



Provider Press

Please post newsletter and training calendar!

Child Care Resource Network wants to reach **EVERYONE** in our early childhood community!

To receive the newsletter, training calendar, and helpful articles by email contact CCRN at CCRN@soesd.k12.or.us or call (541) 842-2575 to be added to our distribution list.

Be sure to add CCRN's email to your contacts!
We want to stay in touch!

Fall 2019

<i>Inside this issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
CCRN Resuming Checks & Updates	2
Conscious Discipline Survey	2
Interview with Gema McSoto	2
Infant Sleeper Recall	3
The Business of Child Care	3
Playground Safety Checklist	3
Pumpkins are Perfect	4



Spark News ~ Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System

Since its beginning in February 2013, over 1500 programs have made a commitment to children and families by choosing to participate in Spark, and the Spark community is continuing to grow.

In the first half of 2019, across the state **90 new participants** were welcomed, **43 new ratings** were celebrated, and **\$115,570 in incentive and support funds** were dispersed.

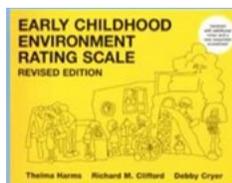
* Not participating in Spark yet?

A CCRN Quality Improvement Specialist can help. Email CCRN@soesd.k12.or.us or call 541-842-2575 to get the support and incentive funding you need to strengthen your program.

With changes to some of the requirements, earning a Star rating for the first time, or increasing your Star rating, is a an achievable .and meaningful goal.

* Interested in Continuous Quality Improvement and receiving \$150?

Any program currently participating in Spark at any level can request an Environment Rating Scale assessment visit as a way to support their Continuous Quality Improvement efforts.



After the assessment visit, programs will receive a **\$150 stipend** and valuable feedback in the form of an ERS Summary Assessment Report within two weeks of the assessment visit.



The Environment Rating Scales (ERS) are widely used and respected assessment tools that give valuable information on program strengths and areas that may need additional attention. The ERS tools are now being added to the Spark process as another layer of support.

The ERS focus on three basic needs of children:

- Protection of health and safety
- Supporting and guiding social/emotional development
- Opportunities for intellectual and language stimulation and appropriate learning activities

The ERS authors highlight this holistic approach. "No one component is more or less important than the others, It takes all three to create quality and education."

CCRN will be offering trainings on the ERS to help early educators understand how to use the tools and the value of using them. Participants will receive copies of the ERS to use in their programs. Visit the Environment Rating Scales Institute web-site, <https://www.ersi.info/index.html>, to learn more.

If you are interested in volunteering your program for an ERS assessment visit, contact Lacey Davis at WOU, 503.838.9260 or davisld@wou.edu. This is a great opportunity to get valuable feedback.

CCRN Will Be Conducting Vacancy Checks and Annual Updates

Starting in the Fall, Child Care Resource Network staff will once again assume responsibility for conducting vacancy checks and annual updates.

In 2016 the Early Learning Division contracted with 211info to do parent referrals, vacancy checks, and annual provider updates. 211Info will continue to be the place for parents to go for child care referrals, but Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies across the state will resume doing the provider vacancy checks and annual updates as they had done in the past.

This makes sense, as CCR&Rs are more connected to child care providers in local communities and are more likely to reach most providers to get an accurate picture of child care needs and capacity. This will also give CCRN staff a chance to stay in closer touch with our valued early learning providers - we are looking forward to it!



Conscious Discipline Survey

Southern Oregon Early Learning Services Hub (SOELS) and Child Care Resource Network would like to determine your interest in learning about Conscious Discipline and in attending trainings on how to implement the Conscious Discipline approach. Please let us know by clicking the link here: [Conscious Discipline Survey](#)

Conscious Discipline is an evidence based, trauma informed approach that supports social-emotional learning and self-regulation to create positive, caring, classroom communities.

Conscious Discipline helps teachers understand and manage their own responses so they can support children to learn specific skills:

- Anger management
- Cooperation
- Helpfulness (pro-social skills)
- Empathy
- Assertiveness
- Problem solving
- Impulse Control



Thank you for taking the brief survey!

A Conversation with Gema McSoto



Gema McSoto is the new manager for the Oregon Child Development Coalition **USDA Food Program**, serving family child care providers in our area.

In a conversation with Gema, she described her work as “a business with a heart,” and wants to raise awareness of how the food program partners with family child care providers to help them sustain their business. “We are a support system for the folks who are doing the work.”



Gema McSoto

Another focus for Gema is streamlining the food program system by moving away from a paper based model to a new software program that will include an interactive website and an app for smart phones - all with the goal of simplifying the process for childcare providers.

This new system will prepare the USDA Food Program to serve more providers, as significant growth is expected within the program. Currently 6,150 meals a day are reimbursed by the USDA in southern Oregon.

Gema is bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish fluently. She is committed to increasing the number of Spanish speaking providers and ensuring that they have access to all the resources the USDA program offers.

Gema made it a point to give a big shout out to an “inspiring” support team - Tammy Brown , Cindy Andrews, Yolanda Pena, and Debbie Cosper - who are “training their new boss,” and made special mention of Patsy White, who held her position for 30 years. “Those were big shoes to fill. Patsy was a trail blazer, and we are delighted she continues to stay involved with the Food Program.”

To learn more about the USDA Food Program contact Gema at gema.mcsoto@ocdc.net.

