

Southeastern Child Care Resource & Referral and Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance

CHILD CARE **CONNECTION** SUMMER 2023 EDITION

LOOKING FOR OUTDOOR
PLAY IDEAS?

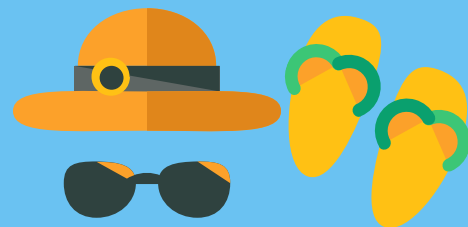
CHECK OUT PAGES 2-3
FOR FUN ACTIVITIES!

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS
Change the World
ONE CHILD AT A TIME



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Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Department of Child Care Resource and Referral
425 West University BLVD.
Durant, OK, 74701-0609



Sidewalk Chalk Activities

SIDEWALK CHALK OBSTACLE COURSE-

[HTTPS://WWW.FOOTSMOMISTERED.COM/SIDEWALK-CHALK-OBSTACLE-COURSE/](https://www.footsmomistired.com/sidewalk-chalk-obstacle-course/)

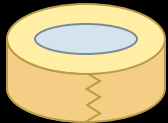


SIDEWALK PAINT-

[HTTPS://HAPPYHOOLIGANS.CA/SIDEWALK-PAINT/](https://happyhooligans.ca/sidewalk-paint/)

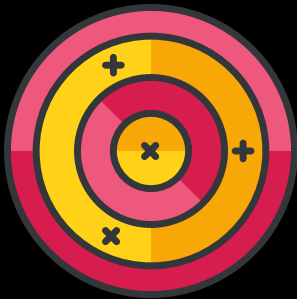
PUFFY SIDEWALK PAINT-

[HTTPS://WWW.THEBESTIDEASFORKIDS.COM/PUFFY-SIDEWALK-PAINT/](https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/puffy-sidewalk-paint/)



SIDEWALK TAPE ART- USE PAINTER'S TAPE AND TAPE GEOMETRIC DESIGNS ON THE SIDEWALK. LET YOUR KIDS COLOR BETWEEN THE TAPE. REMOVE THE TAPE AND ADMIRE THE CREATION! [HTTPS://HIP2SAVE.COM/TIPS/CHALK-ART-USING-PAINTERS-TAPE/](https://hip2save.com/tips/chalk-art-using-painters-tape/)

TWISTER- CREATE YOUR OWN TWISTER BOARD WITH CHALK WITH AT LEAST FOUR COLORS AND FOUR SHAPES. PLAY THE TRADITIONAL RULES OF TWISTER AND HAVE ONE PERSON CALL OUT A COLOR AND SHAPE AND WHICH HAND OR FOOT SHOULD GO WHERE. [HTTPS://DESIGNEDDECOR.COM/TWISTER-GAME/](https://designeddecor.com/twister-game/)

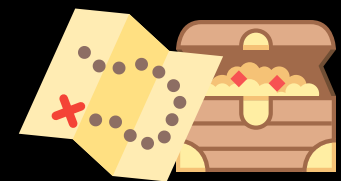


TARGET PRACTICE- DRAW CIRCLES WITH DIFFERENT COLORS WITH A BULLSEYE IN THE MIDDLE. WRITE POINT VALUES ON EACH CIRCLE (THE BULLSEYE IS WORTH THE MOST) AND THEN HAVE THE KIDS THROW AN ITEM (A SPONGE WORKS GREAT) TO SEE WHO CAN GET CLOSEST TO THE BULLSEYE. ADD POINTS TO SEE WHO GETS THE MOST POINTS.

