another through taking turns down the slide and bubble chasing. When caregivers model gentle treatment of plants, animals, and flowers, this also helps the development of empathy.

Motor Skills

Large (gross) motor development happens through jumping, running, ball play, and hopping through a home-made obstacle course. Small (fine) motor skills (which in a few more years will help with pencil grasp!) are strengthened through digging in the dirt, grasping containers to dump and natural objects to fill, and scribbling with chalk on the sidewalk or wall.

Language Skills

How does the wind feel?

I wonder where the sun is today? (cue “Mr. Golden Sun”)

You’re jumping so high you might touch the sky!

Infants and toddlers learn language when those around them speak about what is important and interests them-what they are doing, feeling, and experiencing. The always-novel things that occur outside provide ample basis for acquiring new words, and having enjoyable exchanges with peers and adults.

Cognitive Skills

Children learn cause and effect when they see wet sand clumping; they learn spatial awareness as a ball comes toward them, and then lands into the hand or lap of a peer... Colors, shapes, sizes exist in nature; learning about them happens naturally when we experience the great outdoors!

So, explain to parents when they enroll, just how outdoor play will benefit their child. Find the time, and let the learning and exploration begin!

This article appears courtesy of Miriam Kerness, Infant Toddler Specialist

Monitoring Legally Exempt Child Care

Child Care Resources of Rockland is pleased to be working with the Rockland County Department of Social Services on a project that focuses on extending the services that monitor legally exempt, (LE), child care.

You may or may not be aware that LE care is exempt from licensing with the state but has some restrictions they must abide. This program allows us to visit

every LE provider to assure they are providing care under the terms they agreed to follow with the state. One example of such a restriction is that care cannot be provided to more than two non-related children for more than three hours a day. We believe our efforts will encourage LE providers to be compliant or become licensed in the future.

Registration Corner

Child care centers and school age care programs will have new, updated regulations that will go into effect on June 1, 2015.

The regulations for both modalities have not been updated for over 15 years. Along with important updates there are some overall changes that help with reading and locating specifics within the regulations.

Child Care Resources of Rockland has offered two information workshops to

assist directors and staff with the major changes and will hold an additional session on Wednesday May 20, from 2:00-4:00pm when staff from the Spring Valley Regional Office will also be available to answer questions.

If you would like more information on the regulation changes or if you would like to register for the workshop, please call us at 845-425-0009 x0.

Universal Prekindergarten and Statewide Full-day Prekindergarten—Let's Talk Curriculum!

The word curriculum is often defined as “a plan for learning.”

New York State Education Regulations require that the curriculum used in the Universal Pre-kindergarten and Statewide Full-day Prekindergarten classrooms be aligned with the Early Learning Standards. In NYS Prek Learning Standards were approved by the Board of Regents at their P-12 Education Committee Meeting on January 10, 2011. These are known as the NYS Prek Foundation for the Common Core. These standards address the following areas: Approaches to Learning, Communications, Physical Development and Health; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy, Cognitive and Knowledge of the World.

These standards are available here:

<http://www.earlychildhoodnyc.org/pdfs/PreK%20Common%20Core%202013-10-28.pdf>

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool 5th Edition was chosen by seven of the eight school districts in Rockland County for use in the Universal Pre-kindergarten programs because it is directly aligned with the NYS Prek Foundation for the Common Core and because it emphasizes developmentally appropriate practice.

The curriculum is published by Teaching Strategies (www.TeachingStrategies.com)

and is written by Diane Trister Dodge, Laura Colker and Cate Heroman. These three early childhood professionals are well known speakers, authors, educators and innovators.

“The concept of developmentally appropriate practice tells us that children are most receptive to, and best acquire academic readiness skills when they are embedded within the child’s naturally sought after play experiences.”

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool 5th Edition is based on classic research in child development that has accumulated over the past 75 years. It is based on recent research and major theories that support the concept of developmentally appropriate practice, which means teaching children in ways that match the way they develop and learn. It is also based on current information about learning, the brain and resiliency.

What we know in the field about how four year olds develop and learn best tells us that they need many whole body, hands on, real life experiences to experiment,

explore and pursue their own interests. They need ample opportunities to develop independence, decision-making and problem solving skills, creative expression and conflict resolution.

The concept of developmentally appropriate practice tells us that children are most receptive to, and best acquire academic readiness skills when they are embedded within the child’s naturally sought after play experiences. The curriculum guides teachers in structuring these experiences and the environment in such a way that maximizes the child’s interest areas and skill levels. The teachers are involved in a continual process of observing, guiding and assessing a child’s learning so that they may plan most effectively.

