

# Child Care Connection

MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau

May 2024

*“Bridging the gap between Child Care Providers and MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for Mississippian children and families.”*

## Playground Safety Information

According to Children’s Safety Network, playgrounds and outdoor play equipment can be found in backyards, schools, day care centers, local parks, community recreation centers, and more. They enable children and youth to exercise and play. However, they can also present an injury hazard if they are not constructed safely or maintained properly and if children are allowed to play on them unsupervised.

### **Magnitude of the Problem**

According to Safe Kids,

- It is estimated that close to 220,000 children 14 or under went to the ER for injuries associated with playground equipment in 2009.
- 57% of estimated playground-related injuries treated in ERs occurred at either schools or parks.
- Falls account for over 75% of all playground-related injuries.
- CPSC investigated 40 deaths between 2001 and 2008. Of these, 68% were the result of hanging/asphyxiation. 7% were caused by neck/head injuries. The rest were due to other causes.

### **Prevention**

Parents, care givers, child care providers, and teachers should supervise children on playgrounds at all times. Regulations mandating how playgrounds are constructed (e.g. installing protective surface materials) can help to make these areas safer for children and reduce injuries. Currently, 15 states have passed laws mandating that U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission safety guidelines and warnings on playground surfaces and age-appropriate equipment be followed. Regular inspections and maintenance of playground equipment are essential to keeping kids safe.



## May Trainings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Training Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	3pm-6pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Horn Lake, MS	J. Dockery
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-4pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Directors Orientation	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-4pm	Playground Safety	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	5pm-8pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	5pm-8pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	5pm-8pm	Playground Safety	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	10am-1pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Horn Lake, MS	J. Dockery
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Hernando, MS	J. Dockery
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm-4:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	Directors Orientation	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm-4:30pm	Playground Safety	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 12pm	Directors Orientation	Poplarville, MS	J. Prine
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	4pm-7pm	CCDF	Bay St. Louis	J. Prine
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	9am 12pm	Child Care Regulations 1	Bay St. Louis	J. Prine
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	1pm- 4m	Child Care Regulations 2	Bay St. Louis	J. Prine
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 12pm	Directors Orientation	Bay St. Louis	J. Prine
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-4pm	Playground Safety	Bay St. Louis	J. Prine
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 12pm	Child Care Regulations 1	Ocean Springs	J. Prine
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-4pm	Child Care Regulations 2	Ocean Springs	J. Prine
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 12pm	Directors Orientation	Ocean Springs	J. Prine
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-4pm	Playground Safety	Ocean Springs	J. Prine
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Directors Orientations	Madison	S. Smith
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	12pm- 3pm	Playground Safety	Madison	S. Smith
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations 1	Madison	S. Smith
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	12pm- 3pm	Child Care Regulations 2	Madison	S. Smith
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	5pm-8pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Flowood	S. Smith



# BE SEEN IN GREEN CHALLENGE MAY 1-MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2024



## WEAR GREEN AND SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS!

Did you know that 1 in 5 Americans will experience a diagnosable mental health condition this year? By joining the “Be Seen in Green” challenge during Mental Health Month this May, you’re not just wearing a color, you’re shining a light of hope and support on mental health for millions.

Aiming to educate Americans about mental health and mental health conditions, Mental Health Month was started in 1949 by Mental Health America. Over the years, we’ve engaged millions in our mission through media, events, resources, and screenings. This tradition continues with a vibrant display of solidarity: wearing green to symbolize our collective commitment to mental well-being.

### Why wear green?

As the official color for mental health awareness, green represents renewal, hope, and vitality. Wearing green, whether it’s a complete outfit, a simple green awareness bracelet, or lighting up your building, symbolizes unwavering support for mental health. Participating in this challenge sends a powerful message: Mental health is important, and by joining together, we are advocating for and supporting mental health.



# MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA CONFERENCE

DISRUPT > REFORM > *Transform*

Attend the Mental Health America Conference and join peers, providers, government officials, media, and advocates to ignite a collective spark, share invaluable knowledge, and foster the next wave of advocacy for mental health.

At this year's conference, we will explore ways to DISRUPT systemic barriers, REFORM harmful practices that prevent progress, and TRANSFORM the current landscape, ensuring everyone has equitable opportunity for optimal mental health and well-being.

Nonprofit, young adult, and standard registration rates are available for in-person attendance, and virtual access is free with a suggested donation.

**Sept. 19–21, 2024**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**Register and learn more:**  
[mhanational.org/conference](https://mhanational.org/conference)

**MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**



## HELP US LIGHT UP GREEN FOR MENTAL HEALTH MONTH!

MHA would like your help with a coordinated effort to reach out to buildings and landmarks across the country with a request to light up green for Mental Health Month. Our goal is to light up as many buildings as possible on the evening of May 1, 2024 (your local area building may want to light up on a different date or, if they already traditionally light up on a different date – that's fine too). If they are willing to light up green for longer than a day, the first week of May or even the entire month would be awesome!

Email Genevieve DeRose at [gderose@mhanational.org](mailto:gderose@mhanational.org) to let her know your city/state, which building you've requested be green-lit, and if your request was approved.



**MS Dept. of Education presents.....**

**2024 Mississippi Early Childhood Education  
Conference**

Made in Mississippi: Growing Young Minds

**Natchez, Mississippi**

**June 17-20, 2024**

Registration Link:

<https://eregister.info/portal/index.cfm>



# EARLY CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (ECCDI)

## Start Up Cost Reimbursement Program

If you have opened your doors as a new CCPP child care center in MS between October 1, 2023 and August 2024, you are eligible for the start up cost reimbursement program! An in-home residential provider can be reimbursed up to \$10,000 and a center-based provider can be reimbursed up to \$25,000. You will also have to be partnered with Wonderschool Academy. If you are not, we will be happy to connect you!

