

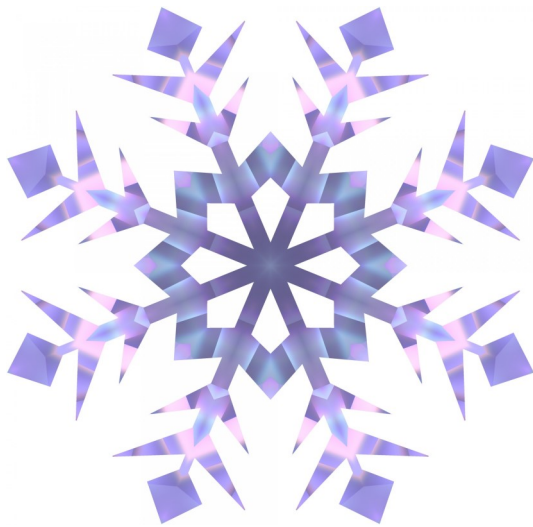


# Kids Quarterly Press

A Newsletter of Choices Child Care Resource and Referral

January, February, and March 2024

## Winter Learning



The colder months present early childhood providers with unique opportunities and challenges. Inclement weather, cold temperatures, and wet playgrounds sometimes keep our children inside more than we would like. These situations cause caregivers to have to get creative when planning activities and learning opportunities. How can we bring gross motor play inside? How can we get outside safely? What can be learned from these challenges? On the flip side of this, winter provides us with unique opportunities to experience something different. Providers have the opportunity to talk about things like snow, ice, frost, condensation, and countless other important parts of everyday life. Taking time to see the magic in everyday moments, to talk about the regular parts of the day, is how child care professionals create impactful learning moments for young children.

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### Choices CCR&R

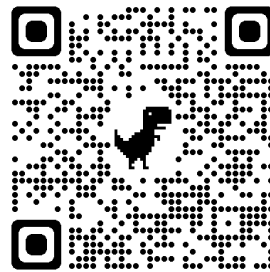
4421 Emerson Ave,  
Suite 102  
Parkersburg, WV 26104  
(304) 485-2668  
(304) 485-7024 (fax)

### Choices CCR&R

315 North Ohio Ave.  
Clarksburg, WV 26301  
(304) 622-6528  
(304) 622-6092 (fax)

## Recognitions

Choices would like to recognize  
**Sherry Brown** of The Imagination Station Sites 1 and 2 in Wood County  
 & **Jamie Adkins** of Jungle Junction in Harrison County  
 on their approval for the WV Child Care General Credential!



*For more information  
 regarding the WV Child  
 Care Credential contact  
 Meagann.E.Morris@wv.gov  
 Or scan the QR code!*

### *Specialization Credentials Now Available!*

The Division of Early Care and Education understands the importance of the work you do, and wants to help produce the best caregivers and child care programs possible for West Virginia families. The Division is pleased to announce West Virginia Child Care Credential Specializations! Once a provider has attained their West Virginia Child Care General Credential, they can continue their journey with a Specialization.:

- Director's Specialization
- Infant Toddler Specialization
- Preschool Specialization
- Family Child Care Specialization

Once the Specialization Credential is achieved, a bonus of \$250.00 is available. For more information about this exciting new initiative, please contact Meagann Morris at Meagann.E.Morris@wv.gov or (304)485-2668

Thank you for all you do for West Virginia families and communities.  
 Your hard work is greatly appreciated!



## Recognitions



### West Virginia Tiered Reimbursement Program

The Child Care Reimbursement System is a quality initiative that offers higher subsidy payments to programs that demonstrate they meet higher standards of care. Programs may apply for Tier II if specific higher quality standards are met. These providers receive a higher childcare reimbursement rate and are eligible for additional bonus payments.

If you are interested in becoming a Tier II program,  
contact your Quality Improvement Specialist.

Marcy Mueller,  
304-622-6528

[Marcy.L.Mueller@wv.gov](mailto:Marcy.L.Mueller@wv.gov)



Congratulations to **Watch Me Grow**, child care center in Gilmer county, for completing the Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Designation!