The Creative Curriculum for Preschool 5th Edition is a guide for teachers to support them in planning these types of learning experiences for students. It helps teachers to understand individual differences in gender, temperament, interest, learning styles, cultural backgrounds, special needs or if a child is learning English as a second language. The curriculum also recognizes that the most recent research and findings indicate that a balance of teacher-directed and child-initiated learning experiences are best.

Early Childhood Education Advocacy Day

Senator David Carlucci proclaimed **February 3, 2015** as Early Childhood Education Advocacy Day and presented a resolution to the Senate Chamber.

Pictured with Senator Carlucci are Lisa Kreisel and Donna Perreca (CCRR Board Members), Jane Brown, Child Care Resources of Rockland Executive Director, and Kathy Halas, Westchester Child Care Council Executive Director.



Employee Spotlight ~ Karmen Hernandez

What do you do at CCRR?

I am an Operations Specialist and do a variety of tasks to support the agency.

Tell Us About Yourself

Past experience includes working for the Department of Social Services as a bi-lingual caseworker for the Medicaid and managed care programs. I also worked for Head Start of Rockland as a bi-lingual family worker. In 2008, after nine years at Head Start, I joined CCRR.

I am very well connected to the community and offer my services as a bilingual community advocate, and resource and information specialist. I married my high school sweetheart 32 years ago and I am the proud mother of two lovely children.

Do you have a favorite hobby?

I love being able to help my community, but most of all I enjoy "me" time. I enjoy the outdoors, "beaching," listening to music, dancing, shopping and cooking.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a detective or work as a government spy, but my parents didn't allow me! I also wanted to join the military as a medical assistant, but I was too afraid of war! I became a Human Service Advocate thanks to CCRR expanding my wings in the child care field. I find it very rewarding to be able to help others and share resources.



Do you have a philosophy by which you live?

Live life to its fullest. That is what I am doing now – I'm enjoying my family, taking today for today, and tomorrow when it gets here! I just love being ME!

Office of Children and Family Services Regulatory Inspections

New York State Office of Children and Family Services Regulatory Inspections: *What are they and why do we have them?*

In order to promote the safety of all children in regulated care NYS OCFS must perform routine inspections to evaluate compliance with the regulations. Research shows that unannounced inspections encourage compliance with regulatory standards and improve quality.

There are a variety of inspection types, to include both announced and unannounced formats:

Initial and Renewal Inspections:

Performed as part of the application process

Routine Inspections: State law requires a minimum of 50 percent of all registered programs be inspected annually and are announced to allow time for the caregiver to collect all documents for review

Midpoint Inspections: Completed at the middle of a four year license period and

focus on those items that are required every two years by law such as 30 hours of training in the nine component areas

Monitoring Inspections: Provide follow up to previous inspections

Fire Safety Inspections— Completed by a state inspector and are specific to compliance with building and equipment safety standards

Technical Assistance Inspections: Take place when program representatives request an inspector to provide on-site assistance

Complaint Inspections: Performed when a complaint is received about a program and are unannounced

Fatality Inspection: Required when a child dies in cares

Although we hear rumors that some providers and directors believe registrars must come back with citations, we would like to assure you that everyone's goal is to complete an accurate and true monitoring visit with few or no citations.

This is possible when providers keep up with the regulatory requirements daily. During the first quarter of 2015, we are pleased to show that our registration department completed 44 monitoring visits and found 34 percent of these visits had no new violations.

We hope this information helps to clarify CCRR's role as registrars, which is to be an instrumental part in helping you provide the best child care possible. We will provide a closer look at citations and enforcement in the next newsletter.

NEXT ISSUE: What happens when a violation is cited during an inspection?

When a violation is found, OCFS must notify the provider in writing within 10 calendar days. The program is required to take action immediately.

There are three types of violations: Imminent Danger, Serious, and Non-Emergency. If a program does not correct the violation in the time allowed by the state, the program could go to enforcement. *More in our next newsletter...*

Comings and Goings

Welcome New Staff Members

Priscilla Blanco, Standards and Support Specialist
Lisa Kreisel, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator

Office Closings

May 25: Memorial Day
July 3: Independence Day
July 15: Cleaning Day
August 7: 11:30 closing (Professional Development)
September 7: Labor Day

Save the Date

Game Show Night, May 29, 6pm, Holiday Inn, Orangeburg
Annual Meeting, June 5, 8:30am, Holiday Inn, Orangeburg
Comedy Night, September date TBA
Early Childhood and School Age Care Conference, November 7,
Rockland Community College, Suffern

Q&A: What is UPK?

New York State has created robust, nationally recognized Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) and Statewide Full Day Pre-K programs.

*Studies to date show that children thrive in UPK,
parents endorse it, elementary teachers welcome it,
and researchers say it is effective
in school preparation.*

What is It?

UPK is a special program which was established by the New York State Education Department to provide a preschool experience for the children of eligible families.

The learning skills that children gain in early education programs last a lifetime. A strong early education foundation is necessary if we want our children to be successful.

UPK offers **free** early learning opportunities to children through public schools, child care programs, family child care homes, Head Start and preschool special education, creating a unique partnership between public schools and the early childhood community.

Children enrolled in UPK attend five days per week for 2½ hours per day, 180 days per school year. In order to be eligible, the child must turn 4 years old by December 1st of the school year.

Children enrolled in the Statewide Full Day Pre-K program attend for 5 hours per day, five days per week for 180 days per school year. Additional eligibility requirements apply.

How can I get additional UPK information?

For information on participating school districts and to request an Application, contact Jenine Valentino, Universal Prekindergarten Coordinator: 845-425-0009 x460 or jeninev@rocklandchildcare.org.

Staff Directory

Executive Director

Jane Brown x417

Director of Family Connections and Universal Prekindergarten Services

Kit SaizdelaMora x223

Family Connections Coordinator

Alice Rosado x495

UPK Coordinator

Jenine Valentino x460

Family Connections Specialist

Arlene Thomas-Strand x661

Director of Professional Development and Quality Enhancement Services

Debbie Silver x459

CDA Coordinator

Ellen Mitchell x456

Quality Child Care

Campaign Coordinator

David Del Campo x451

Special Needs Coordinator and Infant/Toddler Specialist

Gerrie Joyce x419

Quality Enhancement Specialist

Maria Rivas x455

Nutritionist

Sarah Amer x612

Director of Program Standards and Support Services

Elaine Trotta x421

CACFP Coordinator

Yolanda Michel x423

Legally Exempt

Enrollment Coordinator

Ines Ortiz x411

Legally Exempt

Coordinator /Quality

Assurance Coordinator

Vivian Reemer x424

Registration Coordinator

Fia Hill Murray x487

Registrars/Standards and Support Specialists

James Callahan x221

Edna Saravia x475

Cindy Torres-Bender x614

Standards and Support

Specialists Teresa Ortega

x633

Registered Nurse

Kristin Saunders x493

Director of Operations, Development and Community Services

Karen Ross x630

Operations Specialists

June Pizzolo x418

Karmen Hernandez x610

Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator

Lisa Kreisel x616

Director of Financial and Human Resource Services

Gerd Schubert x615

Accounts Receivable Specialist

Kathleen Siuro x662

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.

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**Promoting, supporting, and enhancing
the healthy development of all children**



early care &
learning COUNCIL
New York's child care resource network



Child Care Aware® of America Member

Membership News

Thank you to the family/group child care providers, center-based programs, school age care programs, parents, and other members of the community, who paid membership between December 15, 2014 and April 21, 2015.

Kiryas Joel
Learning Ladder Child Care Center
Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center
Montessori Center of Nyack
Peace through Play Nursery School
Smarty Pants Learning Center
St. Catherine's Early Education Program
The Fred Keller School
Tutor Time, Congers

Liedrea Allen
Esther Aufgang
Meryl Barkin
Regina Barone
Nahomie Bien-Aime
Lidia Camacho
Rodia Darcely
Susan Dizzine
Wendy Dominguez
Jaime Edelschick
Farida Farouqi

Rosa Garcia
Ivette Gonzalez
Deborah Hautau
Jill Krunzmann
Rebecca Kurlander
Raquel Lazo
Avril McCormack
Barbara Miller
Wanda Mitchell
Samantha Neiderman
Irma Pachter
Carol and George Papalambros
Irma Sicklick
Velveth Silva
Barbara Weber
Kathy Zambrano

Member Benefits

- ◆ Reduced fees for workshops, technical assistance, and trainings
- ◆ Menu reviews by a registered dietician
- ◆ Health care plan design and review by a registered nurse
- ◆ Free online job posting
- ◆ Free Notary Services
- ◆ Advocate for government and businesses to support child care
- ◆ Increase the community's awareness of child care needs and more....

Membership: Join online at childcarerockland.org, email info@rocklandchildcare.org, or call 845-425-0009 x0.