



Monthly Round Up

Columbia and Greene County Child Care Providers Newsletter

NATURE PLAY VS MESSY PLAY

New research published in June shows that nature play is well known for its positive effects on children's health, development, and wellbeing. Nature play helps improve emotional regulation, physical skills, and learning outcomes, and can encourage children to develop their creativity and imagination. Parents and educators identified that nature play can help children form a connection with the natural world and learn about sustainable practices.

But despite the known benefits, parents and carers can find it difficult when it comes to engaging children in nature play, especially if activities are messy or dirty (such as water or mud play) or are thought of as being risky (such as climbing).

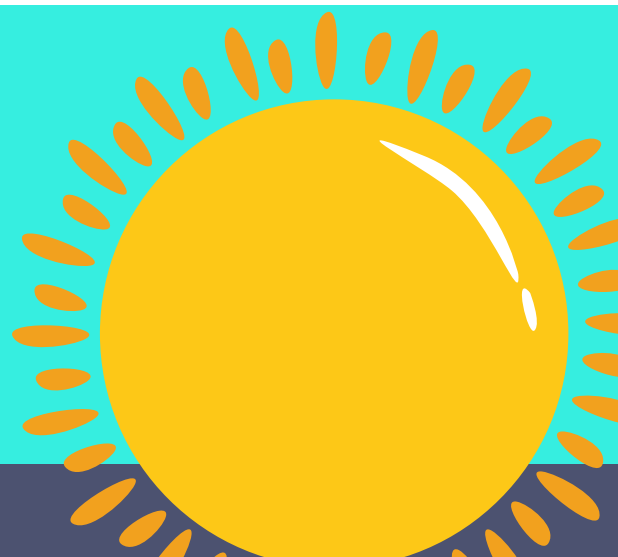
Researchers Dankiw et al suggest that teacher training and education in nature based play could help resolve this conflict and encourage teachers and parent to facilitate messy play.

[Read more here](#)

WORKFORCE RETENTION GRANT PROGRAM

Workforce Retention Grant Program: The New York State 2023-2024 budget includes \$500 million in underutilized federal funds to support the state's child care workforce.

The funding will be distributed through a workforce retention grant program that will benefit an estimated 150,000 caregivers. The funds allocated for the workforce retention grant program will provide bonuses for existing employees and funding for recruitment strategies, including sign on bonuses for new employees and other related expenses. Details on the grant program will be released by the end of July.



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COLUMBIA AND GREENE COUNTY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS NEWSLETTER

CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE SCREENER

The new eligibility questionnaire for the Child Care Assistance Program is now available online! Families can answer a short series of questions to see if they may be able to get child care at low or no cost - in 10 minutes or less! Families can find the new screening tool on the child care page on the OCFS website [here](#)

RECALLS CORNER

Canvas Baby Hammock Swings Recalled

The inclined sleeper is a banned hazardous product under the Safe Sleep for Babies Act since the product was marketed for infant sleep and has an incline angle greater than 10 degrees. Infant fatalities have occurred in inclined sleepers after the infants rolled from their back to their stomach or side while unrestrained, or under other circumstances.

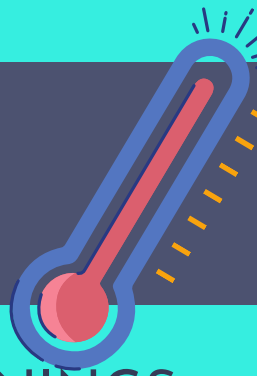
Name of Product:

Canvas Baby Hammock Swings



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RECEIVE MONEY FOR TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

For 2023 the Educational Incentive Program (EIP) Income chart levels have been increased to allow more providers to participate. The maximum annual scholarship amount for credential training has increased to \$2,500. While the maximum annual scholarship amount for college courses has increased to \$2,500.

CPR and First Aid · The income eligibility criterion has been removed from CPR/First Aid applications. Applicants only need to send proof of employment and Social Security number (SSN) verification. An individual can receive up to \$125 for classroom training or up to \$95 for blended training that includes online work and an in-person skills testing component. These scholarships are in addition to the other maximum annual amounts.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

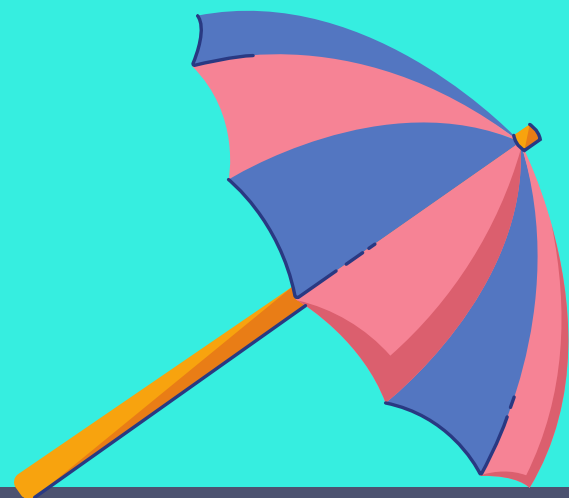
CPR

JULY 15th 9:00am-1:00pm

Hudson CCC Office

This training will cover infant, child, and adult CPR/First Aid procedures and practices as defined by the Red Cross. Participants will receive Infant/Child/Adult CPR/First Aid certification upon completion. This will meet licensing/registration requirements for child care providers and staff.

Contact RWeickel@fowinc.org to register



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LOOKING FOR TRAINING HOURS?

OCFS requires licensed child care providers to complete 30 hours of approved training each year. There are a few sources that offer free high quality training that can be used to satisfy this requirement, but they can be hard to find!

Any training from the [Early Childhood Education and Training Program](#) can be used.

Any training offered by the [Office of Head Start](#) can be used.

Any training offered by Child Care Connections at Family of Woodstock