For more information regarding this initiative contact:

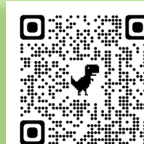
Alicia Hundley, 304-622-6528

[Alicia.M.Hundley@wv.gov](mailto:Alicia.M.Hundley@wv.gov)

### **The Advantages of having a Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Designation:**

1. Designation shows the community your commitment to quality care.
2. Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP) meal reimbursements are available when mothers breastfeed at the center or provide breastmilk for feeding their infant.
3. Designation can positively affect staff recruitment and retention as well as productivity and morale.
4. Sites achieving designation receive a bonus stipend, certificate of designation and recognition, and materials for start up.

Scan the QR code to learn more about this designation and the 10-step process to becoming a breastfeeding friendly program.



## Important Updates

# WE ARE HIRING MENTORS

Mentors support ACDS students that do not have director supervisors. Mentors meet with students monthly and offer guidance as needed.



### Minimum Requirements

- ACDS JOURNEYPERSON OR BA IN ECE
- CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

### Mentor Compensation

- MENTORS ARE CONTRACTED FOR A SIX MONTH PERIOD
- COMPENSATED \$200.00 UPON FULFILLMENT OF SERVICE AGREEMENT
- REIMBURSED MILEAGE AT CURRENT GSA PER DIEM

### Mentor Responsibilities

- PROFESSIONAL ROLE MODELING
- VISIT MENTEE'S ACDS CLASS ONCE PER SEMESTER
- COMPLETE SUPERVISOR EVALUATIONS EACH SEMESTER
- VERIFY AND SIGN STUDENT ON-THE-JOB TRAINING LOGS
- MEET WITH MENTEE A MINIMUM OF TWO HOURS PER MONTH
- VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MENTORING OPTIONS

*FOR FULL LIST OF EXPECTATION REVIEW MENTOR JOB DESCRIPTION  
AVAILABLE ON ACDS WEBSITE.*

### ACDS Contact Information

- Phone - 304.523.0433
- Email - [wvacds@rvcds.org](mailto:wvacds@rvcds.org)
- Website - [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org)




### Spring 2024 Registration

November 1: Registration Opens

January 5: Registration Closes

January 29: Classes Start

All details are on the ACDS website, [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org)





Date and Time	Title and Presenter/Description	Core Competency	Location
<b>Wood County Professional Development Calendar</b>			
<b>January 10, 2024</b>	<b>Circle Time Isn't Required</b>	Jennifer Powell	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Providers will learn that circle time can be done in a more developmentally appropriate way that gives children the best learning experience without reading the wall or having expectations that are not appropriate for all children.	EC	Choices
<b>January 11, 2024</b>	<b>The Growing Brain</b> 	Shannon Valles	
5:30pm – 8:30pm	This 7-session series delves into research in brain development and strategies for childcare providers to support the growing brains of children, birth to 5 years old. <i>Series is every Thursday through 2/22/24.</i>	Various	Choices
<b>February 20, 2024</b>	<b>Adapting Your Gross Motor Play</b>	Ashley Jobs	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	This training will cover basic gross motor development for children. We will discuss how to adapt gross motor activities for indoor and outdoor play and the impacts it has on other areas of learning.	Various	Choices
<b>March 5, 2024</b>	<b>Observation &amp; Assessment: Tools to Support Development</b>	Ashley Jobs	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	This training will examine the importance of using observation and assessment in an early childhood program. Participants will learn proper ways to use observation and assessment and how these tools can help with lesson planning and improving the quality of care.	Various	Choices
<b>March 7, 2024</b>	<b>Indoor and Outdoor Safety</b>	Renee Stonebraker	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Reviews common injuries for children, including falls and poisonings, preventive measures to reduce the risk of injury, and playground safety.	EC/ HSN	Choices






### In-Person Professional Development Policies

- Anyone with symptoms of any illness will not be permitted to attend training.
- You must register at [www.wvstars.org](http://www.wvstars.org) at least 24 hours in advance.
- Children are not permitted to attend training sessions.
- Participants who arrive more than 15 minutes late will not receive WV STARS credit.

### Online Professional Development Policies

- You must register for each training in WV STARS and on the registration links provided.
- Each participant must individually register and log in to the training to receive credit. Device/screen sharing is not permitted for WV STARS credit.
- Participants who call in to the training by phone without also logging in to a computer, smartphone, or tablet will not receive credit, as this type of attendance cannot be tracked.
- Participants who miss more than 15 minutes of a session or do not meet minimum proof of learning/participation requirements will not receive credit for attending.
- All participants are expected to remain active in each session by participating in polls, discussions, post-tests, etc and not navigating away from the webinar on their screen.
- Technical issues should be brought to the trainers attention as soon as possible so they can be resolved.
- Sessions may be cancelled due to illness, inclement weather, or insufficient enrollment.

