

# Child Care Connection

MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau

January 2026

*“Bridging the gap between Child Care Providers and MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau in order to provide a safe and healthy environment for Mississippian children and families.”*

🇺🇸 ✨ **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!** ✨ 🇺🇸

**To All Owners/Providers, Directors & Center Staff**

**THANK YOU for all that you do!**

Your dedication, passion, and commitment to children and families make a powerful difference every day. You create safe, nurturing, and engaging environments where children can learn, grow, and thrive—and we truly appreciate the heart you bring to this important work.

🚀 **Looking Ahead to 2026**

May the year ahead bring **fresh energy, new opportunities, and continued excitement** for the incredible impact you make. We are grateful for your contributions and proud to work alongside such an exceptional community of child care professionals.

☀️ **Wishing You a Year Filled With:**

- Success
- Joy
- Growth
- Inspiration

**Here's to a bright, rewarding, and joyful New Year!**

**— Child Care Licensure Bureau**



## January 2026 Trainings

Date	Time	Training Topic	Location	Trainer
January 5 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
January 6 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Directors' Orientation	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Playground Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Regulations Governing Licensure of Child Care Family Homes for 5 OR Fewer Children	Virtual <b>(ONLY for Family Homes Centers)</b>	J. Dockery
January 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Private-Foundations	S. Smith
January 6 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Private-HCHRA	S. Smith
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Private-HCHRA	S. Smith
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Philadelphia	S. Smith
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm-3:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Private-Madison	S. Smith
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Laurel	S. Smith
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Laurel	S. Smith
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	Playground Safety	Laurel	S. Smith
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Laurel	S. Smith
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am-12:30pm	Playground Safety	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Directors' Orientation	Hattiesburg	S. Smith
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Playground Safety	Private-WH Jones Headstart	S. Smith
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	9-12 pm	Nutrition & Menu Writing	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	9-12 pm	CC Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	1-4 pm	CC Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	9-12 pm	Playground Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	1-4 pm	Directors Orientation	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	1-4pm	CC Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:30-8:30pm	CC Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Director's Orientation	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am-12:00 pm	CC Regulations Part 1	Cleveland, MS (PRIVATE)	M. Jordan
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-4:00pm	CC Regulations Part 2	Cleveland, MS (PRIVATE)	M. Jordan



<b>January 13<sup>th</sup></b>	5:30-8:30pm	Director's Orientation	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>January 14<sup>th</sup></b>	5:30-8:30 pm	Playground Safety	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>January 21<sup>st</sup></b>	1:00 pm-4:00pm	CC Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>January 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	1:00pm-4:00pm	CC Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>January 24<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 am-12:00pm	Playground Safety	Madison(Private)	M. Jordan
<b>January 24<sup>th</sup></b>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Director's Orientation	Madison(Private)	M. Jordan
<b>January 29<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 a.m.-12:30pm	CC Regulations Part I	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan
<b>January 29<sup>th</sup></b>	12:30pm-4:30pm	CC Regulations Part II	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan



# JANUARY

## January 2026 Monthly Topic:

### **Winter Weather Preparedness**

Cold, ice, and loss of power or water present special hazards to your food, health and safety. Know what to do and what to avoid before winter weather strikes.

### **Indoor Health and Safety**

#### **Staying Safe from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

Any heater that burns fuel, such as your furnace, generator, gas water heater, or a portable butane or gas heater, produces **carbon monoxide** that can contaminate the air.

Mild exposure to carbon monoxide can cause nausea, dizziness or headaches. Severe poisoning can result in brain or heart damage, or even death.

- **Do not use generators, gas or charcoal grills indoors.**
- Never burn anything in a stove or fireplace that is not vented properly.
- Never heat your house with a gas oven.
- Never run a generator indoors, in an enclosed space such as a basement, or near a window.
- Do not warm your car up in a closed garage.
- If your garage is attached to your house, close the door to the house while you warm up the car.

### **Staying Healthy**

- **Food** in your refrigerator will be safe to eat if power is out for less than four hours. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep food cold longer.