[HTTPS://WWW.ZIPPIKIDS.COM/BLOG/SIDEWALK-CHALK-TARGET-PRACTICE-OUTDOOR-FUN-GAME](https://www.zippikids.com/blog/sidewalk-chalk-target-practice-outdoor-fun-game)

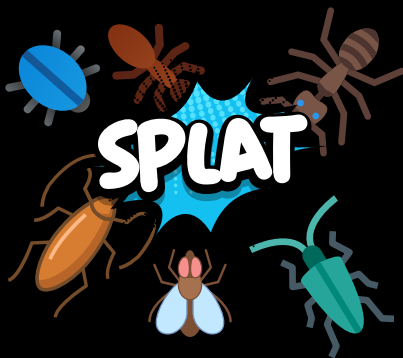
CHALK TREASURE HUNT- WRITE INSTRUCTIONS FOR WHAT YOUR KIDS NEED TO FIND INCLUDING NUMBERS, COLORS AND OTHER DESCRIPTIVE WORDS (BIG/SMALL, FAT/THIN, ETC) THEN SEND THEM OFF ON A FUN ADVENTURE!

[HTTPS://WHATMOMSLOVE.COM/KIDS/SIDEWALK-CHALK-IDEAS/](https://whatmomslove.com/kids/sidewalk-chalk-ideas/)



BUG SWAT!- ANOTHER ACTIVITY THAT MAKES USE OF A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SKILLS SUCH AS SIGHT WORD RECOGNITION, LETTER RECOGNITION, OR BASIC DIGRAPH SOUND RECOGNITION. DRAW SOME CUTE BUGS ON THE SIDEWALK, AND HAND STUDENTS FLYSWATTERS FROM THE DOLLAR STORE. IN THE EXAMPLE BELOW WE ARE PRACTICING LETTER RECOGNITION. WE WOULD CALL OUT A LETTER, AND THE STUDENT WOULD SWAT THE BUG THAT HAD THAT LETTER ON ITS BODY AND SAY SOMETHING THAT STARTED WITH THAT LETTER.

[HTTPS://MODERNPRESCHOOL.COM/ALPHABET-BUG-GAME-FOR-PRESCHOOLERS/](https://modernpreschool.com/alphabet-bug-game-for-preschoolers/)





Water Play Ideas

Sponge Water Bombs

Your kids will have a total blast with our DIY Sponge Water Bombs. They're easier than you think to make; you only need some sponges, some elastic bands, and a few minutes of your time. Have a family water fight when you're done!

<https://endlesslyinspired.com/sponge-water-bombs/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzNIWxnMRvs>



Sink and Float Activity

It's never too early to start exploring initial science concepts like buoyancy, as you see here in this Sink and Float Activity. Kids use items from nature, such as sticks, leaves, flowers, rocks, etc., and make guesses as to what will happen to the older children. You can also incorporate counting and other early learning skills into this activity.

<https://myboredtoddler.com/sink-and-float-water-play-with-natural-materials/>

<https://youtu.be/OkEadDfbPaQ>

Feed the Ducks Sensory Bin

Put together this cute Feed the Ducks Sensory Bin using rubber ducks, corks, and foam lily pads. The corks become the food for the ducks, which kids can scoop and pretend to feed to them.

<https://www.tootsmomistired.com/feed-ducks-sensory-bin/>

https://youtu.be/x3ps7doga_c



Icey Fun

You'll need a little prep time for this water play activity, but it's worth it. Fill various kitchen containers with water and freeze them overnight. Add the different-sized ice blocks to a tub, water table, or sink to explore. To extend this simple activity add some containers of warm/hot water and some eye droppers to melt the ice blocks, or add food coloring to the ice and watch the colors combine as it melts, or add some fun things to freeze in ice blocks and watch them escape as they melt.

<https://picklebums.com/twenty-fun-things-to-freeze-in-ice-blocks/>

https://youtu.be/CrIOHU_uj9A



What is OK Shared Services?

OK Shared Services web platform that forms a hub of tools focused on supporting the needs of early childhood education and care professionals. Quick links to difficult-to-find state and federal regulations, samples and templates of procedures, policies, forms, handbooks and more help providers manage their programs more efficiently and effectively. The resources are created with the knowledge and expertise from ECE and care experts in 28 states resulting in very high-quality, vetted tools.

How Can it Help Me?

