 Five County
Association of Governments

CONNECTED IN CARE



"Friends don't let friends line dance alone."

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2026

Your Source for
News, Resources,
Tips and Tricks,
Everything Early
Childhood!



GIDDY UP to Cedar City and Let the Adventure Begin!

CHILD CARE RESOURCE AGENCY &
SUU FAMILY LIFE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
PRESENTS:

25TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN UTAH
EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

*If you have not registered yet,
see a special discount on next page*

SPECIAL OFFER



The first 30 people who register with the QR code below will receive a **SPECIAL Conference PRICE**, so get on your horse and register today!

REGISTER NOW!



Register here!



EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY APRIL 10TH - 11TH
SUUCEDAR CITY

Friday Evening



Connection Over Perfection:

Creating a Ripple Effect
6-7 PM



Followed by:



Line Dancing with Eric Dodge
7-9 PM

Saturday Keynote

KEYNOTE PRESENTER:
TERESA BYINGTON, PH.D.

HappyTrailsto You:
Finding Joy in the Journey



This document is provided with various other information. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. Please consult your professional advisor for more information.



Find the early childhood resources you need, all in one place.

Early Childhood Utah helps parents and caregivers find trusted resources for children aged 0 through 8. Our website lets you search for and explore programs and services across Utah that match your family's needs and concerns. Whether you know what you're looking for or want to see what's out there, start here.





There are two easy ways to explore resources available to your family:




Search or browse the following topics to find resources based on your child's needs:

 Immediate resources

 Special needs & early intervention

 Parenting & family support

 Health & safety

 Child care & early education

 Food & nutrition

Or search by keyword if you know exactly what you need, such as "child care," "food," or "parenting support."

Search by keyword

Childcare

Search

If you have questions or want more guidance, one of our Care Coordinators can offer free support.



Scan the QR code to visit EarlyChildhood.Utah.gov and start exploring resources for your child.





Applying and Scoring with the New Framework

Beginning March 1, 2026, all new and recertifying programs that apply for a certified quality rating will be scored using the new CCQS framework. This means that programs applying on or after this date will be assessed based on the updated criteria and measures when scored.

New Ratings and Public Display Effective Date

Programs that are scored under the new framework will receive a certified quality rating based on this new framework, effective starting July 1, 2026. On this date, all programs that currently hold a rating will have the new name associated with the level earned displayed on the Care About Childcare website and public search tool.

Next Steps for Your Program

Please visit the official CCQS resources webpage to access more detailed information on this update, including the new scoring framework for both Center and Family Childcare, rubrics, and additional resources.



**Contract Carlene Hanson for
more information
435-632-2195
chanson@fivecounty.utah.gov**

WORKFORCE SERVICES CHILD CARE Child Care Resource Agency at Utah State University

All Means ALL

Special Needs Training for Child Care Programs

Upon completion:

- A \$400 grant for children's material based on goals set by caregiver from special needs training
- A personal \$400 incentive for completing the All Means All (AMA) requirements

For more information:
Visit allmeansall.usu.edu or contact your regional [Child Care Resource Agency](#)
435-797-1552
Childcare_help@usu.edu

Licensed Family Child Care and Centers:

- Complete Special Needs Endorsement (40 hours of training)
- Post a Welcoming Statement to your program's CAC profile
- Compile a local resource list for families
- Submit your program's Exclusion/Discipline Policies
- Set goals for your program based on your training

Equal Opportunity Employer Program

This program funding is year to year and is only for providers and programs in Utah. Funding from the Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care through the Child Care and Development Block Grant, Utah State University, College of Education and Human Services, Department of Human Development and Family Studies.



FREE PARENT SUPPORT

Parenting Is Hard. You Don't Have to Do It Alone.

Families Receive:

- One-on-one visits with a family support specialist
- First time expectant moms receive a personal nurse to support pregnancy and health questions.
- Early literacy support
- Monthly group activities
- In home or virtual visits 2-4 times a month
- Help navigating sibling relationships
- Developmental screenings
- Support for all parenting questions! Customized for your family.

Washington & Iron Counties
Prenatal- age 9!



**LIMITED
SPACE!
SIGN UP
TODAY!**

Families Have Experienced:

- Increased relationship with their child.
- Higher confidence in parenting choices.
- Better connection with community.
- Increased literacy skills in school.
- Positive parenting outlook.
- Healthy pregnancy outcomes.
- United parenting approach.
- Smooth daily routines.

