

Child Care Connection

MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau

September 2025

“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.”

Child Care Regulations Reminders

As Fall Approaches, So Do Seasonal Illnesses

With the crisp air of fall beginning to settle in, the familiar wave of seasonal illness isn't far behind. September often brings more than just cooler temperatures—it also marks the start of cold and flu season as our bodies adjust to the changing weather.

Therefore, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that **“small children who are cared for in out-of-home group settings are at a greater risk of acquiring and spreading a contagious disease”** (Office of Health Protection-Office of Licensure, 2022, p.254). September is a great time to thoroughly clean your facilities and stay abreast of the common contagious diseases so that you will be able to recognize the signs and symptoms which you can find in the **Appendix I: Communicable Diseases/Conditions and Return to Child Care Guidelines** of the Regulation Book.

Also, please take a moment to become familiar and knowledgeable of **Appendix H: Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures** as well as **Appendix F: Handwashing Procedure**. Taking a moment to review and implement this information can decrease the likelihood of an outbreak and reduce germs.

WELCOME

September

May this month be as bright and cheerful as you are

September 2025 Trainings

Date	Time	Training Topic	Location	Trainer
September 4 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
September 4 th	1:00pm-4:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
September 4 th	4:30pm-7:30pm	Playground Safety	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
September 5 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Directors' Orientation	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
September 5 th	1:00pm-3:00pm	Positive Discipline & Guidance	Tupelo, MS	J. Dockery
September 8 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Regulations Governing Licensure of Child Care Family Homes for 5 OR Fewer Children	Virtual (ONLY for Family Homes Centers)	J. Dockery
September 13 th	10:30am-12:30pm	Super Saturday- Positive Discipline & Guidance	Hernando, MS	J. Dockery
September 23 rd	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Olive Branch, MS	J. Dockery
September 23 rd	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Olive Branch, MS	J. Dockery
September 24 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Directors' Orientation	Olive Branch, MS	J. Dockery
September 24 th	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Olive Branch, MS	J. Dockery
September 2 nd	9:30am-12:30pm	Communicable Disease PRIVATE	Biloxi	S. Smith
September 3 rd	9:00am-12:00pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Biloxi	S. Smith
September 3 rd	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Biloxi	S. Smith
September 4 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Infant & Toddler Safety	Biloxi	S. Smith
September 4 th	12:30pm-3:30pm	Directors Orientation	Biloxi	S. Smith
September 8 th	5:30pm-8:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Hinds	S. Smith
September 9 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Playground Safety	Hinds	S. Smith
September 9 th	12:30am-3:30pm	Directors Orientation	Hinds	S. Smith
September 15 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Infant & Toddler Safety	Picayune	S. Smith
September 15 th	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Picayune	S. Smith
September 16 th	9:30am-12:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Picayune	S. Smith
September 16 th	12:30pm-3:30pm	After School Regulations	Picayune	S. Smith
September 29 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Playground Safety	Brookhaven	S. Smith
September 4 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 4 th	1:00pm-4:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 5 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Directors' Orientation	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 5 th	1:00pm-4:00pm	Playground Safety	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 9 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 9 th	1:00pm-4:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 10 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Directors' Orientation	Virtual	M. Jordan

September 10 th	1:00pm-4:00pm	Playground Safety	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 11 th	5:30pm-8:30pm	Infant and Toddler Group Needs	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 15 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 16 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 23 rd	9:30am-12:30pm	Directors' Orientation	Virtual	M. Jordan
September 24 th	9:30am-12:30pm	Playground Safety	Virtual	M. Jordan





Start *simple*
with MyPlate



Healthy Eating for Preschoolers

Healthy eating is important at every age. Offer preschoolers a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy or fortified soy alternatives. When deciding on foods and beverages, choose options that are full of nutrients and limited in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium. Start with these tips:



Model healthy behaviors

Preschoolers tend to copy what parents or caregivers do at the table. If you eat your veggies, they'll eat their veggies. And, it's good for both of you.



Think about their drinks

Sugar-sweetened beverages like sodas and fruit drinks are sources of added sugars that are often high in calories. Beverages with no added sugars like water, unsweetened fat-free or low-fat milk (including low-lactose or lactose-free options), or fortified soy beverages should be the primary choice for children.



Prevent choking

Encourage children to sit at a table for meals and snacks and not wander around carrying food. Check out the [USDA Team Nutrition worksheet](#) for foods that are choking hazards at different ages.



Try new foods

Let children choose a new food to try at the grocery store. Serve something your child likes along with the new food. It may take up to a dozen tries for a child to accept a new food.



Get kids involved

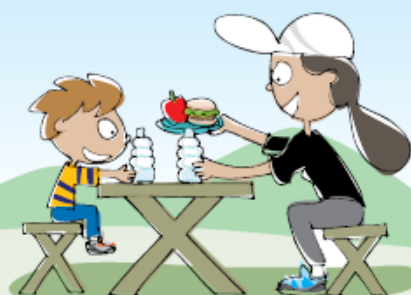
Preschoolers can help at mealtimes by washing produce, tearing lettuce, stirring mixes, scooping ingredients, or setting the table.