- After four hours, pack milk, other dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, gravy, and spoilable leftovers into a cooler surrounded by ice. Inexpensive Styrofoam coolers are fine for this purpose.
- Freezers can keep food safe for up to 48 hours if they are full, 24 hours if they are half-full.
- **Safe water** for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene includes bottled, boiled, or treated water. Watch for specific [boil water alerts](#) in your area.
- If you are under a boil-water alert, do not use contaminated water to wash dishes, brush your teeth, wash and prepare food, wash your hands, make ice, or make baby formula. If possible, use baby formula that does not need to have water added.
- Boiling water, when practical, is the preferred way to kill harmful bacteria and parasites. Bringing water to a rolling boil for 1 minute will kill most organisms

## Outdoor Safety

### Cold Precautions

- **Drink warm liquids** that do not contain caffeine or alcohol. (Alcoholic drinks cause your body to lose heat more quickly).
- Watch for signs of **hypothermia** (uncontrolled shivering, slow speech, memory loss, stumbling, sleepiness, extreme tiredness).
- Watch for signs of **frostbite**: Feeling of "pins and needles" followed by numbness (no feeling). Skin may freeze hard and look white. When thawed out, skin is red and painful. Very bad frostbite may cause blisters or gangrene (black, dead tissue).
- If you think you have frostbite or hypothermia, don't eat or drink anything containing **caffeine or alcohol** – they can worsen your symptoms.

## In Your Car

- **Listen** for travel warnings.
- Avoid unnecessary trips in order to keep off icy roads. Ice may be more likely on bridges; plan your route to **avoid bridges** when possible.
- **Let someone know** where you are going and when you expect to arrive. Ask them to notify help if you are late.
- Check and restock **emergency supplies** in your car before you leave.
- **Never pour water** on your windshield to remove ice or snow; the windshield may shatter.

# STAY WELL THIS WINTER



# AVOID\*SPOT\*TREAT

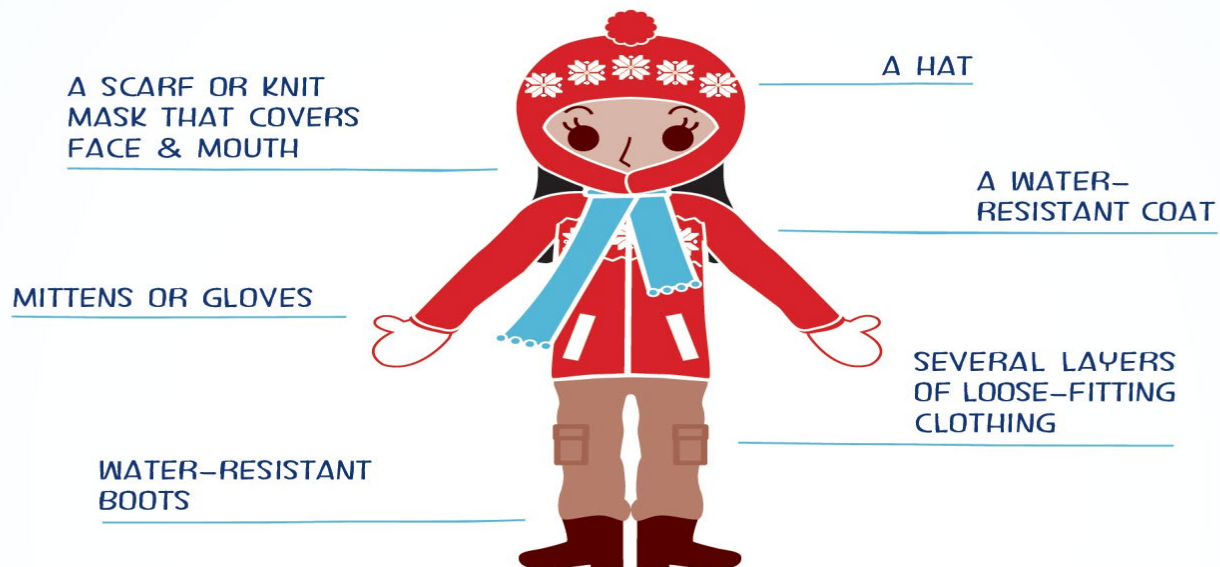
## FROSTBITE & HYPOTHERMIA

In cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced, which can lead to serious health problems.

### \* \* \* \* AVOID \* \* \* \*

When the weather is extremely cold, try to stay indoors. If you must go outside, **dress properly** and know who is at **high risk** for **hypothermia** or **frostbite**.

When going outside be sure to wear:



When going outside in winter make sure body parts most often affected by frostbite are covered in warm, dry clothing.



Know who is at high risk:



Older adults without proper food, clothing, or heating



People who stay outdoors for long periods (homeless, hikers, hunters, etc.)



