

# Child Care Connection

## MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau

February 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.”*



This is a reminder that the MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau will resubmit the proposed child care regulation revisions to the Mississippi State Board of Health in April. The proposed revisions will be accessible on the Mississippi Secretary of State's website 30 days before the scheduled Board meeting, which is set for April 9, 2025.



### Regulations Reminders

Greetings, Early Childhood Providers,

Can you believe that it's already February? We hope the new year is off to a great start for you, your staff, children, and the families you serve. As we begin this new month, we wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with a few reminders about key rules and regulations to help you stay up to date and remain in compliance.

This month, we want to focus on the following important topics:

1. **Director Designees:** It's crucial to ensure that the designated director has the proper qualifications and training to oversee your center when the main director is absent.
  1. **Rule 1.5.7 Use of Director Designee:**
    - (1) A director designee is an individual designated to act as the director, having all responsibility and authority of a director, during the director's short-term absence.
    - (2) A director designee shall not retain sole director authority in a facility for more than 24 total hours per calendar week.
    - (3) When the director designee is in charge of the facility, they shall have full access to all documents of the facility that are necessary for the licensing agency to conduct an inspection or complaint investigation. These documents shall include, but are not limited to, staff records, children's records, safety inspections, and any other material or documents required by the inspecting official.
2. **CPR/First-Aid Certification:** Keeping staff members certified in CPR and First-Aid is not only a regulatory requirement but also an essential part of providing a safe environment for the children in your care.
  1. **Rule 1.8.1 General:**
    - (4) During all hours of operation, including the arrival and departure of children, a child care facility employee shall be present who holds a valid CPR certification, at any location where the children are present.
    - (5) During all hours of operation, including the arrival and departure of children, a child care facility employee shall be present, at any location where the children are present, who holds a valid first aid certificate.
3. **Menu Substitutions:** If you need to make any menu substitutions, it's important to follow the correct procedures and maintain compliance with nutrition standards.
  1. **Appendix C: Menus (pg.4):** Daily menus for all meals and snacks prepared and/or served in the child care facility shall be plainly posted. Any substitution shall be of comparable food value and shall be recorded on the menu and dated.
  2. **Appendix C: Menus (p.18):** It is highly recommended to either serve at least one raw vegetable and two raw fruits per week, for a meal or snack. Younger children may have an appropriate substitution due to the choking hazard or the item may be cooked first.



4. **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.

We hope these reminders are helpful in keeping your facility running smoothly and in compliance with regulations. As always, if you have any questions or need additional clarification on any of the topics mentioned, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your continued dedication to providing a safe and nurturing environment for the children in your care. Let's make February another great month!





## February 2025 Trainings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Training Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Directors Orientation	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Oxford, MS	J. Dockery
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Directors Orientation	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Playground Safety	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Infant	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-11:30am	Preschool Group Needs	Booneville, MS	J. Dockery
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:30pm	Infant & Toddler Group Needs	Booneville, MS	J. Dockery
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am-12:30am	Milestone Moments Part 1	Booneville, MS	J. Dockery
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	1:30pm-4:30pm	Milestone Moments Part 2	Booneville, MS	J. Dockery
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am-12:30am	Maximizing Teachers Potential	Booneville, MS	J. Dockery
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Flowood, MS	S. Smith
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm-3:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Flowood, MS	S. Smith
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm-3:00pm	Playground Safety	Vicksburg, MS	S. Smith
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm- 8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Vicksburg, MS	S. Smith
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00pm-12:00pm	CCDF Health and Safety	Vicksburg, MS	S. Smith
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm-3:00pm	Directors Orientation	Vicksburg, MS	S. Smith
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm- 8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Vicksburg, MS	S. Smith
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Directors Orientation	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Greenwood, MS	M. Jordan
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Greenwood, MS	M. Jordan
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Playground Safety	Greenwood, MS	M. Jordan
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Winona, MS	M. Jordan
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Winona, MS	M. Jordan



February 19 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Directors Orientation	Winona, MS	M. Jordan
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Winona, MS	M. Jordan
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Flowood, MS	M. Jordan
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Flowood, MS	M. Jordan
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Directors Orientation	Flowood, MS	M. Jordan
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Flowood, MS	M. Jordan
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Moss Point, MS	J. Smith
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-4pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Moss Point, MS	J. Smith
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Directors Orientation	Moss Point, MS	J. Smith
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-4pm	Playground Safety	Moss Point, MS	J. Smith
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	9am-12pm	Nutrition & Menu Writing	Moss Point, MS	J. Smith



### Training Reminders

Below are a few training reminders for your convenience:

1. **Account Requirement:** You must have an account with Lift-ED to attend training.
2. **Withdraw If Unable to Attend:** If you cannot attend, log into the LIFT-ED system and withdraw from the class to avoid being marked as a "No Show."
3. **Late Arrivals:** Arriving more than 15 minutes late will result in no credit hours being awarded.
4. **Early Departures:** Leaving before the training ends will result in no credit hours being awarded.
5. **Email Communication:** Check your emails regularly for updates or cancellations from the trainers.
6. **If you need any additional assistance, please contact your trainer.**
  1. Josenda Dockery: [josenda.dockery@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:josenda.dockery@msdh.ms.gov)
  2. Josie Smith: [josie.smith@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:josie.smith@msdh.ms.gov)
  3. Sandra Smith: [sandra.smith@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:sandra.smith@msdh.ms.gov)
  4. Martha Jordan: [martha.jordan1@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:martha.jordan1@msdh.ms.gov)







# 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](#)





# February Awareness Month



February is  
**AMERICAN  
HEART**  
Awareness Month



February is  
**NATIONAL CANCER**  
Prevention Month



FEBRUARY IS  
**amd/low vision**  
awareness month



National  
**Cancer  
Prevention**  
Month

*February*



# DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center Screening Day

Do you want to take a closer look at how your child is developing?