Offer choices

Like adults, preschoolers like to have a say in what they eat. "A pear or an apple?" "Whole-wheat toast or some crackers?" You offer the healthy options, but they get to choose.

Healthy Tips for Picky Eaters



Do any of the statements below remind you of your child?

"Ebony will only eat peanut butter sandwiches."

"Michael won't eat anything green, just because of the color."

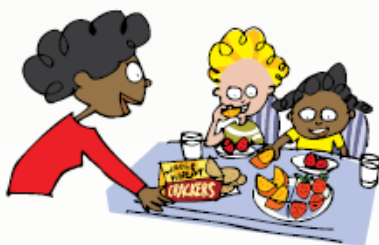
"Bananas used to be Matt's favorite food, but now he won't even touch them."

Your child may eat only a certain type of food or refuse foods based on a certain color or texture. He or she may also play at the table and may not want to eat. Don't worry if your child has some picky eating behaviors. Picky eating behavior is common for many children from the age of 2 to 5 years. As long as your child is growing as the doctor suggests, he or she is most likely eating enough to be healthy. If you have concerns about your child's growth or eating behavior, talk to your child's doctor.

How to cope with picky eating

Your child's picky eating is temporary. If you don't make it a big deal, it will usually end before school age. Try the following tips to help you deal with your child's picky eating behavior in a positive way. Check the ones that work for you and your child.

- ☐ **Let your kids be "produce pickers."** Let them pick out fruits and veggies at the store.
- ☐ **Have your child help you prepare meals.** Children learn about food and get excited about tasting food when they help make meals. Let them add ingredients, scrub veggies, or help stir food.



- ☐ **Offer choices.** Rather than ask, "Do you want broccoli for dinner?" ask "Which would you like for dinner, broccoli or cauliflower?"
- ☐ **Enjoy each other while eating family meals together.** Talk about what family members did during the day, what made you laugh, or what you did for fun. Turn off the TV and keep phones away from the table to focus on family time.
- ☐ **Offer the same foods for the whole family.** Serve the same meal to adults and kids. Let them see you enjoy a variety of healthy foods. Talk about the colors, shapes, and textures on the plate.



Trying new foods

Your child may not want to try new foods. It is normal for children to reject foods they have never tried before. Here are some tips to get your child to try new foods:



Let your kids learn by serving themselves. Teach them to take small amounts at first. Tell your kids that they can get more food if they are still hungry.

- **Start with small portions.** Let your kids try small portions of new foods that you enjoy. Give them a small taste at first and be patient with them. When they develop a taste for more types of foods, it's easier to plan family meals.

- **Offer one new food at a time.** Serve something that you know your child likes along with the new food. Offering more new foods all at once could be too much for your child.

- **Be a good role model.** Try new foods yourself. Describe their taste, texture, and smell to your child.

- **Offer new foods first.** Your child is most hungry at the start of a meal.

- **Offer new foods many times.** Sometimes, new foods take time. Kids don't always take to new foods right away. It may take up to a dozen tries for a child to accept a new food.



They learn from watching you. Eat fruits and vegetables and your child will too.

Make food fun!

Help your child develop healthy eating habits by getting him or her involved and making food fun! Get creative in the kitchen with these cool ideas. Check the ones you try at home, and be sure to add your own ideas, too!



Make meals and memories together. It's a lesson they'll use for life.

- **Cut a food into fun and easy shapes with cookie cutters.**
- **Encourage your child to invent and help prepare new snacks.** Create new tastes by mixing two or more food groups together to make interesting pairings.

- **Name a food your child helps create.**

Make a big deal of serving "Maria's Salad" or "Peter's Sweet Potatoes" for dinner.

- **Our family ideas to make food fun:**



For more great tips on these and other subjects, go to:
MyPlate.gov/preschoolers

JACKSON FAST TRACK!

Mississippi Director's Credential



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

2025 Dates:

August	September
12-13	2-3
19-20	9-10
25-26	16-17
	22-23
	30- October 1

Attendance on both dates, every week, for all nine modules is mandatory for completion of the course. Registration is contingent on space and acceptance into the program. Applications will be received through June 30th.



Scan here to register
through your lift-ED
portal!

Earning Your Credential Will:

- Provide a pathway to become 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 experiences, and education in working with young children 0 -12 years of age.



Greetings Early Childhood Friends,

We are excited to release details of upcoming professional learning opportunities in an area near you! MDE, through the Office of Early Childhood Education, is offering multiple opportunities to attend a full day training that will consist of several content areas. These training courses will take place during the months of August and September.