People who drink alcohol in excess or use illicit drugs



Babies sleeping in cold rooms



# SPOT

## FROSTBITE

A victim is often unaware of frostbite because frozen tissue is numb.



### Signs & Symptoms

- Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite.

### Other signs include:

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness

## HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia often occurs at very cold temperatures, but can occur at cool temperatures (above 40°F), if a person is wet (from rain, sweat or cold water) and becomes chilled.



### Signs & Symptoms

#### Adults:

- shivering
- exhaustion
- confusion
- fumbling hands
- memory loss
- slurred speech
- drowsiness

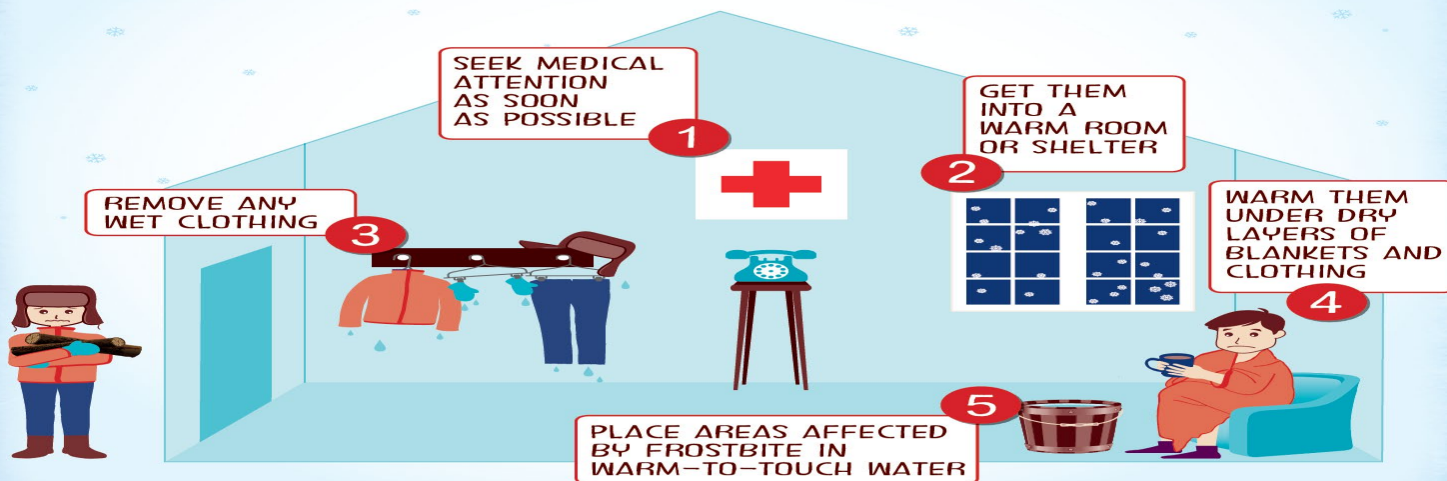
#### Infants:

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy

If a person's temperature is below 95° get medical attention immediately.

# TREAT

If a person is experiencing hypothermia or frostbite...

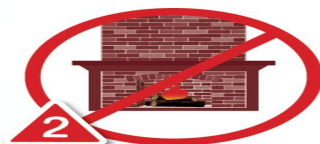


## FROSTBITE CAUTION

Since skin may be numb, victims of frostbite can harm themselves further. Use caution when treating frostbite and:



1. UNLESS NECESSARY, DO NOT WALK ON FEET OR TOES WITH FROSTBITE



2. DO NOT USE A FIREPLACE, HEAT LAMP, RADIATOR, OR STOVE FOR WARMING



3. DO NOT USE A HEATING PAD OR ELECTRIC BLANKET FOR WARMING



4. DO NOT RUB OR MASSAGE AREAS WITH FROSTBITE



# LAUNCH

to **EXCEL**ence



**Systems Change**

**Leadership**

**Advocacy**

**Community**

**Collective Action**

**Partnership**

## Leadership Academy

### Ideal LAUNCH participants include:

- School district leaders (superintendents, principals, PK collaborative, career and technical directors)
- Community and civic leaders (chambers, libraries, local government, United Way, nonprofits)
- Health and social service professionals (hospitals, DHS, health departments, CASA, extension agents)
- Business and industry partners committed to workforce and community development
- Early childhood educators, childcare directors, and teachers
- Parents, advocates, and emerging leaders invested in improving outcomes for children birth to five