The early childhood education and care sector is challenged with rising costs, shrinking budgets, and a rapidly changing workforce. This site provides a systematic approach to address these challenges while strengthening the needs of this sector. OK Shared Services helps save time and money that can be invested in quality improvement efforts. Tools and resources enable practitioners to improve the quality of the education and care they provide.

Membership is FREE to all Oklahoma Child Care Providers/Teachers

Participation is by membership. Every provider will be given a free year of membership from their first login during 2019 with unlimited users. After the first year, membership fees are as follows:

- Family Child Care Homes: \$35/year with 2 user logins.
- Child Care Centers with a licensed capacity of 99 or fewer: \$110/year with 4 user logins.
- Child Care Centers with a licensed capacity of 100 or more: \$150/year with 6 user logins.

Are there savings or discounts offered?

Pre-negotiated everyday discounts are available on a variety of products and services used by ECE and care programs throughout the US. Types of savings programs include: payroll, office and classroom supplies, facilities and janitorial supplies, uniforms, website development, food, insurance, and more. Users choose which program they'd like to use and when they want to use it.

Typical Savings:

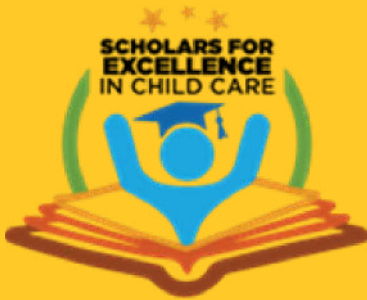
- Office Supplies 12% - 18%
- School Supplies 10% - 20%
- Payroll Processing 25% - 30%
- Food Supply 10% - 35%
- Job Postings 55%

Materials and documents that were difficult to develop are easy to locate and customize with Shared Services.

Tools are presented in Microsoft Word and Excel. They can be downloaded, edited and customized for immediate use by a program. A few of the tools that help contribute to higher quality include:

- Clear Polices
- Handbooks
- Checklists
- Procedures
- Cost Savings Programs
- Classroom Tips
- Parent Handouts
- Hiring and HR Documents

Funded in part by OKDHS Child Care Services, Potts Family Foundation, Tulsa Educare, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma and the Shawnee Tribe.



Oklahoma State Regents for
Higher Education

Heather McLean

Murry State College
580-319-0304 (Office)
580-371-6679 (Cell)
hmclean@mscok.edu

Verna Corley

Carl Albert State College
918-647-1252 (Office)
918-385-1341 (Cell)
vcorley@carlalbert.edu

Become a Master Teacher for Free!

The Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Scholarship Program is covering 100% of tuition and fees for students seeking either a CDA or Certificate of Mastery (CoM). The CDA can be earned by completing all 10 units of the "Pathway to your National Credential" curriculum. This can be done 100% online! **Contact Bailey Maxey, at 405-225-9133 or bmaxey@osrhe.edu** if interested in earning a CDA.

The Certificate of Mastery (CoM) is a credential earned through Community College coursework and never needs to be renewed! If you're interested in earning a CoM, please contact qwilczek@osrhe.edu if interested in a Community College Scholarship.

Both credentials translate to Master Teacher status and increase levels of providers on the Oklahoma Professional Development Ladder. Stipends are also available upon completion of the credentials.

Summer Recipes

Pasta and Trees

Ingredients:

- 1 pound broccoli tops
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 Pound pasta: penne rigate, corkscrew cavatappi, elbows or medium shells
- 1 Tbsp. Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2 Tbsp. Butter cut up
- 1 cup grated parmesan, Parmigiano Reggiano, or Romano cheese

Directions:

1. Separate the broccoli into small trees by pulling them apart. Put the broccoli florets (trees) into a pot and cover the florets with enough water just to cover the tops, then bring to a boil. Add salt to the water. Cook broccoli for 5 minutes then drain.
2. Boil a pot of water and a few pinches of salt for the pasta. Cook to al dente, according to pasta cooking directions.
3. Put the Olive Oil and butter into a big bowl, then add the hot, drained pasta and broccoli into the bowl. Add cheese to the bowl and stir it all up until the butter melts and the cheese mixes in. Add a little salt and pepper and taste the pasta and trees to see how the seasoning is.



Strawberry Yogurt Popsicles with Granola

Ingredients:

- 2 cups Greek vanilla yogurt, or regular yogurt, divided
- 3/4 cup strawberries, sliced
- 1 cup strawberries, dices 1/4-inch by 1/4 inch
- 1/2 cup granola, your favorite kind



Directions:

1. In a blender, puree 3/4 cup sliced strawberries and 3/4 cup vanilla yogurt together until a smooth, consistent texture is reached, about 1 minute.
2. Layer the popsicles as follows: 1 teaspoon cubed strawberries, 1 tablespoon vanilla yogurt, 1 tablespoon blended strawberry yogurt, 1 teaspoon granola. Repeat layers once more or until the mold is filled to the top.
3. Place cover on the mold and insert the popsicle sticks. Freeze for at least 6 hours, or overnight.
4. When ready to remove, run the molds under warm water for ten to fifteen seconds. Slowly and carefully remove each popsicle. If the popsicles remain in the mold, run them under warm water for a few more seconds, ensuring not to melt the pops.



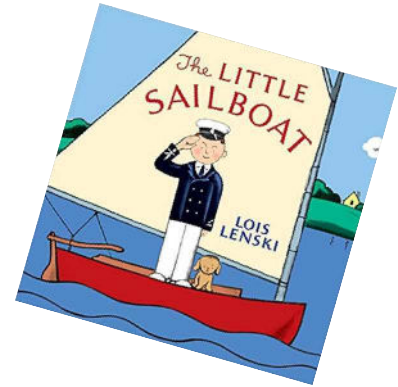
SUMMER STORIES



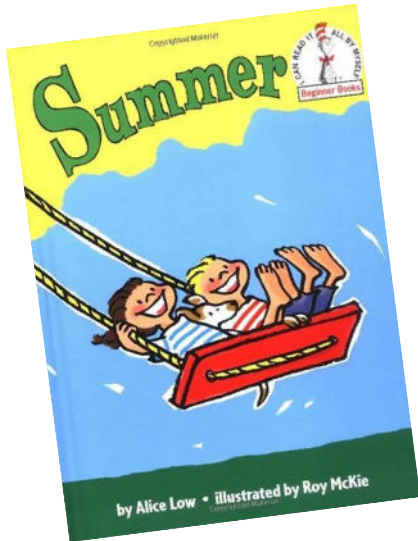
The Little Sailboat

Mr. Small is a sailor in this maritime adventure! Captain Small and his dog Tinker sail and fish together. When a storm comes, Captain Small heads for the safety of the shore. A comforting, nostalgic story full of information about sailing.

Ages Infant - 3



Summer



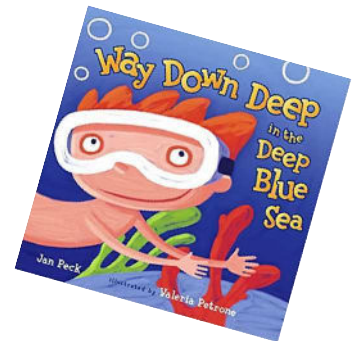
Better than fireworks, this classic Beginner Book edited by Dr. Seuss celebrates all the wonderful things that come with summer! From trips to the beach and eating watermelon to fireworks and fishing, Alice Low and Roy McKie's Summer will have young readers eager for the kind of fun only warm breezes and sunny weather can bring.

Ages 1-6

Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea

A boy swims way down deep in the deep blue sea to find treasure. While he explores the sea, the boy sees a variety of sea creatures including a sea horse, a hermit crab, and a swordfish. This story's cute conclusion contains a surprise that reveals the boy was using his imagination the whole time.

Ages 3-5



Summer Color!



In this celebration of the outdoors, two rambunctious children take off on an adventure from their own backyard. In each new scene they discover the wondrous details and beautiful colors of nature. Even when a little summer rain threatens to dampen their grand adventure, the fun continues as woodland scenes come to life in a whole new way.

Ages 4-8

SMOOTH TRANSITIONS

As childcare providers, one of our important responsibilities is guiding children through various activities throughout the day. Smooth transitions from one activity to the next are crucial for maintaining a positive and structured environment. However, we understand that transitioning children can sometimes be challenging. That's why we've put together this guide to help you navigate these transitions effectively, ensuring a seamless experience for both the children and caregivers.



Children thrive on predictability and structure. Establishing a consistent routine provides them with a sense of security and helps them anticipate what comes next. For example, you can create a visual schedule that outlines the sequence of activities. Use pictures or symbols to represent each activity, making it easier for children to understand and follow along. Example: Begin each day with circle time, followed by outdoor play, then a snack, and finally, a quiet reading time.

Providing cues and signals to signify upcoming transitions helps children mentally prepare for the change. These cues can be auditory, visual, or a combination of both. For instance, you can use a chime, a musical signal, or a specific phrase that alerts children to the upcoming transition. Example: Ring a bell and say, "It's time to clean up and get ready for snack time."



When it's time to transition, communicate with children clearly and concisely. Use simple language that they can easily understand. Clearly state what is expected of them and what they must do to move on to the next activity. Example: Say, "Please put your toys in the bins and join us at the snack table."

Visual timers are practical tools for helping children understand the concept of time and manage their expectations during transitions. Use a timer that clearly shows how much time is left for the current activity, allowing children to prepare mentally. Example: Set a visual timer and say, "When the timer beeps, we'll clean up and move on to the next activity."



By implementing these strategies, you can create a smooth transition experience for children in your care. Remember to be patient, flexible, and attuned to each child's individual needs. With your guidance and support, children will develop the skills necessary to navigate transitions successfully and thrive in the childcare setting. Transitions are not only a part of their daily routine but also opportunities for growth, learning, and social-emotional development. Together, we can create a nurturing environment where children feel supported and empowered during every transition.

Supporting Transitions

Transitions occur throughout the day. Make transitions easier by constructing a few props and activities to occupy children when they are waiting for a new activity to begin.

Five Little Peas

Age Group: Infants

What you need: Materials not required

- **What you do:** Sing the following lyrics while acting out the words. *Five little peas in a pea pod pressed* (cup two hands and pretend there are peas hidden inside them), *one grew, two grew* (slowly lift one finger and then another), *and so did the rest* (begin to separate your hands from each other, but not completely). *They grew and grew and did not stop* (inflate your hands until they look like a ball), *until one day they all went pop!* (clap hands together on the word "pop").

What they learn: The finger-play can capture the infant's attention or call mobile infants to you. Wondering what might be inside your hands will inspire their natural curiosity, and children will be introduced to math skills such as counting, sequencing, and patterning.

Source: *Easy Songs for Smooth Transitions in the Classroom* by Nina Araújo and Carol Aghayan (2006, Redleaf Press).

Name that Singer

Age Group: Toddlers

What you need: Tape recorder or digital recorder on a phone or tablet

- **What you do:** Once children have learned 1-2 songs, record their individual voices singing. Once children's songs have been recorded, play the recordings and ask the children to identify each singer. Once the children have named the singer, they can join in and finish the song. If children cannot guess the singer by the end of the song, give them hints about the singer such as eye color, what they are wearing that day, or where they are sitting. If you record the song as a video, you can also show the children who is singing.

What they learn: This activity encourages children to practice listening and language skills, identify people by their voices, and express themselves creatively.

Source: *Transition Magician: Strategies for Guiding Young Children in Early Childhood Programs* by Nola Larson, Mary Henthorne, and Barbra Plum (1994, Red Leaf Press)

Puzzles to Go

Age Group: Preschool

What you need: Poster board, glue sticks, pictures from magazines, postcards or greeting cards, clear contact paper, sealable plastic sandwich bags, box or tote, and sharp scissors (adult use only).

- **What you do:** Glue pictures onto a piece of poster board, and when they are dry cover them with clear contact paper. Use scissors to cut the pictures into puzzle pieces. Store each puzzle in a plastic bag, and place the bags in a box. During transitions, children who are waiting can choose a puzzle to do. Once everyone is done, the puzzles can be put away.

