



Message from the Director



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all the early childhood providers, staff, and community partners who have been working with us through the challenges to support children and families throughout South Carolina during COVID-19.

A special recognition is due to our early childhood programs who have answered the call to support the vital economic infrastructure of South Carolina. The child care community truly is a key partner for parents needing child care in order to continue employment and/or return to the workplace.

[The Division of Early Care & Education \(DECE\)](#) is committed to an early care and education system that focuses on building high quality and comprehensive programs that provide integrated services. Our mission is to serve South Carolina *by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families.*

Our vision is that every child in South Carolina will have equal opportunity for success in school based on equitable access to a high quality early care and education system. Early childhood programs providing healthy, safe and quality learning environments reinforce overall child well-being and strengthen families to achieve economic independence.

I would also like to recognize our statewide program staff who have been working tirelessly to continue to meet the needs of children, parents and early childhood programs including creative problem-solving strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[ABC Quality](#)

[Head Start Collaboration Office](#)

[Child & Adult Care Food Program](#)

[Child Care Licensing](#)

[South Carolina Endeavors](#)

[South Carolina Voucher](#)

We have dedicated the June 2020 newsletter to continue our support of early childhood programs during COVID-19 pandemic.



New Grant Opportunity

A one-time grant is available to licensed or registered child care providers. The purpose of this grant is to allow providers to clean and sanitize their child care facility to reopen; or to continue to purchase additional cleaning supplies or services necessary to keep the center or child care home safe and sanitary.

To access the grant application, please [click here](#).



CACFP Waivers Due to COVID-19

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) has been granted several nationwide waivers by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to provide CACFP operators the maximum flexibility during this pandemic.

To access the waivers, please [click here](#).



Finding Open Child Care Providers

Many child care facilities have re-opened to help support families. During this uncertain time, the DECE staff is working hard to track the facility closures as they are reported. Parents looking for child care can access the South Carolina Child Care link to view open and closed early childhood programs.

To view open facilities, please [click here](#).





Free Online Trainings

Join us for FREE online training


SUPPORTING YOUR SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH WILL HELP INFANTS, TODDLERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN DURING CRISIS

June 18, 2020, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

[Register Here](#)

Learn about the value of nurturing your social-emotional health during this challenging time. Get tips to support your own well-being, learn how to recognize signs of stress in young children, and develop strategies to support their emotional health.

You will receive SC Endeavors-certified credit for this training.



scpitc
South Carolina Program For Infant/Toddler Care

SCIMHA *Study Group*

Join SCIMHA's virtual study group to review **infant mental health online trainings** that will help you obtain the training required for Endorsement®

Click **HERE** to learn more and fill out an interest form.



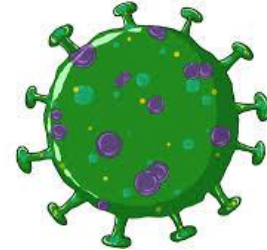
SOUTH CAROLINA
Infant Mental Health Association



COVID-19 Resources

Helpful Information for Child Care Providers

Strategies to Support Families & Providers



We have implemented the following strategies over the past few weeks to assist early childhood programs and families in South Carolina during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 1. Essential Child Care Assistance Vouchers:** Vouchers for health care employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, child care providers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic without regard to the income eligibility requirements.
- 2. Support for Child Care Facilities:** Continued [South Carolina Voucher payments and assistance](#) to early childhood programs in the case of decreased enrollment or closures related to coronavirus and school-aged children's half-time vouchers were changed to full-time vouchers for March 16, 2020 – August 30, 2020.
- 3. Real-time Updates:** DECE has launched a [News and Announcement webpage](#) that will provide current resources to assist early childhood programs, and parents, and community to stay up-to-date on the latest recommendations regarding the Coronavirus from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Care Calls: ABC Quality and Child Care Licensing coordinated regular weekly calls to early childhood programs to provide resource information and identify needs. This aided in the development of strategies to assist early childhood programs based on their input during the care calls.



*DSS Regulation 114-507C(2) states that furniture, toys, and recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable, and that recalled products shall not be accessible to children. For more information, call CPSC's hotline at **800-638-2772** or visit their website: www.cpsc.gov. To report a dangerous product or related injury, go to <http://saferproducts.gov>.*



- **Fully Popped Poppin' Cobs 10 Pack Microwave Popcorn** due to fire and burn hazards.
- **Sobeauty "Mag Cube" Magnetic Ball Sets** due to risk of ingestion by children that could cause serious and permanent intestinal injuries or death.
- **Hodedah HI4DR 4-Drawer Chests** due to tip-over and entrapment hazards.
- **Flybar Swurfer Baby and Toddler Swings** due to fall hazard.
- **Aromatics International Wintergreen Essential Oil** due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirement.
- **Organic Pure Oil Wintergreen Essential Oil** due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirement.
- **W8 Distributing Jade Bloom Wintergreen and Birch Sweet Essential Oils** due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirement.
- **Stargate Apparel Bunz Kidz Children's Sleepwear Sets** due to violation of federal flammability standard.
- **Viva Doria Wintergreen Essential Oil** due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirement.
- **Herman Miller and Design Within Reach Dressers and Cabinets** due to tip-over and entrapment hazards.
- **Sanvall Enterprises Rapid Alivio Pain Relieving Roll-On** due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirement.
- **Tim Trading Emori Wintergreen Essential Oil** due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirement.
- **Capstone Holdings Simply Earth Wintergreen Essential Oil** due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirement.