

Child Care Connection

MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau

December 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.”

Happy Holiday

The Mississippi State Department of Health’s Child Care Licensure Bureau would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our providers and their dedicated staff members. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping the children of Mississippi healthy and safe in your child care centers.

As we approach the holiday season, we encourage you to continue adhering to the established rules and regulations. We wish you all a safe and joyful holiday season, and thank you for the invaluable work you do each day.

Season’s greetings from
the entire crew

Happy Holiday

best wishes for a Christmas

That is filled with fun, Joy and proseprity



December Trainings

Date	Time	Training Topic	Location	Trainer
December 2nd	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
December 2nd	1pm-4pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
December 4th	9am-12pm	Directors Orientation	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
December 4th	1pm-4pm	Playground Safety	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
December 19th	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Lake Cormorant, MS	J. Dockery
December 19th	1pm-4pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Lake Cormorant, MS	J. Dockery
December 20th	9am-12pm	Directors Orientation	Lake Cormorant, MS	J. Dockery
December 20th	1pm-4pm	Playground Safety	Lake Cormorant, MS	J. Dockery
December 9th	12pm-3pm	Infant and Toddler Regulations	Gulfport, MS	S. Smith
December 9th	5:30pm-8:30pm	CCDF-Health & Safety	Gulfport, MS	S. Smith
December 19th	9am-12pm	CCDF Health and Safety	Flowood, MS	S. Smith
December 19th	12pm-3pm	Infant and Toddler Regulations	Flowood, MS	S. Smith
December 19th	3pm-6pm	Afterschool Regulations	Flowood, MS	S. Smith
December 5th	9-12 pm	Directors Orientation	Starkville, MS	J. Smith
December 4th	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Canton, MS	M. Jordan
December 4th	1pm-4pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Canton, MS	M. Jordan
December 5th	9:30am-12:30pm	Directors Orientation	Canton, MS	M. Jordan
December 5th	1pm-4pm	Playground Safety	Canton, MS	M. Jordan
December 21st	9-12 pm	Directors Orientation	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan





MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Mississippi's Maternal & Child Health (MCH) Programs Need to Hear from **YOU!**

- WHY?** Every five years, the Mississippi State Department of Health makes a new plan to improve the health of families, women, infants, children, and adolescents across the state.
- HOW?** We need families, youth, communities, healthcare professionals, and other stakeholders to share their needs and ideas.
- WHEN?** By **December 31, 2024**, go to www.msdh.ms.gov/MCHBG to complete a survey or sign up for a focus group or interview. You can also email with questions or comments to MCHBG@msdh.ms.gov.





In cooler weather, more people gather indoors where infections can quickly spread. Respiratory viruses such as **flu, COVID-19 and RSV** are easily transmitted, and can cause serious illness. Updated vaccinations can protect you and those around you.

Who Needs Protection?

Every Mississippian should have a seasonal flu shot and updated vaccinations against COVID-19. Babies and older adults need to be vaccinated against RSV.

*Flu, RSV and COVID-19 hospitalize thousands of Mississippi children and adults every year, and lead to hundreds of deaths.

Those especially at risk include:

- **Pregnant women:** Respiratory virus infection can lead to pregnancy complications and affect your developing child.
- **Older adults:** As you age, your immune system can become less effective at protecting you from viral infections. And if you're in poor health or have a chronic illness, respiratory infections increase your risk of hospitalization and death.
- **Young children:** The immune systems of children younger than 5 are still developing, and viral infections can cause serious illness and even death.

Vaccinations Are Your Best Defense

Vaccinations lower your risk of severe illness and can keep you out of the hospital. But to be effective, you need the latest available vaccines for flu and COVID-19. Only one vaccination against RSV is needed (RSV vaccination during pregnancy even protects your child after it is born).

*Vaccinations for all types of respiratory viral infections are widely available from medical clinics, pediatricians and pharmacies.

[County health departments](#) provide flu vaccinations for all children and for adults who do not have insurance that covers the cost of vaccinations.