What they learn: Children learn how to entertain themselves while they are waiting, and they practice spatial awareness, eye-hand coordination, patterning, and problem-solving skills.

Source: *Transition Magician: Strategies for Guiding Young Children in Early Childhood Programs* by Nola Larson, Mary Henthorne, and Barbara Plum (1994, Red Leaf Press)

Spinner Story Boards

Age Group: School Age

What you need: An eighteen-inch diameter circle from a piece of poster board, scrap pieces of poster board to make arrows, permanent markers, brad fasteners, pictures from die cuts or magazines, glue sticks, and a ruler.

- **What you do:** Make the storyboard by dividing the circle into six equal wedges. Use the ruler and a permanent marker to draw the lines. Poke a hole in the center of the circle and attach an arrow-shaped pointer made from poster board scraps with a Brad fastener. Glue one picture in each section for a total of six pictures. When children are waiting during transitions, they can sit in a group with the storyboards. One child spins the arrow and starts a story using the picture as inspiration. Each child takes a turn adding to the story until the group is satisfied that their story is complete. Make several different spinner storyboards and store them in a box.

What they learn:

Source: *Transition Magician: Strategies for Guiding Young Children in Early Childhood Programs* by Nola Larson, Mary Henthorne, and Barbra Plum (1994, Red Leaf Press)

Southeastern Child Care Resource & Referral



About Us

SECCR&R's focus is to assist child care providers in delivering quality child care to children and families. SECCR&R does this by presenting or arranging training for those who work with children, recruiting additional child care providers, and administering one-on-one coaching and technical assistance in child care programs.

Provider Services

- coaching/technical assistance
- professional development opportunities
- use of our resource room
- use of our lending library

For more information,
call (580) 745-2105 or, check out our website:
<http://www.se.edu/dept/childcare/>



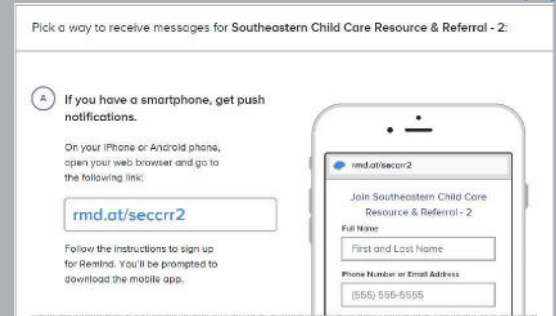
Get Remind Updates

Want newsletters sent directly to your phone, information about trainings and special events?

**Text @seccr2 to 81010 or
Click here to join our Remind group!**

Remind is also a wonderful resource for keeping communication open with your families.

Click here to find out how Remind can help you.



Oklahoma WARMLINE

For Parents & Providers
...because kids don't come with instructions.

Free telephone consultation for parents, caregivers, and providers
8 am to 6 pm, Monday thru Friday

Consultants can help with:



Clarify a problem and help generate ideas related to behavior, development, health, and safety



Offer guidance on developmentally appropriate practices



Provide community referrals, resources and follow-up, when needed

For more information or to explore our Health Topic Library visit
okwarmline.org
or call

(888) 574-KIDS (5437)

Email questions:
warmline@health.ok.gov

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care, Stipends



The Scholars program awards stipends for the completion of a Child Development Associate (CDA), Certificate of Mastery, Directors Certificate of Completion, Associates Degree, and Bachelors Degree.

- CDA stipends start at \$600
- Certificate of Mastery stipend starts at \$800
- Directors Certificate of Completion \$1,000
- Associate Degree stipend starts at \$1,500
- Bachelors Degree stipend starts at \$2,000

For more information about the Scholars Program in the Southeastern Region please contact Verna Corley at Carl Albert State College at 918.647.1252 or The State Scholarship Office at 405.225.9397



Go to <https://www.okhighered.org/scholars/> for more information



The Center for Early Childhood Professional Development

Month	Tentative Free Training Schedule
April	Invitations to Play - Nature and Adventures
May	Continuous Quality Improvement
June	Continuity of Care