### What expenses can be used to claim the reimbursement?

- ▶ Mortgage payments for two months or initial lease and deposit payments
- ▶ Initial two months of utilities and related deposits for water, electricity, gas, sewer, and garbage
- ▶ Initial two months of internet and telephone along with their installation fees
- ▶ Licensing fees not already reimbursed by Wonderschool Academy
- ▶ Technology needs, such as computers, printers, and televisions
- ▶ Initial office and educational supplies
- ▶ Initial food costs
- ▶ Insurance, security systems, and staff training
- ▶ Playground equipment

*Note: center-based providers can claim up to initial three months for mortgage, lease, utilities, internet, and telephone expenses*

### What do I need to claim these expenses?

- ▶ Mortgage note agreement or lease agreement, with clear monthly cost payment and deposit information
- ▶ Utility bill or confirmation from account on deposit paid
- ▶ Internet or telephone bill
- ▶ Detailed invoices and receipts showing purchases made for technology, supplies, or food costs
- ▶ Proof of payment in the form of a check image, credit card statement, or bank statement

# DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

## Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center Developmental Screening Day

MECIC Early Interventionists will identify your child's strengths and highlight any areas your child may need more practice.



*DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT HOW YOUR CHILD IS DEVELOPING?*

Developmental Screening Day is an opportunity to gain information on your child's development and learn activities to promote development at home.



*DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE WAY YOUR CHILD IS PLAYING, TALKING, OR MOVING?*

Developmental Screening Day is an opportunity to learn if further assessment and referrals are needed.



**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:**

**CONTACT CHANDRA HARPER**  
**CHANDRA.HARPER@USM.EDU**  
**601.266.4745**

For children ages birth to five.

WHERE: MECIC R&R  
370 Courthouse Rd, Ste 101  
Gulfport, MS

WHEN: May 24, 2024  
9am-4pm

EOE/F/M/VETS/DISABILITY

Funded by the Mississippi Department of Human Services, MECIC ensures young children with disabilities have access to the learning environment, participation in all learning activities, and appropriate support for children, teachers, and families.





# ONE MISSISSIPPI

*for all children*

Save the Date for the  
71st Annual MsECA Conference  
October 11 & 12, 2024



*The Clyde Muse Center  
Pearl, Mississippi*



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

## *Save-the-Date*

# *Early Childhood Self-Paced Online (PreK) Boot Camp*

**Date: July 15-25, 2024**

This self-paced online training program allows teachers and assistant teachers to acquire the equivalent of twelve hours of approved early childhood coursework to instruct in PreK classrooms. You must meet specific requirements to be accepted to participate in this program. This program does NOT allow participants an opportunity to receive an educator's license.

Please click the link, "[SHOULD I BE HERE](#)" to determine if you qualify to attend this online program. This self-paced training will allow teachers, assistants, and administrators to earn professional development hours: CEUs (1.9), SEMIs (15), OSLs (1), and Contact Hours (19) upon completing and obtaining a passing score on the online assessments.

*For questions or concerns, please email*  
[earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org](mailto:earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org)

# FIRE SAFETY

## LEARN... DON'T BURN!



1. Know the location of all fire extinguishers in your work area.
2. Learn the PASS method for fire extinguisher use.
3. Use fire extinguishers only on small, confined fires with little smoke.
4. Know the locations of all exits in your work area. Count the number of doors to the nearest exit.
5. If caught in a fire drop to your hands and knees, hold your breath as much as possible and breathe shallow through your nose using your blouse or shirt as a filter.
6. If the fire is large or is near other fire sources, immediately **call 9-1-1** and leave the premises.
7. If your clothing should catch on fire...

### The "PASS" Method



#### **PULL**

THE PIN LOCATED IN THE EXTINGUISHER'S HANDLE



#### **AIM**

THE NOZZLE OR HOSE AT THE BASE OF THE FIRE



#### **SQUEEZE**

THE HANDLE ON THE EXTINGUISHER'S TOP



#### **SWEEP**

HOSE FROM SIDE TO SIDE AT THE BASE OF FIRE UNTIL OUT



P. O. Box 321455 • Flowood, MS 39232  
1-888-981-4440 • [www.mhrwct.com](http://www.mhrwct.com)



# Don't Wait – Check the Date!

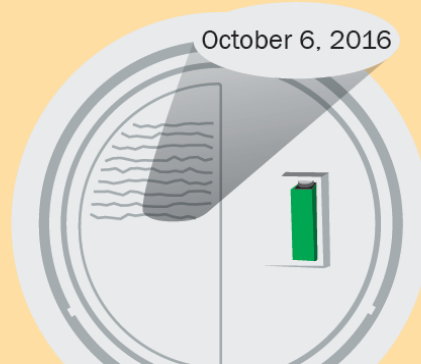
Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

# 1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.

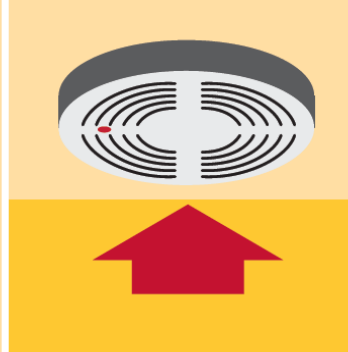


# 2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

# 3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



# 4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

Click here to  
add image.

U.S. Fire  
Administration



FEMA