Developmental screenings allow you to celebrate your child's milestones and identify any potential concerns early on.

## Crosby Memorial Library

900 Goodyear Blvd  
Picayune, MS

Saturday  
February 22, 2025  
9am-12:30pm

By appointment only:

[chandra.harper@usm.edu](mailto:chandra.harper@usm.edu)

601-266-4745





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Delta Health Alliance  
Resource & Referral  
Center  
135 W. Center St.  
Hernando, MS

Tuesday  
February 11, 2025  
9am-4pm





Resource & Referral Center



Supported by:



# We Love Referrals!



The Resource and Referral Center can refer you to any of these support services:

- Child Care, Head start/ Early Head Start/Public PreK
- TANF
- SNAP
- Employment
- Clothing or food banks
- Health/Mental health Services
- Early Intervention Services
- English language services
- MECIC
- Child Care subsidy



## NOW OPEN!

185 Highway 51 S.  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662-561-5782

821 N. Chrisman Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732  
662-719-6019

135 Front Avenue  
Indianola, MS 38751  
662-686-3930

124 W. Jackson St.  
Belzoni, MS 39038  
662-836-9666

1305 W. Monroe Avenue  
Greenwood, MS 38930  
662-344-6178

305 N. Broad Street  
Leland, MS 38756  
662-820-1494

Coahoma Community College  
Gambrell & Daugherty Building  
3240 Friars Point Road  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
662-621-4831

135 W. Center St.  
Hernando, MS 38632  
662-404-4124

300 Northwest Plaza  
Senatobia, MS 38668  
662-379-1781





## READING ROCKS: BENEFITS FOR YOUNG MINDS!

-  **Boosts Vocabulary**  
Learn new words.
-  **Improves Focus**  
Better concentration.
-  **Sparks Imagination**  
Be creative.
-  **Love for Learning**  
Discover new things.
-  **Better Understanding**  
Improve comprehension.
-  **Explore Cultures**  
Learn about the world.







## **BETWEEN THE LIONS, THE EMMY AWARD CHILDREN'S PROGRAM PRODUCED BY MS PUBLIC BROADCASTING HAS BEEN GIVEN A NEW PLATFORM**

In collaboration with the Graduate Center for the Study of Early Learning and other partners, staff have selected some of the Between the Lions stories for retelling. There are also activities for teacher to use with little explanation. Specific segments have been edited and can be found on YouTube. The videos and activities can be found on the GCSEL website under Between the Lions.

<http://gcsel.education.olemiss.edu/new-update-between-the-lions/?preview=true>

*Funded in partnership with Between the Lions, MS Public Broadcasting and the Barksdale Institute by the WK Kellogg Foundation*





MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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)



New Trainings  
**Available  
Now!**

REGISTER TODAY

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

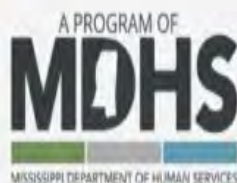
*Mississippi*  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
INCLUSION CENTER

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





# FEBRUARY

# 2025

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT



1 Winter weather in Mississippi can change quickly, this month keep a weather chart to track what the weather!

2 The letter for the month is F. What sound does the letter F make?

3 How many days are in the month of February? Are there less days this year? Why?

4 What are some special events in your community this month and winter months?

5 What winter sports do you enjoy the most?

6 There is a special day next week, Valentine's Day! Use paper and crayons to make Valentines for your family.

7 Do you need help making sure your family knows the Valentines are from you? Ask a family member to help write your name.

8 There are certain items of clothing needed to keep warm when it is cold outside. What are some of those items?

9 Show your child how to make the letter F with your hands.

10 You have been busy this week preparing for Valentine's. How many Valentines did you make?

11 What are some words that we use more during February?

12 Go to the library and check books out about love.

13 Have your child draw a picture of the people they love the most!

14 Today is Valentine's day! Be sure to tell your family how much you love them!

15 It's still winter, so it's still cold out. Do you like the cold?

16 Some letters have straight lines and some are curvy. What types of lines does the letter F have?

17 We don't get snow often in Mississippi, are there some places that snow all the time?

18 I have lots of fun memories of winter activities. Share your favorite memories with your child.

19 Go for a walk outside in your neighborhood. How has winter changed the trees?

20 Do you know how to make a heart out of paper? With close supervision, help your child create their own!

21 What are some words that you can use to describe hearts? Make a list and see how many you can think of!

22 Put an ice cube outside for an hour, does it melt? Why or why not?

23 How many times can you find the letter F on this calendar?

24 Teach your child how to make a heart with their hands!

25 Every single family is different. Talk with your child about how special their family is!

26 Return your books to the library so you can check out more!

27 The month is almost over, what month comes next?

28 Wow that was fast! How many months do we have left in 2025?

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK THAT YOU READ THIS MONTH?

Draw a picture of your favorite character from the book in this box!