

# Child Care Connection

MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau

May 2025

*“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.”*



## May Regulation Reminders

Happy May! As we step into a new month full of blooming possibilities, we want to take a moment to share this month’s **Regulation Reminder** — our focus for May is **Special Needs**.

We’re committed to helping you stay in compliance with the regulations that support children with special needs in your care. This includes sharing key information and resources, as well as guiding you to the right contacts for any questions you may have.

Our goal is to support you in every part of your child care journey, ensuring your facility is not only compliant, but also inclusive, informed, and empowered.

Please take a moment to:

- Review the information provided
- Share it with your staff
- Communicate it with the families you serve

Together, we can create environments where every child thrives.

Here’s to a bright and successful May!

Warmly,

Mississippi Child Care Licensure Bureau



# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*



## Children with Disabilities

### Subchapter 20: Children with Special Needs

#### Rule 1.20.1: Facility Adaptation:

1. The child care facility areas to be utilized by a child with special needs shall be adapted as necessary to accommodate special devices that may be required for the child to function independently, as appropriate.
2. A separate area shall be available for providing privacy for diapering, dressing, and other personal care procedures.

#### Rule 1.20.2 Activity Plan:

3. A child with special needs shall have an individual activity plan. The individual activity plan shall have been developed by a person with a bachelors or advanced degree in a discipline dealing with disabilities, as appropriate. The individual activity plan shall be reviewed, at a minimum, once every 12 months.

**MSDH Staff only check to ensure that there is an Activity Plan according to Regulations.**

**We DO NOT develop or provide input to the Activity Plan.**

#### Rule 1.20.3 Caregiver Staff Development:

Caregivers serving children with special needs shall receive staff development related to the specific needs of the children served.

#### Rule 1.20.4 Staffing:

Caregiver staffing shall be appropriate and adequate to meet the specific physical and/or developmental needs of the special needs children served at the child care facility.

Staff-to-child ratio shall be determined by the needs of the child rather than **child's** chronological age as based upon the child's individual plan (i.e., individual education plan, individual habilitation plan, individual family service plan, etc.). The facility is encouraged to be an active participant in the child's individual plan development.

#### Resources

- Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center (MECIC): (601) 266-4745
- Early Intervention Program (First Steps) visit: [www.healthymms.com](http://www.healthymms.com) or [www.mdhs.ms.gov](http://www.mdhs.ms.gov) or call (662)456-1505



## May 2025 Trainings

Date	Time	Training Topic	Location	Trainer
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Directors' Orientation	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	Directors' Orientation	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Playground Safety	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Directors' Orientation	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Regulations Governing Licensure of Child Care Family Homes for 5 OR Fewer Children	Virtual	J. Dockery
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Tupelo, MS	J. Smith
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Tupelo, MS	J. Smith
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Playground Safety (full)	Tupelo, MS	J. Smith
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am-12:00pm	After-School Regulations (full)	Pascagoula, MS	J. Smith
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Playground Safety (full)	Pascagoula, MS	J. Smith
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Directors Orientation	Pascagoula, MS	J. Smith
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Jackson, MS	S. Smith
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:00pm-3:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Jackson, MS	S. Smith
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Playground Safety	Clinton, MS	S. Smith
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm-3:00pm	Directors Orientation	Clinton, MS	S. Smith
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm-6:00pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Clinton, MS	S. Smith
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Pascagoula, MS	S. Smith
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Pascagoula, MS	S. Smith



## Greetings Early Childhood Friends:

The Early Childhood Approved Specialized Training Program Online Boot Camp Part One will be conducted from May 19 – June 13, 2025. This self-paced online boot camp course will be conducted in two parts. By completing both parts of the prekindergarten boot camp, teachers and assistant teachers, whether in general or special education, who lack a focus on early childhood education, will earn the equivalent of 12 hours of approved early childhood coursework, qualifying them to work in Pre-K classrooms.

Part One consists of a four-week self-paced online course. Participants will be required to use the Learning Management System (LMS) platform to complete all assignments and assessments via a desktop or laptop computer. Participants who successfully complete the Early Childhood Online Pre-K Boot Camp will be eligible to earn 2.6 CEUs, 20 SEMIs, 2 OSLs, and 26 contact hours.

Part Two consists of an online course that begins in fall 2025 and concludes spring 2026. To participate in Part Two of the training program, participants must finish all online modules, pass all assessments, and submit assignments through the Learning Management System (LMS) for Part One. Successful completion of Part Two will result in a certificate of completion.

Certified teachers who complete Part One and Part Two may be eligible for an added Pre-K 122 endorsement. **This program does NOT allow participants an opportunity to earn an educator's license.** Registration is now open via the GoSignMeUp website: <https://gsmu.mdek12.org/public/Course/browse?courseid=13725>. For more information, please email [earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org](mailto:earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org).



Dear Early Childhood Friends,

Did you know that The Mississippi Department of Human Services Division of Early Childhood Care and Development (MDHS, DECCD) along with their partners Delta Health Alliance, Mississippi State University Extension, The Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center, and Ole Miss make up the Mississippi LIFT Resource and Referral Network all across the state of Mississippi? With over 45+ locations and three mobile units, the Mississippi LIFT Resource and Referral Network is a **FREE** resource for early childhood educators and families! These centers provide developmentally appropriate educational resources, referral support, family engagement activities, and so much more! If you haven't had a chance to experience the MS LIFT R&R Network, we highly encourage you to do so! To find a location that is most convenient for you, please visit [Resources by County Map – MS LIFT](#) and choose the map that is under the pink ELEVATE tab. If you have questions regarding the MS LIFT R&R Network or ELEVATE, please email [ms.lift@mdhs.ms.gov](mailto:ms.lift@mdhs.ms.gov) and someone will get back to you. This is a valuable resource for all to use to help provide the best early childhood education for the littlest Mississippians!

Preparing children to SOAR!

MDHS DECCD and MDE

Thank you,

JILL DENT, Ph.D., **Executive Director**

Office of Early Childhood Education

601-359-2932 | [mdek12.org](http://mdek12.org)



Dear Early Childhood Friends,

The MDE Office of Early Childhood will hold a Mississippi Lift Virtual Early Childhood Regional Saturday training on June 7, 2025 for all early childhood educators (child care, Head Start, public and private schools). Sessions will include Introduction to the Brigance Early Childhood Screening Tool, CLASS: Unleashing Great Teaching Practices, Promoting Social and Emotional Development, and Investigating the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for PreK-4. Five (5) contact hours will be given.

Please register at this link: <https://gsmu.mdek12.org/public/Course/browse?courseid=13722>.

If you have questions, please email Early Childhood Trainings at [earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org](mailto:earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org).

Thank you,

JILL DENT, Ph.D., **Executive Director**  
Office of Early Childhood Education  
601-359-2932 | [mdek12.org](http://mdek12.org)



**LIFT Regional Saturday Trainings**  
**June 7, 2025**  
**Virtual via Microsoft Teams**  
**General Agenda**



8:00am - 8:30am	Registration/Opening Session/Training Instructions
8:30am - 9:30am	<b>Session #1:</b> <b>CLASS: Unleashing Great Teaching Practices</b> Trainer: Robin Haney
9:30am - 10:30am	<b>Session #2:</b> <b>Introduction to Brigance Early Childhood Screening</b> Trainer: Chyna Marble
10:30am - 11:30am	<b>Session #3:</b> <b>Investigating the MS Early Learning Standards for Pre-K4</b> Trainer: Michelle Atkinson
11:30am - 12:30pm	<b>Session #4:</b> <b>Promoting Social and Emotional Development for Pre-K4</b> Trainer: Bettina McLin
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Door Prizes/Contact Hours/Closing

March 29	April 5	April 12	June 7	June 21
<b>Oxford</b> Oxford Conference Center	<b>Leland</b> Leland High School	<b>Biloxi</b> MS Gulf Coast Community College	<b>Virtual</b> Via Microsoft Teams	<b>Hattiesburg</b> USM Thad Cochran Center

# SUPER SATURDAY

May 3, 2025  
8 am - 1 pm  
ICC Tupelo  
Purvis Building  
2176 South Eason Blvd  
Tupelo, MS 38804

## SCHEDULE

8:00 am - 8:30 am: Registration

8:30 am - 11:30 am: CCDF Health & Safety (3 contact hours)

8:30 am - 10:30 am: Marketing Your Child Care Program (2 contact hours)

8:30 am - 9:30 am: Social and Emotional Development (1 contact hour)

9:00 am - 12:00 pm: Playground Safety (3 contact hours)

9:30 am - 10:30 am: Playing and Learning Together: Supporting Children with Disabilities (1 contact hour)

9:30 am - 10:30 am: Taking Care of Children and Me (1 contact hour)

10:40 am - 12:40 pm: Marketing Your Child Care Program (2 contact hours)

10:40 am - 12:40 pm: Professional Development Planning: Giving Your Staff a Lift (2 contact hours)

Registration is available through your lift-ED portal.

For more information and registration, please email Joanne Weith, [joanne.weith@mdhs.ms.gov](mailto:joanne.weith@mdhs.ms.gov)

# RESOURCE & REFERRAL CENTER

## WE ARE OPEN IN AN AREA NEAR YOU!



### Center Locations:

- Leland, MS
- Greenwood, MS
- Indianola, MS
- Cleveland, MS
- Belzoni, MS
- Clarksdale, MS
- Batesville, MS
- Senatobia, MS
- Hernando, MS
- Grenada, MS
- Winona, MS

\* Technical assistance

\* Professional development

\* Lending library for childcare providers and families.

Scan our QR code for more information!



DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE

HEALTH • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

New Trainings  
**Available  
Now!**

REGISTER TODAY

Find us on:  
<https://portal.lift-ed.ms>

*Mississippi*  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
INCLUSION CENTER

Professional Development series are offered in-person, statewide, and virtually via Zoom.

Participants will receive four contact hours upon successful completion of the series.

Follow the steps below

- 01 Professional Development Opportunities
- 02 Advanced Search
- 03 Sponsoring Organization
- 04 MECIC



# 2025 MISSISSIPPI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CONFERENCE

## SAVE THE DATE:

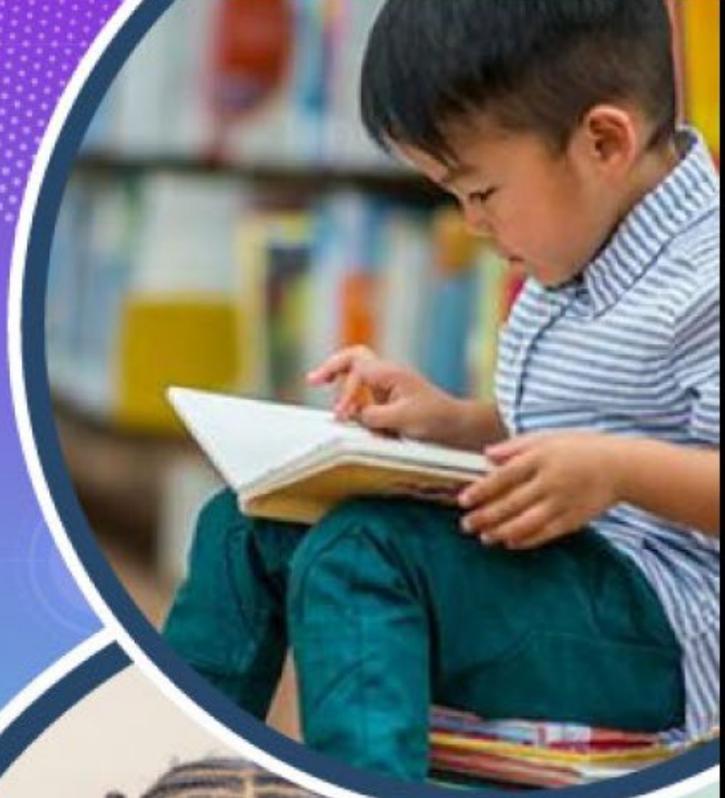
- June 23-26, 2025
- Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Biloxi, MS

[Click here to REGISTER](#)

[Call for Proposals](#)

Proposal Submission Deadline:  
March 31st

Please email  
[earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org](mailto:earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org)  
if you have any questions.





May 5-9, 2025

# Teacher Appreciation Week

TEACHER APPRECIATION  
A letter to the teacher!

THANK YOU    

for *all* that you did in our classroom today...

For making a million little split second **DECISIONS**

For putting your own needs on hold and keeping us the **FOCUS** of your day.

For **PLANNING** our day long before it ever got started. 

For **CHANGING** those plans because they didn't fit someone's needs.

For smiling, **LAUGHING WITH US**, and reassuring our efforts, trials, and mistakes.

For placing your hand on our shoulder because you knew it was **EXACTLY** what we needed. 

For getting down on our level, because **IT MATTERS** to us.

For thinking of new ways to **REACH** us when we just don't get it.

For being the **AMAZING** teacher that you are. 

  **YOU ARE LOVED.**



# MENTAL HEALTH

AWARENESS MONTH



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

### What Is Mental Health?

**50%**



By age 40, about 50% of the population will have or have had a mental illness.

**24%**



Suicide accounts for 24% of all deaths among 15-24 year olds



**10%**

At least 20% of people with a mental illness have a co-occurring substance use problem



**34%**

34% of high-school students indicate a moderate-to-serious level of psychological distress



**67%**

67% of homeless people report having a mental illness.<sup>7</sup>

**"Take your time healing, as long as you want. Nobody else knows what you've been through. How could they know how long it will take to heal you."**

**-Abertoli**