Other Preventive Steps

Take all the precautions you can during virus season to stay healthy **and** to keep those around you healthy.

- **Stay home if you're sick:** If you have fever, stay home or away from others as much as possible to limit the spread of illness.
- **Practice protective hygiene:** Cover your coughs and sneezes, wash your hands frequently, and wear a mask when you are in crowded places.
- **Limit your time in crowds:** Respiratory viruses spread more easily in groups of people. Keep your exposure short, and encourage outdoor gatherings and plenty of fresh air circulation.
- **Stay healthy:** Keep up healthy habits like eating wisely and getting physical activity daily. If you have an ongoing illness, stay in touch with your doctor and take any prescribed medications consistently.

7 TIPS TO MANAGE STRESS & MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE HOLIDAYS



PLAN AHEAD

Have a plan in place for all your holiday tasks and activities.



BE REALISTIC

Don't stress yourself out by trying to create the perfect holiday.



STAY ACTIVE

Exercise is a great way to deal with holiday stress, and anxiety.



DON'T WORRY

Don't feel obligated to complete every small thing on your list.



JUST SAY NO

If you have too much on your plate, let your friends and family know.



SET ASIDE DIFFERENCES

Enjoy other's company and talk about topics that bring happiness.



ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FEELINGS

Have a plan in place for all your holiday tasks and activities.





Good Afternoon,

The MDE Office of Early Childhood through the Preschool Development Grant will host our inaugural Mississippi LIFT Family Engagement and Transition Conference. This one-day conference will showcase family engagement, pre-k to kindergarten transition, and Part C to Part B transition best practices along with expanding learning opportunities for early educators and parents through mixed-delivery. The day will consist of a keynote speaker with breakout sessions from state and community partners. This conference is for early educators and administrators of prekindergarten from public, private, child care, home care, Head Start, and parents of four-year-old children.

The conference will take place Saturday, January 11, 2025 at the Hilton Jackson Hotel, 1001 East County Line Road Jackson, MS 39211. The conference will be held from 8:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Contact hours (6.25), CEUs (0.6), and Semis (5) will be offered.

Register Here: [Family Engagement and Transition Conference | Southwest MS Education Consortium](#)

Questions about the conference can be sent to earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org.

Thank you,

JILL DENT, Ph.D., *Executive Director*
Office of Early Childhood Education
601-359-2932 | mdek12.org



Greetings Early Childhood Family:

MDE, through the Office of Early Childhood, is offering a full-day training entitled ***Fidelity Frenzy: Keeping MS Beginnings Cool and Consistent***. This in-person training will be beneficial to programs that have been implementing the Mississippi Beginning Pre-K curriculum for at least one year. Participants will take a more in depth look at the fidelity tool and learn how to use this tool as a pathway to ensure alignment in all other curricula used to teach pre-kindergarten. The fidelity tool allows the administrator or representative of the Pre-K program to monitor early childhood best practices in the pre-kindergarten classrooms. This training will be Part 1 of a series focused on the fidelity tool that includes read alouds, learning centers, and small group.

This training will be presented in-person in various locations across the state. These trainings are available to all early learning public, private, child care and Head Start administrators, principals, district leaders, directors, teachers and assistant teachers of pre-kindergarten classes. SEMIs and contact hours will be offered at no cost and CEUs will be available for a small fee.

Registration will be on a first-come-first-serve basis at <https://gsmu.mdek12.org/public/course/browse>.

See dates, times, and locations below:

Fidelity Frenzy: Keeping MS Beginnings Cool and Consistent Training

January 29, 2025

IPC Training Room, 114 2nd Street

Indianola, MS 38751

8:30 am-4:00pm

February 25, 2025

Lamar County Schools Technology Complex, 17 Pioneer Road

Hattiesburg, MS 39402

8:30am-4:00pm

Questions about the training can be sent to earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org.

Thank you,

JILL DENT, Ph.D., Executive Director

Office of Early Childhood Education

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