Date and Time	Title and Presenter/Description	Core Competency	Location
<b>Harrison County Professional Development Calendar</b>			
<b>February 6, 2024</b>	<b>Circle Time Isn't Required</b>	Jennifer Powell	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Providers will learn that circle time can be done in a more developmentally appropriate way that gives children the best learning experience without reading the wall or having expectations that are not appropriate for all children.	EC	Choices
<b>February 26, 2024</b>	<b>WV Elements of Family Child Care Series (EFCCS)</b> 	Jennifer Powell	
5:00pm – 9:00pm	<b>FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE AND FACILITIES</b> This 7-week course focuses on best practices, child development, organizing your home and day, as well as developing individual goals for providers. <i>Sessions are every Monday through 4/8/24.</i>	Various	Choices
<b>February 28, 2024</b>	<b>Indoor and Outdoor Safety</b>	Renee Stonebraker	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Reviews common injuries for children, including falls and poisonings, preventive measures to reduce the risk of injury, and playground safety.	EC/ HSN	Choices
<b>March 2, 2024</b>	<b>Emergency Preparedness</b> 	Shannon Valles	
9:00am – 11:00am	This course provides information on developing and implementing an emergency plan in a childcare setting. Participants will be required to complete a technical assistance visit (to be scheduled with the specialist).	HSN	Choices
<b>March 9, 2024</b>	<b>FCC Positive Behavior Interventions and Support</b> 	Jodi Fortney	
9:00am – 4:00pm	<b>FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE AND FACILITIES</b> Participants will be introduced to the Pyramid Model. Strategies and tools will be discussed, as well as the research supporting this model.	Various	Choices
<b>Online Professional Development Calendar</b>			
<b>January 4, 2024</b>	<b>Understanding ACES 101</b> 	Chrissy Pownell	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	This webinar will provide a brief overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences through awareness and education.	CGD	Online
<b>January 11, 2024</b>	<b>ACES 102</b>	Chrissy Pownell	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	ACES 102: Overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences will provide an overview of ACEs and ways to overcome them. It will cover variables related to resilience, protective factors, and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments.	CGD/ HSN	Online
<b>January 11, 2024</b>	<b>Observation &amp; Assessment: Tools to Support Development</b>	Ashley Jobes	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	This training will examine the importance of using observation and assessment in an early childhood program. Participants will learn proper ways to use observation and assessment and how these tools can help with lesson planning and improving the quality of care.	Various	Online

Date and Time	Title and Presenter/Description	Core Competency	Location
<b>Online Professional Development Calendar Continued</b>			
<b>January 12, 2024</b>	<b>Quality Counts</b> 		Marcy Mueller
12:00pm – 1:00pm	We are going to take an in depth look at program supports that are necessary to achieve and maintain quality childcare and the important role early childhood educators play within the process.	PL/AM	Online
<b>January 18, 2024</b>	<b>ACES 103</b>		Chrissy Pownell
12:00pm – 1:00pm	ACES 103: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences will provide an overview of ACEs and the impact of trauma. It will also help you identify some of the root causes and look at best practices for preventing ACEs.	CGD/ HSN	Online
<b>January 25, 2024</b>	<b>RR Spreading HOPE</b> 		Chrissy Pownell
12:00pm – 1:30pm	This course is based on Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE). We will discuss the importance of positive childhood experiences and research of the mitigating effect on ACEs.	CGD/ FCR	Online
<b>February 5, 2024</b>	<b>Biting</b>		Alicia Hundley
6:00pm – 8:00pm	This course will provide information on how to determine what is causing infants or toddlers to bite, how to prevent it, and how to handle it when it happens.	EC	Online
<b>February 9, 2024</b>	<b>Planning Your Professional Development</b> 		Marcy Mueller
12:00pm – 2:00pm	This training focuses on professional growth of early education providers and how to identify goals for the future.	PL/AM	Online
<b>March 4, 2024</b>	<b>Building Strong Foundations: Supporting Infants and Toddlers through the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Infant and Toddler</b> 		Alicia Hundley
5:30pm – 8:30pm	This 3-part module course will cover how to use the Infant Toddler ELSFs and how to link them to lesson planning for your classroom of Infants, Toddlers or Twos. Sessions will meet virtually March 4, 11, & 18, 2024.	CGD	Online
<b>March 7, 2024</b>	<b>Utilizing the Environment Rating Scale to Improve Quality</b> 		Marcy Mueller
12:00pm – 2:00pm	This session will include an overview of the most recent versions of the Environment Rating Scales, as well as information on how to use the self-assessment to improve program quality.	PL/AM	Online
<b>March 7, 2024</b>	<b>Understanding SACERS</b>		Shannon Valles
6:00pm – 8:00pm	This course provides an overview of the School-Age Environment Rating Scale (SACERS-U) including purpose, content, scoring, and tips for observing.	EC/PL	Online