### Essentially, LAUNCH is for people who:

- Live or work in Mississippi and care deeply about their community
- Are passionate about supporting young children and their families
- Represent diverse sectors (education, health, business, faith, government, nonprofit)
- Want to strengthen leadership, collaboration, and advocacy for early childhood as economic infrastructure



**excelby5.com**



**Apply and Learn  
More Here!**





# **L** Leadership, **A** Awareness, & **U** Understanding to **N** Navigate our **C** Children **H** Higher to **EXCE**llence

applications due by November 30  
for Spring 2026 cohort

## Program History

The LAUNCH to EXCEllence Leadership Academy equips leaders across Mississippi to connect early childhood, community engagement, and workforce development. Developed in partnership with Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding in 2019, LAUNCH began as a local leadership pilot in Jackson County. Between 2019–2021, three cohorts completed the Academy, training educators, community leaders, and business partners to advocate for early childhood as a cornerstone of workforce development. In 2025, new state appropriations reignited the program statewide through Excel By 5, expanding access to all four congressional districts.

**LAUNCH to EXCEllence develops local champions who understand that child care and early learning are not just education issues—they are economic, community, and family priorities.**

## Program Partners



Ingalls  
Shipbuilding

Sponsoring  
Developer  
2018-2020



Sponsor  
2025



Host  
Organization

## Program Initiatives



Leadership  
Academy



Professional  
Development



Engagement



# DHA Resource & Referral Centers

## Our Services

### Quality Professional Development

- Local Area Coaching
- Coaching & Training on Specific Topics
- Virtual & In-person Trainings

(Trainings are done through MDHS)

### Quality Professional Development

- Computer Access for Career Development
- Access to Educational Resources for children ages 0-12yrs
- Information on Health, Social Services, & Job Training

Scan our QR code to find a center near you!



**Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.**

### Makers Space

- Order Ellison Die Cutouts
- Lamination
- Poster Maker
- Resources for Completing School Projects.

### Lending Library

- Developmentally & Age-Appropriate materials for ages 0-12yrs
- Mock Classroom Setup
- Supervised Play
- Storytime



Resource and Referral Network



**DELTA  
HEALTH  
ALLIANCE**

HEALTH • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

**Mississippi Lift is a program of Mississippi Department of Human Services.**

# MISSISSIPPI DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIAL



This course takes 9 months to complete, one module per month. Attendance for two dates, each month, for all 9 modules is required for completion of the course.

Registration is contingent on space and acceptance into the program.

## 2026 Locations:

Columbus  
Gulfport  
Hattiesburg  
Hernando  
Indianola  
Jackson  
Tupelo

For Director,  
Director Designees,  
and Up-&- Coming Administrators

Apply at  
<https://portal.lift-ed.ms/>

***Registration Deadline:***  
***January 2, 2026***



## **Earning Your Credential Will:**

- Provide a pathway to becoming a qualified Director of a licensed child care center.
- Help you develop the knowledge and skills needed to provide the highest quality care for the children and families you serve.
- Give you the C.D. recognition positioning you as a leader and role model in the Early Childhood community.
- Demonstrate your competency in center management, child care experience, and education in working with young children ages 0-12 years of age.

For questions email: [director@mdhs.ms.gov](mailto:director@mdhs.ms.gov)



RESOURCE & REFERRAL CENTER

WE ARE OPEN IN AN  
AREA NEAR YOU!



Center Locations:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Leland, MS     | Batesville, MS |
| Greenwood, MS  | Senatobia, MS  |
| Indianola, MS  | Hernando, MS   |
| Cleveland, MS  | Grenada, MS    |
| Belzoni, MS    | Winona, MS     |
| Clarksdale, MS |                |

- \* Technical assistance
- \* Professional development
- \* Lending library for childcare providers and families.

Scan our QR code for  
more information!



# New Trainings Available Now!

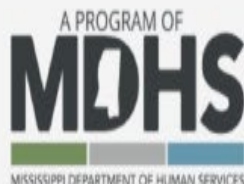
REGISTER TODAY

Find us on:  
<https://portal.lift-ed.ms>

*Mississippi*  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
INCLUSION CENTER

**Professional Development  
series are offered  
in-person, statewide,  
and virtually via Zoom.**

**Participants will receive four  
contact hours upon successful  
completion of the series.**



Follow the steps below

- 01 Professional Development Opportunities
- 02 Advanced Search
- 03 Sponsoring Organization
- 04 MECIC

