



CHILD CARE COUNCIL
Serving Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties

Child Care Council Staff:

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Program Directors - Kerry Wolfeil, ext. 133

Assistant Program Director - Penny Dombrowski, ext. 132

Registrars - Bonnie Kudlacik, ext. 138 and Diann Keyser, ext. 135

Parent Counselor - Jessica Markle, ext. 126

Food Program - Cindy Eggers, ext.130 and Tamar Reed ext. 137

Legally Exempt Enrollment - Penny Dombrowski, ext. 132 and Tamar Reed, ext. 137

Trainings - Diann Keyser, ext. 135

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Columbia & Greene County Staff

Program Director - Cheryl Brush-Elsinger, ext. 105

Assistant Program Director - Suzanne Holdridge, ext. 101

Registrars - Suzanne Holdridge, ext. 101 and Carey Braidt, ext. 103

Parent Counselor - Kristin Scace, ext. 104

Food Program - Carey Braidt, ext. 103

Trainings - Carey Braidt, ext. 103

Legally Exempt Enrollment - Laurie Vogel, ext. 102



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NYS Office of Children & Family Services , USDA Child and Adult Care

Mission Statement:

To support the community by expanding and promoting high quality Child Care that meets the needs of children & their families.

Visit our website www.familyofwoodstockinc.org

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JESSICA MARKLE

Information about Child Care



IMPORTANT RESOURCES

2013/2014

What's inside:

- *Types of child care*
- *Financial resources*
- *Parent resources*
- *Nutritional resources*
- *Things to think about*

Types of Child Care



Registered Family Day Care: Care is for up to 6 children and 2 before and after school-age children. The provider’s children count in the group size until they attend Kindergarten. There must be one caregiver for every 2 children under the age of two. Registered providers are registered through NYS Office of Children and Family Services. They must have background checks for criminal and child abuse histories. Their homes are inspected for health and safety. The provider must receive 30 hours of training every 2 years.

Group Family Day Care: Care is for up to 12 children and 4 before and after school-age children. The provider’s children count in the group size until they attend Kindergarten. There must be one caregiver for every two children under the age of two. Group providers are licensed through NYS Office of Children and Family Services. They must have background checks for criminal and child abuse histories. Their homes are inspected for health and safety. The provider must receive 30 hours of training every 2 years.

Legally Exempt Family Child Care: Care is not regulated but is legal care. The provider can care for up to 2 children who are not related to them. If the care is under 3 hours per day more children are allowed.

Legally Exempt In-Home: Care is provided in the child’s home. The providers are considered an employee of the family and are exempt from licensing.

Day Care Center: Care is licensed and in a public non-residence space. Centers are inspected for health and safety; providers receive background checks and training. Centers may be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Classrooms are divided by age groupings; infants, toddlers, preschool and school-age. Age groups do not mix in centers.

Ages of Children	Staff: Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
6 weeks-18 months	1:4	8
18 months-36 months	1:5	12
3 years	1:7	18
4 years	1:8	21
5 years	1:9	24
6 years-9 years	1:10	20
10 years-12 years	1:15	30



THAT’S A GOOD POINT

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN LOOKING FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE

Group Size– Think about your child. Does he/she like to be in larger or smaller groups of children? Would your child enjoy being in a setting with children of different ages or children who are all about the same age? Look at the different types of care, age groupings, and the number of children in the group.

Caregiver Education- Each regulated child care provider must meet specific educational requirements to become registered or licensed. Each regulated program must have at least one person who is certified to perform first aid and CPR. They must also receive training every 2 years in developing their program, child abuse and maltreatment identification, reporting and prevention, program development, nutrition, child development, shaken baby syndrome prevention, health & safety and NYS regulations.

Caregiver Turnover- Children who have on-going care with the same provider learn to trust and build strong relationships. When child care arrangements fall apart often it is difficult for the child. It important to try to set up arrangements that will last for the benefit of the child. It is good to ask how long a program has been in business and how long the adults have worked there to determine if it may be a long term arrangement.

Family Involvement- Programs must allow parents to drop in at any time. Programs should have a system for communicating with parents to share information about the child’s day. The communication between the provider and the parent is extremely important to your child.

Health and Safety- Choosing quality child care that focuses on health and safety eases a parent’s fears. NY State regulations require that adults and children wash their hands frequently, diaper changing areas are cleaned and disinfected after each child and fire drills are performed monthly. NYS has created regulations to keep children safe and healthy; they include doing background checks on the adults working in child care. Ask your child care provider how your child will be kept safe and healthy.

Average Weekly Cost of Care in Ulster County- According to our information from child care providers in Columbia, Greene and Ulster Counties, program fees range from \$145-\$270 per week, depending on the type of care and the age of the child. When choosing a program, be sure to be aware of whether or not meals and snacks are included in the cost of care. Ask about late fees, sibling discounts, sliding scale fees, employer supports and pre paid discounts. Ask your program about their policies on absences, vacations, holidays and if payment is required during these conditions. Answers to these questions can affect the yearly cost of care.



Nutritional Resources

Nutrition: CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) is a program that enables the child care program to serve nutritious meals and snacks to the children in care without passing on the cost to working parents.

Farmers Markets: Promote improved nutrition by eating more locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. The New York State Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) provides checks to low-income, nutritionally at-risk families enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Senior Nutrition Programs.