# Online Health and Safety Training

## Online Trainings Offered by Child Care Nurse Health Consultants and Child Care Health Educators

January 2024-March 2024

1/4	5:30-8:30 pm	Medication Administration	
1/8	6:30-8:30 pm	Let's Make a Menu	
1/9	6:30-7:30 pm	Ear Infections	
1/16	5:30-8:30 pm	Medication Administration	
1/18	12:00-1:00 pm	What Can a Child Care Nurse Health Consultant and Child Care Health Educator Do for You?	Lunchtime Learning
1/23	12:00-1:00 pm	Respiratory Illnesses	Lunchtime Learning
1/23	6:30-8:30 pm	Safe Sleep Practices	
1/25	6:30-7:30 pm	Infection Control	
1/29	5:30-8:30 pm	Medication Administration	
1/31	12:00-1:00 pm	Infant Feeding	Lunchtime Learning
2/1	6:30-8:30 pm	New Recipe Ideas 1	
2/6	6:30--8:30 pm	Communicable Diseases	
2/8	6:30-7:30 pm	Respiratory Illnesses	
2/12	5:30-8:30 pm	Medication Administration	
2/15	6:30-7:30 pm	Ear Infections	
2/21	12:00-1:00 pm	Childhood Obesity	Lunchtime Learning
2/27	6:30-8:30 pm	New Recipe Ideas 2	
2/28	12:00-1:00 pm	Infection Control	Lunchtime Learning
2/29	5:30-8:30 pm	Medication Administration	
3/4	6:30-8:30 pm	Stress Management	
3/5	12:00-1:00 pm	Ear Infections	Lunchtime Learning
3/9	8:00-11:00 am	Medication Administration	Saturday Morning Learning
3/12	6:30-8:30 pm	Communicable Diseases	
3/14	6:30-7:30 pm	Respiratory Illnesses	
3/19	5:30-8:30 pm	Medication Administration	
3/20	12:00-2:00 pm	Indoor and Outdoor Safety	Lunchtime Learning
3/26	6:30-8:30 pm	Breastfeeding Basics	



## Save the Dates

VIRTUAL TRAINING  
**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**January 4, 2024**

**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

ACES 101: Understanding ACES

**January 11, 2024**

**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

ACES 102: Overcoming ACES

**January 18, 2024**

**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

ACES 103: Preventing ACES

**January 25, 2024**

**12:00 pm – 1:30 pm**

Spreading HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from  
Positive Experiences)

Attend all or some of these lunch time trainings!  
Register at WVSTARS or contact Chrissy Pownell,  
[chrissy.r.pownell@wv.gov](mailto:chrissy.r.pownell@wv.gov), for more information.

# Save the Date

Module Series

**CHOICES**  
CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

## THE GROWING BRAIN

### Session Dates

January 11, 2024  
January 18, 2024  
January 25, 2024  
February 1, 2024  
February 8, 2024  
February 15, 2024  
February 22, 2024

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Presented by:  
Shannon Valles



**REGISTER  
ONLINE!**

### You will learn:

- The Parts of the Brain and Their Functions
- Factors That Affect Brain Growth and Development
- Communication Milestones
- How Cognitive Development Unfolds
- How Social-Emotional Development Unfolds
- Basic Brain Anatomy
- Development of Play

📞 304-622-6528

✉ shannon.m.valles@wv.gov

🌐 www.wvstars.org


# Save the Date



## FAMILY CHILD CARE POSITIVE INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT


**DATE**   
March 9, 2024

**TIME**   
9:00-4:00

**Choices office in Clarksburg**   
315 North Ohio Ave., Clarksburg, WV 26301

This is a three part training that will be held face to face over one Saturday. Family child care providers and facility staff will be introduced to Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, and the Pyramid Model. Strategies and tools will be discussed, as well as the research supporting this model. An assessment module in WVSTARS will be utilized as Proof of Learning. Participants must attend all day to earn credit.

