

Message from Director, Michele Bowers



Dear Friends:

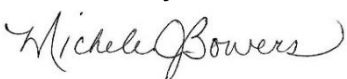
I would like to thank all the child care providers that were able to join me for the Child Care Check-In webinars. It was my pleasure to talk with you personally and have the Division of Early Care and Education Team answer your questions. You provided valuable information via the webinars as well as the provider survey to continue to improve our services, meet your business needs and build partnerships with your program. The following are a couple of exciting highlights mentioned in the provider webinar.

The Department of Social Services is issuing a third round of Child Care Operating Grants to help child care programs that have had to close or have lost revenue due to low enrollments during the last several months as a result of COVID-19. Please visit www.scchildcare.org for additional information.

To assist families, child care assistance may be available for parents, if they are working, in school, or in a training program. If you are interested, please [click here](#) for more information on how to apply and to access the child care application. The number of vouchers is limited based on funding availability and parents must meet income and other requirements to qualify.

In addition, please join me to recognize all early childhood programs as Child Care Heroes in South Carolina on the National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day on Friday, May 7, 2021. Our Division encourages parents, businesses and community members to celebrate the child care programs in their community on the National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day.

Sincerely,



Michele J. Bowers
Division of Early Care & Education Director
South Carolina Child Care Administrator

New Search Tool: SC Endeavors Registry



SC Endeavors has made the ability to find trainings easier by adding a new feature to the registry search tool. The new feature gives expanded opportunities when looking for specific topics, trainers, and areas of interest.

To learn more about the registry and the features it offers [click here](#). To search for trainings [click here](#).

National CACFP Week



CACFP week is a national education and information campaign designed to raise awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. This year the CACFP Week Virtual Kick-off was held on Friday,

March 12, 2021, and was attended by the DSS State Director, Michael Leach. Child care centers celebrated CACFP week during March 14-20, 2021 by sharing photos of meals served during the week and highlighting CACFP in creative ways at their facilities.

Full bulletin board display dedicated to a week of activities at McGill's Bundles of Joy in Marion, SC.



LaPetite 7504 of Florence, SC showcasing Healthy Fruit Roll Ups snacks (wheat tortillas, fresh strawberries & bananas)

Partner Spotlight: SC Beginnings



Identification of hearing loss is so important during the critical time between birth and kindergarten. This is why SC Beginnings has partnered with the Division of Early Care and Education and the SC Inclusion Collaborative to provide hearing screenings and education in child care programs. SC Beginnings provides hearing screenings, on-site training, and technical assistance and consultation – ALL FOR FREE!

To request any of the services, or for more information [click here](#).

4TH Annual SCIMHA Conference: The Power of Relationships



Join with national experts & state leaders to examine practices and policies that can better support infant and early childhood mental health in South Carolina. This virtual conference will take place May 3-6 from 9am - 11:30am.

To register and for more information, [click here](#).

Building for Our Future Pilot Program



Congratulations to Pickens Presbyterian Church Child Development Center for being an ABC Quality program in the state to have their staff members apply for a career level placement in South Carolina Endeavors' professional development and training system!

Special thanks to Jessica Gilstrap, Administrative Assistant, Chasity Lesley, Director, and Tina Bergholm, Assistant

Director, at Pickens Presbyterian Church CDC, for their leadership and support of their staff members in completing their documentation for career placement.

A key element in the quality of a child care program is the staff's education and professional development. Career level placement in the system will allow each program to track education levels for their staff. Pickens Presbyterian Church CDC is participating in the pilot, "Building for Our Future," to identify a program's success in reaching their goals for quality improvement.

ABC Quality wishes Pickens Presbyterian Church CDC and all of the other programs participating in the pilot continued success in achieving their goals for high quality child care.

To visit South Carolina Endeavors to learn more about the career ladder [click here](#).

ABC Quality Child Care Heroes!

ABC Quality would like to congratulate early childhood educators recognized as a Child Care Hero at their early childhood program for nurturing children's well-being and supporting families during the national COVID-19 pandemic.



Mia Gentry

Growing Minds Learning Center – Moore, SC

"We fell in love with her. We know she was God-sent. My child was having a very hard time adjusting. She went to the lengths to find pictures of my husband and I on Facebook, print them out, laminated them and give them to my child to comfort him. This gesture warmed my heart. We appreciate her so much and think she deserves the Child Care Hero Award, because she has definitely saved us!"

- Brittany Howard

Betty Bostick Walker

The Honeytree Preschool – Beaufort, SC

"Throughout Covid, the center has stayed open. Which as a family of essential workers, was extremely important for us! They have been upfront and transparent about how they were keeping our child safe, from checking their temperatures at the door to making parents drop off at the front door instead of the classroom. Every staff member has been happy and kind and willing to do whatever was necessary to keep these children safe."

-Amanda Scaplehorn



A B C Quality Child Care Heroes!

Parents, co-workers, businesses, and community members can nominate any early childhood educator in an early childhood program (e.g. family child care, Head Start, licensed, registered, exempt, etc.) as a Child Care Hero.



Do you want to nominate someone as a Child Care Hero and/or enroll in ABC Quality?

Email Sherrie Dueno, M.Ed.
ECMH-E®

sherrie.dueno@dss.sc.gov

To learn more visit ABC Quality website

<https://www.abcquality.org/>



SC Child Care

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

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SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Early Care & Education

*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>.*



- **dōTERRA – Deep Blue, Past Tense, and Deep Blue Touch Essential Oils**, due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirement.
- **BATTOP – Infant Bath Seats**, due to drowning hazard.
- **RH – Children's Bath Wraps**, due to violation of federal flammability standard.
- **Battat – Infant Teethers**, due to choking hazard caused by detachable plastic wings.
- **Target – Cat & Jack Baby Rompers**, due to choking hazard caused by detachable heart-shaped graphics.
- **Playgro – Infant Activity Rattles**, due to choking hazard caused by dislodging abacus ring.
- **BRAV USA – Youth Jackets with Drawstrings**, due to strangulation and entrapment hazards.
- **YYBA – Welmate Lidocaine Numbing Cream**, due to failure to meet child resistant packaging requirements.