Earn Your CDA in the FAST TRACK!



2026/27 Cohorts:
Working on your CDA in a cohort can provide structure & support with other teachers like you, & a great instructor that keeps you on track!

- Take all 120 hours as a group via scheduled Zoom call
- Work on your portfolio as you go with occasional Friday workshops
- Monday-Thursdays, 2 weeks on, then break for one week, then back on for 2 weeks
- 7 pm to 9:30 pm



Contact: Melissa Brown- CDA Specialist
Child Care Resource Agency - Western
St George

435-628-4843

mbrown@fivecounty.utah.gov

This document is produced with funding from the Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care through the Child Care and Development Block Grant

Congratulations!

Kathleen Springer - Preschool

Rebekah Cram - Preschool

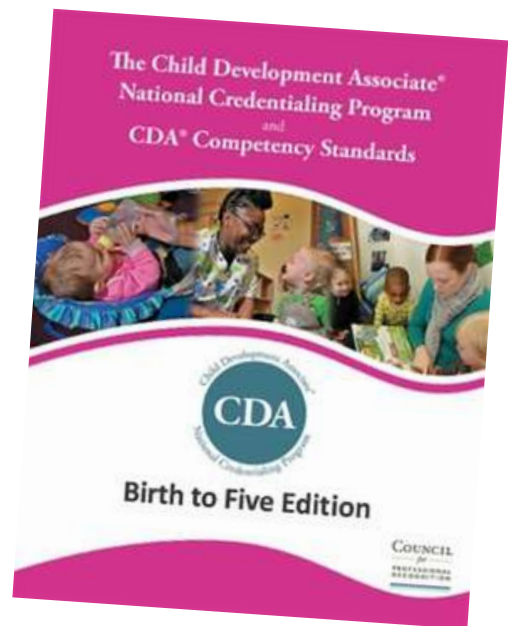
Rusty McKusick - Family

CONTACT:

MELISSA BROWN

MBROWN@FIVECOUNTY.UTAH.GOV

435-628-4843



Ask us about the new Birth-5 Credential!

COUNCIL
for
PROFESSIONAL
RECOGNITION



Important: to Upload your CDA Certificate!

CPR/First Aid Training

Beaver County: Milford Valley Hospital
435-387-2411 ext. 4

Garfield County: Garfield Memorial Hospital
435-676-5496

Iron County: Valley View Medical Center
435-868-5496

Millard County: Brandon Woods
801-920-5548

Sanpete County: Gunnison Valley Fire Dept
435-813-2572
Gunnison Valley Hospital
435-528-2156

Sevier County: Central Utah Public Health
EMS/Emergency Management
435-893-9166

Washington County: Dixie Applied Tech College
435-674-8641
Claudia Zundel
435-467-9556
Ridgeview CPR Patty Hanson
435-862-8965
EMS Safety Cheryl Ashcraft
435-229-5086
The Pulse CPR Training
435-632-5066
Southern Utah CPR
435-619-1931

Wayne County: Wayne County Health Dept.
435-836-1316

Fingerprinting locations by county

Beaver County Beaver County School District 435-438-2291

Iron County Iron County Sheriffs office - 435-867-7500

Kane County Kane County Sheriff's office- 435-644-4916

Sanpete North Sanpete School District- 435-462-2485
South Sanpete School District- 435-835-2261

Sevier County Central Utah Educational Services-
435-896-4469

Washington County Utah Tech University EMS Dept-
435-879-4951
YUP Fingerprinting- 435-359-3151

Wayne County Wayne County School District- 435-425-3813



GET ON THE
LIST FOR
EMERGENCY
ALERTS IN

SCAN ME YOUR COUNTY!



TOPIC OF THE MONTH: EMERGENCY DRILLS/PLANS

Conducting Emergency Drills

Emergency drills in childcare settings are essential for preparing both children and staff for real-life emergencies, as they help familiarize everyone with established emergency procedures. This familiarity ensures a calm and efficient response when an actual emergency arises. We will outline the types of drills necessary, discuss best practices for documentation, and address how to rectify any issues identified during these drills.

To Do

- Educate Children About Emergencies
- Maintain a Calm and Positive Atmosphere
- Practice Regularly
- Components of the Drill
 - Notification, Action, Communication, Care and Supervision, Conclusion
- Documentation and Improvement

For more information: ChildCareEd.com

Emergency Preparedness Plans

[ChildCareEd](#) shares the critical importance of establishing comprehensive emergency preparedness plans in childcare settings. These plans are essential for ensuring the safety of children and staff during various emergencies.

Creating an effective emergency preparedness plan involves several key components:

- **Risk Assessment:**
 - Identify potential hazards specific to your location, such as natural-disasters (e.g., floods, earthquakes) or security threats (e.g., intruders).
 - Evaluate the physical and mental capabilities of the children in your care, including those with special needs.
- **Written Policies and Procedures:**
 - Develop clear, written guidelines that detail the actions to be taken during various emergencies. This should include:
 - Evacuation Plans: Outline routes, assembly points, and procedures for safely evacuating the facility.
 - Shelter-in-Place Plans: Define protocols for situations where it is safer to remain indoors.
 - Lock-down Procedures: Establish steps to secure the facility during threats, such as an active shooter or intruder.
- **Designated Responsibilities:**
 - Assign specific roles to staff members to ensure accountability during emergencies. Responsibilities may include:
 - Making emergency calls to authorities.
 - Leading evacuations and accounting for all children.
 - Communicating with families and coordinating reunification efforts.
- **Communication Protocols:**
 - Establish clear communication channels for notifying staff, children, and parents during emergencies. This may involve:
 - Using loudspeakers or intercom systems for announcements.
 - Maintaining updated contact lists for parents and emergency services.
- **Training and Drills:**
 - Conduct regular training sessions for staff to familiarize them with emergency procedures.
 - Schedule emergency drills (e.g., fire drills, lock-down drills) to practice and reinforce the response strategies. Drills should be age-appropriate and designed to help children understand what to expect during an emergency.
- **Review and Improvement:**
 - Regularly review and update the emergency preparedness plan to incorporate feedback from drills and any changes in regulations or best practices.
 - Engage with local emergency services to ensure your plans align with community resources and response capabilities.

By implementing these components, childcare facilities can create a robust emergency preparedness plan that not only protects children and staff but also instills confidence in parents and caregivers. A well-prepared environment fosters a culture of safety, ensuring that everyone knows their roles and responsibilities during emergencies.

For more information: [ChildCareEd.com](https://www.childcareed.com)

Scan the code below for the latest code of conduct for online courses

Professional Development System Participant Code of Conduct for Career Ladder Approved In-Person Child Care Resource Agency Courses

Punctuality/Attendance: I understand that I must be in class at or before the time scheduled for class to begin in order to obtain credit for the class. If I arrive after the time class is scheduled to begin, I may be able to use the time I was in attendance for other training credit, but I will have to repeat the full session to receive Career Ladder credit for the course. This includes returning on time from breaks and lunch. Class will begin when the instructor determines it is time to start. I understand that if I am not present during the entire class session, I will not receive Career Ladder credit for the session and will have to repeat the session in order to receive credit.

Disruptive Behavior: I will be respectful to all personnel that support the Professional Development System including Child Care Resource Agency (CCRA) staff, Utah Registry for Professional Development (URPD) staff and Office of Child Care (OCC) staff. I will not use obscene, profane, threatening, discriminatory, harassing or abusive language. During class, I will be respectful to the instructor and others in attendance during each class session. I will not engage in any conversation or behavior that is disruptive or disrespectful to the instructor or other participants in the class. I will attentively participate in class. I understand that I am required to turn my cell phone and/or other electronic devices off or turn them to vibrate during class time and limit use to educational purposes (e.g. taking notes or pictures of activities). I will not text message or make cell phone calls during class time. I will limit texts and calls to break time or before or after class. I will not engage in disruptive private conversations during class time. If I must bring food or drink to class, I will eat quietly and will not allow food or drink to become disruptive or distracting to the instructor or other class participants.

Illegal Activity/Health & Safety: I understand that any illegal activity, including behavior that threatens the health or safety of the instructor or other participants before, during or after class will be cause for my immediate expulsion from class, and my privilege to participate in CCRA courses and receive financial support and incentives from the Utah Registry for Professional Development (URPD) may be permanently revoked. I understand that such behavior may be cause for intervention by law enforcement and/or other legal action. I understand that I may be asked to leave a class if my condition prevents me from participating or is disruptive to the class environment.

to ensure a productive adult learning environment and minimize the number of children brought to class. I understand that due to certain host agency policies regarding breastfeeding, the instructor may make exceptions for a lactating parent to quickly nurse during a course, as long as the infant is not

and that in order to receive credit for each class session, it is my responsibility to sign my full legal name on the roll before class begins. I understand that if I do not sign the roll for someone else, I will not receive credit for the class session. I understand that if I do not sign the roll for someone else,

I understand that confidentiality is extremely important. I understand that I am responsible for keeping confidential information confidential when I am asked for guidance regarding certain issues. I also understand that I am responsible to keep sensitive issues discussed during class confidential and not discuss it with family or friends outside of the classroom setting.

I understand that class registration fees are non-refundable. I understand that I am responsible to pay for which I am registered, my registration fee may be able to be refunded. I understand that it is my responsibility to contact the host agency to make these arrangements.

I understand that if I would like to request an accommodation, I must do so before the start of the class I plan to attend directly. The host agency calendar in the course details, under

The rules outlined within this Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced and will be recorded with CCRA and URPD. I will be notified in writing as a warning. I understand that upon the second violation of this Code of Conduct, I will be removed from participation in CCRA courses and will be ineligible for URPD for one year from the violation. If I am notified of such violation of the first incident of illegal activity (including but not limited to), my privilege to participate in CCRA courses and incentives from URPD may be



FINGERPRINTING GRANT AVAILABLE

CHILD CARE RESOURCE AGENCY OFFERS A GRANT TO SUPPORT FINGERPRINT COSTS FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS AND FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS. THIS GRANT WILL COVER ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS THE LOCATION CHARGES TO PROCESS THE FINGERPRINTS. THIS GRANT DOES NOT INCLUDE BACKGROUND SCREENING COSTS INCURRED, SUCH AS FEES CHARGED BY CHILD CARE LICENSING. THE GRANT APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.CHILDCAREHELP.ORG THE GRANT MUST BE APPLIED FOR, COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF INCURRED EXPENSES.

DOCUMENTATION (APPLICATION, RECEIPT AND A LIST OF THOSE WHO WERE FINGERPRINTED MUST BE MAILED TO CHILD CARE RESOURCE AGENCY 2344 W INDUSTRY WAY CEDAR CITY UT, 84721 OR THEY CAN EMAIL TO NREEVES@FIVECOUNTY.UTAH.GOV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT NATHAN 435-628-4843



Upcoming Courses

April 2026

Special Needs #1
 Director's Toolbox #2
 All About Twos

April 13, 14, 15, 16
 April 6, 13, 20, 27
 April 13, 15, 20, 22

May 2026

School Age #4
 Creating Good Childcare

May 4, 5, 6, 7
 May 4, 6, 11, 13

June 2026

Special Needs #4
 Infant Toddler #2

June 8, 9, 10, 11
 June 15, 16, 17, 18

Contact Stephanie Mikesell
 at 435-201-3737
 For Professional Development
 questions.



Signing up for Professional Development Classes:
 Log into your Care About Childcare profile and click on "Professional Development", then select the "Course Calendar"

You can search by date, county, the organization doing the training, or other options here:

1

2 Add classes to your cart like before... if there's no cart, class is full.

3

You can choose "Self Pay" or "Program Pays" if your program is funding your classes.

4

Proceed to payment or wait for your program to approve. You're done!

OUR CLASSES COVER A RANGE OF SUBJECTS, COUNT FOR CDA AND CAREER LADDER CREDIT, AND ARE MOSTLY ONLINE! THAT MEANS YOU CAN TAKE CLASSES WITH ANY CAC AGENCY ACROSS THE STATE!

Course Cancellation Policy

All classes will be held as advertised unless canceled for the following three reasons:

- 1) Low enrollment, if enrollment is below 10 participants the class will be cancelled, and vouchers/refunds will be given to all participants who have enrolled in the class.
- 2) Instructor is unable to attend the class, we will make every effort to replace the instructor with an equally qualified replacement instructor in a timely manner. If no instructor is available, we will reschedule that portion of the class.
- 3) If inclement weather causes a dangerous travel situation for providers to attend a face-to-face class, we will reschedule the class on the next available date.

In all the above-mentioned situations Child Care Resource Agency-Western staff will notify providers by text, email, and phone calls that the class has been rescheduled and/or canceled. Additionally, a sign will be posted for face-to-face classes at the location where the class was to be held.