Centers interested in the Food Program can find information at [Oregon UDSA Food Program](#).

Rock 'n Play and Other Infant Sleepers Recalled

A message from Child Care Aware of America

Despite the fact that Fisher-Price issued a recall on April 12, 2019, of all 4.7 million Rock 'n Play sleepers, there have been anecdotal reports that some of the sleepers are still in child care programs - and the Rock 'n Play sleepers are not the only brand of infant sleepers that have been recalled.



All licensed providers should have received a letter from the Early Learning Division alerting them to this situation.

The recall followed a safety warning from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Fisher-Price that said 10 babies had died using the product. Just days after that warning, Consumer Reports connected the product to more than 30 infant deaths since 2009.

It is vitally important that all parents and child care providers get rid of their Rock 'n Play and other potentially dangerous sleepers immediately. There is information on the sleepers and the recall process here, [Rock-n-Play-sleeper Recall](#).

Please act now to ensure the safety of the children in your care.

The Business of Child Care

It's a truism in early childhood that the skills needed to create high quality early care and learning programs are not the same skills needed to run a successful business - but both are necessary for a program to thrive.

Creating a high quality program that is nurturing, stimulating, supports social emotional development, promotes school readiness, responds to the unique needs of children and families, and trains and supports teachers - that is a remarkable achievement! But to stay in business so these services can continue, directors and family child care owners need a whole different set of skills.

To assist providers with the business side, the Early Learning Division, in partnership with Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, is developing a training, *Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Providers*, which will be offered by CCRN and other CCR&Rs across the state. The CCR&Rs will also sponsor a state-wide child care business conference this summer, as they did in November 2018.

Find extensive resources for centers and family providers at [Starting and Operating a Child Care Business](#), and contact CCRN for suggestions on where to find business management support.

New Introduction to Registered Family Child Care Training (IRF)

Individuals wanting to become registered (RF providers) will now need to complete a two-part process. What used to be known as the **Overview** is now the **Introduction to Registered Family Child Care (IRF)**.

Part 1 can be taken online or self-study and must be completed before taking the required in-person Part 2. The online Part 1 is available in English and Spanish, and can be accessed at <http://campus.educadium.com/OCCD/>

To learn more about the new IRF requirements contact CCRN at CCRN@soesd.k12.or.us or call 541-842-2575.

How Safe Is Your Playground??

Outdoor play spaces are a great way to support children's physical and social development but are also the most common location for injuries in early childhood programs. Just by ensuring that outdoor play spaces have safe surfacing can reduce playground injuries by half.

Use [America's Playground Safety Check](#) to see how your program measures up.



Pumpkins are Perfect!

It's been said that pumpkins are the perfect early childhood material. Pumpkin activities can encompass every early childhood domain and engage all the senses.

An incomplete list of activities would include:

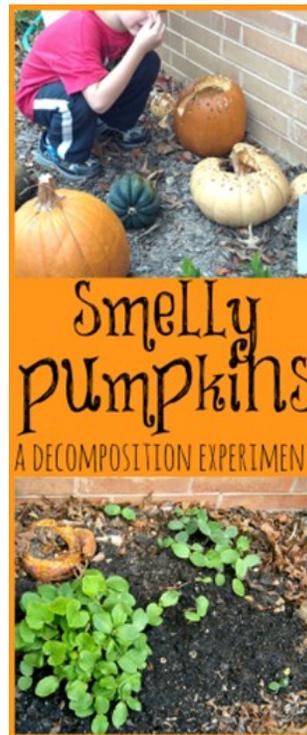
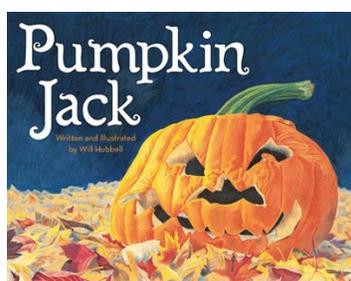
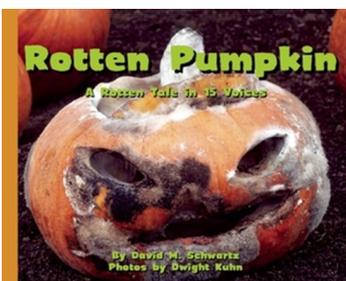
- Going to a pumpkin patch to get pumpkins
- Measuring, weighing, experimenting (does it float?), investigating (what are the stringy things inside for? what happens to the seeds?) and charting results
- Toasting and eating the seeds, making pumpkin pie or muffins
- Moving and arranging heavy pumpkins, pounding golf tees into pumpkins, scooping out and then carving pumpkins
- Reading books about pumpkins and finding out why pumpkins are part of Halloween
- Making pumpkin prints, painting pumpkins, using the seeds in art projects
- Exploring cut up pumpkins in the sensory table (what does it smell like? feel like?)

After all that exploration and enjoyment you can do a final experiment, which takes place over time, to discover the answer to the question... **WHAT HAPPENS TO A ROTTING PUMPKIN?**

There are good resources online to give ideas and suggestions for this activity, and the books *Pumpkin Jack* and *Rotten Pumpkin* (which has great photos) can help explain the process.

This experiment in decomposition can continue over days and even months, and become a fascinating learning experience for everyone, teachers and parents included. These links, among others, have good information:

- ♦ [NAEYC Exploring Decay](#)
- ♦ [Smelly Pumpkin Experiment](#)



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