- Columbia County www.americantowns.com/NY/columbia-county-farmers-market
- Greene County www.americantowns.com/NY/greene-county-farmers-market
- Ulster County www.ulstertourism.info/landing/farmers-markets

Cornell Cooperative Extension: The Eat Smart Live Well Nutrition Program is about making practical, healthy choices that you and your family can make every day regarding nutrition, food and health.

- Columbia County <http://cce.cornell.edu/columbia>
- Greene County <http://cce.cornell.edu/columbia>
- Ulster County <http://cce.cornell.edu/ulster>

- WIC:** Provides grants for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education.
- Columbia County 518-828-9668
 - Greene County 518-943-9082
 - Ulster County 845-883-5259

Food Stamps: You can receive food stamp credits that can be used to purchase healthy foods for you and your family.

- Columbia County 518-828-9411 www.columbiahealthnet.org
- Greene County 518-719-3700 www.greenegovernment.com
- Ulster County 845-334-5200 www.ulstercountyny.gov



School Age Child Care: Is registered care for children kindergarten through age 12 before and/or after school. Some programs offer care when school is not in session.

Summer Camp: Receives a permit to operate from the State or County Health Department. Camps must be in compliance with health department regulations. They are inspected twice a year with at least one inspection taking place while children are present.

Nursery School: Is not regulated care. Children must attend less than 3 hours per day. They are considered exempt from licensing. They may choose to register with NYS Education Department and meet a higher standard.

Universal Pre Kindergarten (UPK): Is a program through NYS Education Department. Local school districts may offer UPK in the school or in another setting, such as a Child Care Center. UPK is less than 3 hours per day.

Head Start: Is a federally funded program. The full day programs must be licensed as a Day Care Center. The program is primarily for very low income families. The program works with the entire family, focusing on education, health, parental involvement and social services. **Below is a sample of the income guideline. Each County in NYS has separate guidelines.**

Persons in Family	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$10,890
2	\$14,710
3	\$18,530
4	\$22,350
5	\$26,710



Financial Resources

Child Care Assistance

Financial assistance may be available to help working parents pay for child care costs. Every County in NYS has its own program regarding child care assistance. For more information call your county Child Care Subsidy Department:

Columbia County	Greene County	Ulster County
518-822-0087	518-719-3700	845-334-5489

Tax benefits for Parents may include the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

If you paid someone to care for a child or a dependent so you could work, you may be able to reduce your tax by claiming the credit for child and dependent care expenses on your federal income tax return. This credit is available to people who, in order to work or to look for work, have to pay for child care services for dependents under age 13 or if you paid for care of a spouse or a dependent of any age who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care. www.irs.gov

Earned Income Tax Credit

The Federal and State Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) are refundable tax benefits for working people with low or moderate incomes. Workers who qualify for the EITC and file Federal and State tax returns can get back some or all of the income tax that was withheld during the year.

1-800-829-1040 or 1-800-225-5829

Legal Resources

Everyday conflict is often unavoidable, but with help, you can reduce stress and reach fair solutions.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is committed to making "justice for all" in the Hudson Valley. 845-331-9373 or www.lshv.org.

Dispute Resolution Center can help you with divorce, family, community, and business disputes. www.drcservices.org/Legal.

Columbia County	Greene County	Ulster County
518-828-0047	518-943-0523	845-331-6136

Parent Resources

FAMILY's Child Care Council: Can help families find child care programs that best meet their individual families needs. Our services are offered **FREE** of charge. Our staff will be able to answer your questions regarding quality indicators of child care, OCFS regulations, fair market rates, assistance in paying for child care, and other services that the family may find useful.



Child Care Complaint Line: To report a complaint about a child care program call:
1-800-732-5207

Report Child Abuse and Neglect: To report child abuse, maltreatment or neglect call:
1-800-342-3720

Poison Control: A poison can be any product which is not used for what it was intended or designed. Call toll free 1-800-222-1222 (have the product with you when calling).

Health Care: www.immunize.org www.vaccinateyourbaby.org www.aap.org
www.nyacts.com www.nyacts.com www.nichd.nih.gov

Child Development Resources

Children grow, develop, and learn throughout their lives from birth to adulthood. A child's growth can be measured through social, physical, and cognitive developmental milestones. The Early Childhood Direction Center gives FREE information for parents, foster parents, and professionals concerned about the growth and development of children 0 to 5 years.

Early Childhood Direction Center
(Columbia and Greene Counties)

Capital Region BOCES

900 Watervliet Shaker Road

Albany, NY 12205

Phone: (518) 464-6356 Fax: (518) 464-3975

E-mail: eburns@gw.neric.org

Website: <http://www.capregboces.org/ecdc>

YOUR TODDLER:

- www.zerotothree.org
- <http://fun.familyeducation.com>

YOUR PRESCHOOLER:

- www.preschoolexpress.com
- www.bornlearning.org

YOUR SCHOOL-AGER:

- www.scholastic.com
- www.kidsport.midhudson.org
- www.kidsnationalgeographic.com

Early Childhood Direction Center (Ulster County)
Independent Living, Inc.

5 Washington Terrace

Newburgh, NY 12550

Phone: (845) 565-1162 ext. 209 Fax: (845) 565-0567

E-mail: stremper@myindependentliving.org

Website: <http://myindependentliving.org/EN-Services/EarlyChildhoodDirectionCenter>