This series is only open to family child care providers and facilities in Region II. Contact Behavioral Consultant, Jodi Fortney, for more information.

304-622-6528 

Jodi.L.Fortney@wv.gov 



## DID YOU KNOW?



Active Supervision Training is available to your staff! This training will be beneficial for those that work with all ages. Adult supervision is one of the most effective ways to keep children safe, prevent injuries and manage challenging behaviors.

This training will define active supervision, explain how to keep children safe by adopting a culture of safety, describe 6 active supervision strategies, and teach different ways to explore active supervision in your program.



Contact your Behavioral Consultant to schedule a training for your site, toll free at 1-866-622-6528, and ask for: [Chrissy Pownell](#) or [Jodi Fortney](#).

For the latest updates, “Like” and “Follow” our Facebook page Choices Child Care Resource and Referral.

Scan the QR code to access the page!



## Food and Fun

### Magic Frozen Bubbles

*Materials:* Bubble solution, bubble wands and trays, magnifying glasses.

*Instructions:* On a cold day go outside and experiment with blowing bubbles. Use bubble wands and trays to enhance your play. Show children how the bubbles freeze and pop. Take out magnifying glasses to show children how the bubble solution crystallizes and changes due to the temperature outside.



### Heart Sensory Bottle

*Materials:* Empty bottle, 1/2 cup of clear glue, heart sequins, beads, or gems, glitter, red tape, water, watercolor.

*Instructions:* Fill bottle halfway with water and add 1/2 cup of clear glue. Add in red glitter and a few drops of red watercolor. Add in heart sequins, beads, or gems. Add more water and leave half an inch space at the top so there is room to shake the bottle. An adult should hot glue or superglue the lid and cover in colored tape.



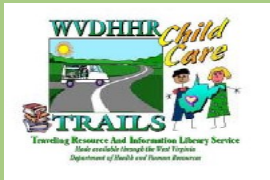
### Indoor Picnic

*Materials:* Picnic blankets, basket, packed meals.

*Instructions:* Pack a lunch for each child and yourself. Spread out blankets indoors and have an indoor picnic. This will give children a new perspective at meal time and allow for new ways of interaction. You can even invite families to your indoor picnic.



For more Food & Fun ideas, contact Ashley Jobs, TRAILS Early Childhood Specialist, at [Ashley.N.Jobs@wv.gov](mailto:Ashley.N.Jobs@wv.gov).



### Have You Checked Out TRAILS?

The Choices TRAILS van offers developmentally appropriate toys, games and books for the use of children in family childcare homes, centers, and facilities. To schedule an appointment to see all of the items TRAILS has to offer contact Jennifer Powell or Ashley Jobs at 304-485-2668.

### Child Care Food Program

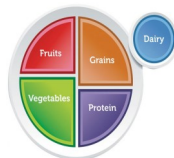
Wood County: 304-485-9238 ext 18

Harrison County: 304-905-9867

[www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)

Benefits to child care providers include:

- Reimbursement for food costs
- Nutrition education & support
- Meal and snack planning
- Workshops & newsletters



**West Virginia WIC** provides nutrition & health education as well as other services free of charge to pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children up to the age of five.

[www.wvdhhr.org/ons](http://www.wvdhhr.org/ons)

### West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program

[www.wvchip.org](http://www.wvchip.org)



Health care for children & expectant moms

Apply online at [www.wvinroads.org](http://www.wvinroads.org)

**Choices Child Care Resource and Referral**

4421 Emerson Ave, Ste 102

Parkersburg, WV 26104

304-485-2668 or 1-866-966-2668

[www.wvdhhr.org/choices](http://www.wvdhhr.org/choices)



**Choices Child Care Resource and Referral  
Child Care Providers' Newsletter and Professional Development Information**

Choices Child Care Resource and Referral is a program of River Valley Child Development Services. This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

Visit us on the Web: [www.wvdhhr.org/choices](http://www.wvdhhr.org/choices).