For more information, contact (405)799-6383

To find free training, go to the CECPDOnline.org website and click on the Monthly free training link <https://cecpdonline.org/free-training-july-2021/>



DHS County Offices for Southeast Region

Atoka County DHS
801 S. Greathouse Dr.
Atoka, OK 74525-3436
(580) 889-3394
1-800-225-0051

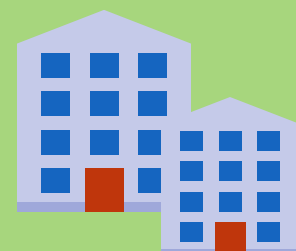
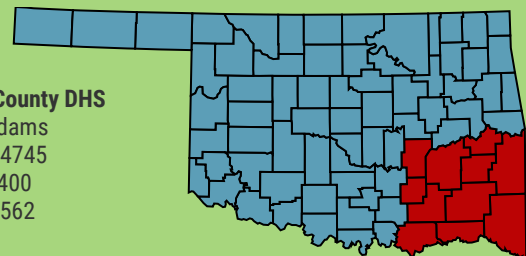
Bryan County DHS
4302 Hwy. 70 West
Durant, OK 74701
(580) 931-2500
1-800-225-0062

Leflore County DHS
511 S. Harper
Poteau, OK 74953
(918) 649-2300
1-800-493-7960

Pushmataha County DHS
104 S.E. "B" St.
Antlers, OK 74523
(580) 298-3361
1-800-270-0803

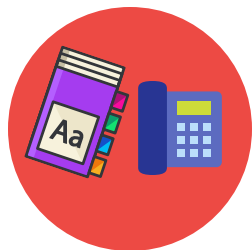
McCurain County DHS
1300 S.E. Adams
Idabel, OK 74745
(580) 208-3400
1-800-815-7562

Pittsburg County DHS
1900 South Main
McAlester, OK 74501
(918) 421-6100
1-800-270-0792



Due to DHS office closures, office hours and locations are subject to change.





Helpful Contacts and Resources

Reaching for the Stars

Tiffany McPherson

918.348.8518

Tiffany.Mcpherson@okdhs.org

Serving the following SE OK counties:

Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha.

Services

Child Care Warmline

888.574.5437

warmline@health.ok.gov

Center for Early Childhood Professional Development

888.446.7608

www.cecpd.org

Office of Background Investigations

800.347.2276

OK DHS Child Care Services

844.834.8314

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care

866.343.3881

www.okhighered.org/scholars

Resources

Locate Quality Child Care

800.438.0008

211 Oklahoma

<https://www.211ok.org/>

Zero to Three

202.638.1144

www.zerotothree.org

Child Care Aware

800.424.2246

www.childcareaware.org

NAEYC

800.424.2460

www.naeyc.org

Online Provider Training

www.SmartHorizons.org

CCR&R Staff

Lyndi Scarberry

Director

580.745.3166

lscarberry@se.edu

Nicole Helmer

CCR&R Specialist

580.745.3176

nhelmer@se.edu

Open Position

Infant/Toddler Specialist

Open Position

Business Specialist

Marsha McClour

Administrative Assistant

580.745.2105

mmccclour@se.edu

Choctaw Nation CCA Staff

Angie Hodge

Senior Manager

580.642.8150

ahodge@choctawnation.com

Elizabeth Thompson

Program Manager I

580.642.7344

ethompson@choctawnation.com

Margie Cloud

Eligibility Caseworker

580.642.8144

mcloud@choctawnation.com

Mary Robinson

Eligibility Caseworker

580.642.8147

mrobinson@choctawnation.com

Brook Rangel

Monitoring Coordinator

580.642.4128

lmattews@choctawnation.com

Loni Conner

Events and Resource Coordinator

580.642.4191

lconner@choctawnation.com

Tracey Fulton

Senior Data Entry

580.642.6661

tfulton@choctawnation.com

Kristie Mayfield

Senior Clerk

580.642.7139

kmayfield@choctawnation.com

Rhonda Vaught

Early Steps To Literacy Coordinator

580.775.3869

rvaught@choctawnation.com

Find SE CCR&R
online at:

