

Child Care Connection

MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau

March 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.”

March Regulations Reminders

Greetings, Child Care Providers,

As we approach the month of March, we would like to take this opportunity to share important regulatory updates designed to support and enhance the outstanding services you provide to the children and families in your care. These updates are intended to help ensure continued compliance with best practices and to further strengthen the quality of care you deliver.

We appreciate your dedication to fostering a safe and nurturing environment for the children you serve, and we are here to support you every step of the way. Please take a moment to review these key updates as we move forward into the new month.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence in child care.

Sincerely,
MSDH Child Care Licensure

well hello,
march

1. **Records:** Record-keeping is essential for the smooth operation and success of your child care facility. Proper documentation ensures compliance with regulations, supports the well-being of children, and helps maintain clear communication with families. It also enables efficient tracking of children's progress, health records, and staff qualifications. Consistent and organized record-keeping contributes to a safe, transparent, and effective environment for both children and providers.
 1. **Subchapter 6: Records:** please re-familiarize yourself with this entire subchapter and govern yourself accordingly to these regulations.
2. **Staff Development:** Staff development is crucial for maintaining compliance and ensuring quality care. It is essential that all paid staff, regardless of their job classification, receive the required contact hours of training. This helps staff stay up-to-date on best practices, enhances their skills, and ensures your facility meets regulatory requirements. Regular training is key to fostering a knowledgeable and competent team.
 1. **Rule 1.5.8,2:** All child care staff, directors, director designees, and caregivers shall be required to complete 15 contact hours of staff development, accrued during the licensure year, annually.
3. **Sun Safety:** Sun safety is an important aspect of protecting the health and well-being of young children, especially when spending time outdoors. Here are some key sun safety practices to help keep children safe from harmful UV rays:
 1. **Rule 1.9.1 General:** (3) The child care facility shall incorporate programs to encourage sun safety practices (skin cancer prevention), into activities for all age levels.
 2. **Rule 1.9.5 Outdoor Activities:**
 - (3) Sun safe practices shall be used during outdoor activities scheduled between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. during the period April 1 to September 15.
 - (4) Sun safe practices shall be evident in the planning of all outdoor events.
4. **Supervision:** Active supervision is critical for the health and safety of children in your care. It involves constant vigilance and engagement to ensure children are safe, secure, and appropriately monitored at all times. Please make sure your staff is consistently providing active supervision to prevent accidents and ensure a secure environment for all children.
 1. **Appendix D:Playground Safety Standards:** Please see section 2.2.7 Supervision.



March 2025 Trainings

Date	Time	Training Topic	Location	Trainer
March 19 th	9-12 pm	Nutrition & Menu Writing	Pascagoula, MS	J. Smith
March 19 th	1-4 pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Pascagoula, MS	J. Smith
March 20 th	9-12 pm	Playground Safety	Pascagoula, MS	J. Smith
March 20 th	1-4 pm	Directors Orientation	Pascagoula, MS	J. Smith
March 6 th	6:00pm-8:00pm	Afterschool Regulations	Biloxi, MS	S. Smith
March 7 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Playground Safety	Biloxi, MS	S. Smith
March 7 th	12:00pm-3:00pm	Directors Orientation	Biloxi, MS	S. Smith
March 8 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Biloxi, MS	S. Smith
March 8 th	12:00pm-3:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Biloxi, MS	S. Smith
March 11 th	11:45am-2:45pm	Infant & Toddler Regulations	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
March 11 th	5:30 pm -8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
March 12 th	9:00am-12:00pm	After School Regulations	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
March 12 th	5:30 pm -8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
March 13 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Playground Safety	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
March 13 th	12:00pm-3:00pm	Directors Orientation	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
March 15 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Playground Safety	Gautier, MS	S. Smith
March 15 th	12:00pm-3:00pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Gautier, MS	S. Smith
March 24 th	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Natchez, MS	S. Smith
March 25 th	12:00pm-3:00pm	Playground Safety	Natchez, MS	S. Smith
March 25 th	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Natchez, MS	S. Smith
March 26 th	12:00pm-3:00pm	Directors Orientation	Natchez, MS	S. Smith
March 29 th	8:30am-11:30am	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Vicksburg	S. Smith
March 29 th	11:30am-2:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Vicksburg	S. Smith
March 29 th	2:30pm-5:30pm	Directors Orientation	Vicksburg	S. Smith



MSDH Sun Safety Tips

Sun & Heat Safety: Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun is the most serious environmental risk factor for skin and lip cancer. Even a few serious sunburns can double your lifetime risk of cancer.

Why It Matters:

- Serious sunburns, especially during childhood and adolescence, can double the chance of developing **malignant melanoma**, one of the most deadly forms of skin cancer.
- **Skin cancer** cases have been rising among younger adults in recent years.
- Unprotected skin can be harmed by UV rays in as little as **15 minutes**, yet it can take up to 12 hours for skin to show the full effects of sun exposure.

Sun Safety: Adults of all ages – and especially children – should take steps against sun exposure from April through September:

- Use sunscreen rated SPF-15 or higher with both UVA and UVB protection. Remember that last year's sunscreen may not still be effective — check the expiration date on the packaging.
- Apply sunscreen half an hour before you go outside for full effectiveness. [More sunscreen tips](#)
- Seek shade, especially during midday when the sun's rays are strongest and do the most damage. Avoid direct exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and seek shade under an umbrella or tree.
- Cover up with clothing to protect exposed skin. Loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and long pants made from tightly woven fabric offer the best protection. Light clothing is not a substitute for sunscreen: a T-shirt only has an SPF of about 4.
- Get a hat with a wide brim to shade the face, head, ears, and neck. UV rays can reach anyone on cloudy and hazy days as well as bright and sunny days
- Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100 percent of both UVA and UVB rays as possible. Sunglasses protect both the eyes and tender skin around the eyes from sun exposure

Reference: [Heat and Sun Safety - Mississippi State Department of Health](#)





Keep Your Kids Cavity-Free

Every child in Mississippi deserves good dental health. Their smile matters!

Children **miss school days**, struggle to pay attention in **school**, and can have **low self-esteem** due to dental pain or problems with their teeth and gums.

Brush Right!

Basic tooth care for kids is simple:

- **Brush teeth** at least twice a day. Young children will need help to make sure they're reaching all their tooth surfaces.
 - Use a **fluoride toothpaste** to reduce the risk of cavities.
 - After snacks, sweet drinks, or meals when brushing isn't possible, **rinse** with plain water.
- Clean between any teeth that are touching teeth by **flossing**, or by using a cleaning tool, at least once a day.



Keeping Away Tooth Decay: Snack Smart!

Smart snacking can keep your children in school instead of the dentist's office. Snacking and sipping throughout the day is the fast track to tooth decay.



Save sweets and sugary drinks for mealtimes. Sugars are less likely to stay in the mouth and cause decay.



Keep snacks low in sugar. Between meals, avoid sweets, sugary beverages and sports drinks. Try fruit, nuts or sugarless gum instead.



Save sports drinks for strenuous hot weather activity. These sweet drinks are high in sugar and offer no nutritional value. Water or low-fat milk is always healthier.



Read nutritional labels to find low-sugar foods and snacks and find foods where high sugar can be hiding.

Why: Consuming sugary food and drink throughout the day constantly feeds oral bacteria. These bacteria then produce acids that eat away at tooth enamel and decay teeth. Skip the sweets, or rinse well with water after between-meal snacks.



Dear Provider,

Please see the attached flyer with information about the upcoming Director's Credential Renewal. The link to the registration is in the flyer and must be done through the link.

We will notify participants of their enrollment once all requirements are met.

Sincerely,

Your DECCD Staff

Email: director@mdhs.ms.gov

Website: www.mdhs.ms.gov

MS DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIAL RENEWAL

Dates and Locations

- Senatobia- March 12, 2025 9 am to 4 pm
- West Point- March 12, 2025 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Winona- March 18, 2025 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Meridian- March 18, 2025 9 am to 4 pm
- Tupelo- March 25, 2025 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- McComb- March 27, 2025 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Hattiesburg- March 31, 2025 9 am to 4 pm
- Jackson- April 4, 2025 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Cleveland- April 5, 2025 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Senatobia- April 8, 2025 9 am to 4 pm
- Gulfport- April 10, 2025 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

All trainings are in-person.

Renewal Eligibility

- Previously completed the MS Director's Credential (9-Module) course
- Credential has expired or will expire in 2025
- Have a copy of your original credential certificate or most recent renewal certificate

Scan
to
Register



6 CONTACT HOURS

Confirmation of enrollment will be sent via email.
Monitor your email for additional information
regarding training details.

Email questions to Director@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



Early Childhood Regional Saturdays

The MDE Office of Early Childhood Education will hold four Regional Saturday trainings for all early childhood educators (childcare, Head Start, public and private school).

Session topics include Brigance, CLASS assessment tool, social and emotional development, Mississippi Beginnings Curriculum, Mississippi Early Learning Standards, and family engagement.

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Contact Hours: 5.5

Event Dates

March 29 [Click Here to Register](#)

Oxford, MS - Oxford Conference Center

April 5 [Click Here to Register](#)

Leland, MS - Leland High School

April 12 [Click Here to Register](#)

Biloxi, MS - Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

June 21 [Click Here to Register](#)

Hattiesburg, MS - USM Thad Cochran Center



Questions?
Please call 601.359.2932
earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD INCLUSION CONSULTATION

Tuesday and Thursday
12:00 - 2:00 and 4:00 - 6:00



OPTION 1:

Give an MECIC specialist a call at
601.266.4745

OPTION 2:

Join MECIC via Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/my/mecic>

Consultation is free for teachers, center directors, and families. If you have inclusion questions, you do not have to navigate them alone!

 **601-266-4745**

 mecic@usm.edu

 mecic-usm.org

Mississippi
EARLY CHILDHOOD
INCLUSION CENTER



City of
Hernando
MISSISSIPPI



Free Community Event

& Pancake Breakfast for a Separate Fee

Proceeds benefit Hernando Parks and Recreation Foundation

Saturday April 5th, 2025

9am-12pm



The National Guard Armory
3003 McCracken, Hernando
Parking next door at Niteo



Get an up-close look at the vehicles and equipment that keep our community running! This exciting, hands-on experience allows children to explore trucks, emergency response vehicles, construction equipment, and more—while learning about the people who operate them.



Touch-A-Truck is hosted by the City of Hernando and
Hernando Excel by 5

New Trainings

Available
Now!

REGISTER TODAY

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

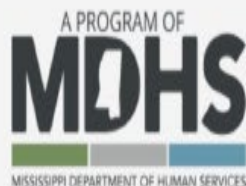
Mississippi
EARLY CHILDHOOD
INCLUSION CENTER

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



MARCH

2025

SUN **MON** **TUES** **WED** **THUR** **FRI** **SAT**



1
Are there any special family days in March? When are they? Write them together in a calendar.

2
What time does the sun rise and set? Document the time with your child today.

3
The letter of the month is S. Help your child find the letter s on this calendar.

4
Talk to your child about his or her day. What was the best part about their day? Share yours!

5
Look at a clock with your child. What numbers can your child recognize?

6
Start a book log with your child. See if you can read 30 books this Month!

7
What are some songs about spring? Talk about spring is coming, soon!

8
How many words can you name that begin with the letter s?

9
Remember to Spring Forward! Clocks move ahead one hour tonight! Jump like a spring!

10
What time does the sun rise and set today? How is it from different last week?

11
Ask your child what book has been the favorite book this week. Why?

12
Review the book log with your child. How many books have you read so far?

13
Go to the library and check out books about the new season – Spring!

14
Take turns with your child making up a fun story about your family. Write the story with your child.

15
Read the story your wrote with your child yesterday. Talk about what it means to be an author.

16
What is your favorite season? Why? What are your favorite things to do in spring?

17
Write down all the names in your family with your child. Does anyone have a S in their name?

18
What would your name sound like if it began with the letter s?

19
Tomorrow is the first day of Spring! Talk about the four seasons. How are they different?

20
Go outside and play in the yard or a local park. Play games with them that you played as a child!

21
Have your child "read" you a book by telling a story based on the pictures.

22
Read the same book to your child tonight. How was the story the same or different

23
Talk about today's weather. Is it hot, cold, sunny, or cloudy?

24
How many days has it been spring? How many days are in Spring? What season is next?

25
Talk with your child about feelings. What activities make you both happy?

26
Have your child help you to sort laundry. Talk about why you separate the light clothes from the dark clothes.

27
Return the books to the library and check out more!

28
March is almost over! Are you excited for April?

29
Go for a walk in your neighborhood. Talk about safety rules in your neighborhood.

30
Have your child draw pictures of what you saw on your walk yesterday.

31
Today is the last day of March. What month starts tomorrow? What do people like to do on April 1?



WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK THAT YOU READ THIS MONTH?
Draw a picture of your favorite character from the book in this box!