All training is available to early learning public, private, childcare, and Head Start administrators, principals, district leaders, teachers, and assistant teachers of pre-kindergarten classrooms. A description of each session offered is detailed below:

Sept 9th - 8:30am-4:00pm

UM Insight Park (Oxford)
850 Insight Park Avenue
University, MS 38677

Sept 17th - 8:30am-4:00pm

USM Trent Lott Center
118 College Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

Sept 10th - 8:30am-4:00pm

DSU Ewing Hall
201 South Fifth Avenue
Cleveland, MS 38732

Sept 23rd - 8:30am-4:00pm

R&D Center
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211

Sept 16th - 8:30am-4:00pm

Knight Nonprofit Center
11975 Seaway Road
Gulfport, MS 39503

Space is limited at each location and participants must register via the RESA website. The link can be accessed here: [MDE | Mississippi RESAs](#). The training will be conducted in several locations, so it is important to be certain of the intended date and location when completing registration. Registration is granted on a first come, first serve basis.

Participants who successfully complete a full day of training are eligible to receive (.6) CEUs for a small fee. (6) Contact Hours, (0) OSLs and (5) SEMIs are available at no cost. Contact earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org if there are any questions regarding registration.



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Greetings Early Childhood Friends,

The MDE, through the Office of Early Childhood, is offering a free 90-minute virtual training, **“You’ve Administered the BRIGANCE Screen III: Now What?”** This virtual training will provide next steps for participants who have already administered the Brigance Early Childhood Screener.

This interactive session will help educators access and analyze screening data from the BRIGANCE Screen III: 3-5 years, as well as prioritize instructional needs based on data, determine appropriate Readiness Activities, and utilize resources for involving families.

This training is available to all public, private, and Head Start administrators, principals, district leaders, directors, teachers, and assistant teachers of early childhood classrooms. A 1.5 contact hour certificate will be provided for those who attend the full training.

Registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis at <https://gsmu.mdek12.org/public/course/browse>. Registrants will need to verify that they are registering for the correct date and time, as multiple offerings will appear in the GoSignMeUp course listing page.

Contact the Professional Learning team at earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org if there are questions regarding registration. See dates and times below. This training will be offered four times to give everyone opportunity to attend. You will receive an email with a link the day before the training.

September 15, 2025

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Virtual Training

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Virtual Training

September 24, 2025

1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Virtual Training

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Virtual Training



Hernando Excel by 5 Upcoming Community Events

- Hernando Excel By 5 will be hosting our children's health fair on **Saturday, September 20th from 10AM-12PM** at the Hernando Farmers Market 2535 Highway 51 South.
 - Health organizations and children's organizations will be located at the front of the DeSoto County Courthouse with information and children's activities.
 - The first 100 children receive a \$5 POP Buck (they must find the POP Bucks located at one of the vendor tables) and they will receive free children's books while supplies last (last month 230+ books were distributed).
 - The Hernando Farmers Market offers the DUB Bucks program to anyone with SNAP Benefits which doubles their EBT transaction giving them tokens to purchase more fruits and vegetables.
 - There more than 40 farmers who attend the market throughout the season giving the shopper a variety of produce to choose from.
 - Saturday, November 21 and 22 is Hernando Dickens of a Christmas with lots of free activities for children and adults. More info to come.



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.

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!

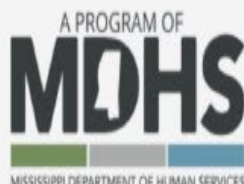
REGISTER TODAY

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



SEPTEMBER



2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Today is a new month! What are you excited about in September?	2 The letter of the month is S. What sound does the letter S make?	3 How many days are in September? What season does it fall in?	4 What changes do you see happening outside as we get closer to fall?	5 Can you name three animals that begin with the letter S?	6 Draw a picture of your favorite fall activity.
7 Help your child make a September goals list.	8 Go on a walk and look for signs of fall. What did you see?	9 Show your child how to draw the letter S in the air!	10 Sing a song that includes the word School!	11 Read a book about the fall season.	12 What special events happen in September?	13 Talk about different leaves and trees!
14 Make a card for someone you love!	15 Practice counting from 1-10 using leaves or sticks!	16 Play a rhyming game using words that start with S.	17 Tell a story that takes place in the fall.	18 Sort items by size or color with your child.	19 Go outside and describe what the weather feels like.	20 Help your child draw a self-portrait.
21 Ask your child to name their favorite book and why.	22 Visit the library and check out fall themed books.	23 How many times can you find the letter S on this caller?	24 Teach your child how to draw a smiley face!	25 Talk about what happens to the weather in fall.	26 Sing the ABC song together.	27 Return your library books and pick out new ones!
28 Make a list of things you're thankful for.	29 Pretend you're a squirrel collecting nuts! Hide and find objects.	30 Celebrate the end of the month with a fall dance party!				

**IF YOU COULD BE A TREE, WHAT KIND OF TREE WOULD YOU BE? WHAT COLOR WOULD YOUR LEAVES BE?
DRAW A PICTURE HERE**

SEPTIEMBRE ✨

2025

SOL	MI	MARTES	CASARSE	JUEVES	VIE	SE SENTÓ
	1 ¡Hoy es un nuevo mes! ¿Qué te emociona de septiembre?	2 La letra del mes es S. ¿Qué sonido hace la letra S?	3 ¿Cuántos días tiene septiembre? ¿En qué estación del año cae?	4 ¿Qué cambios ves que están sucediendo en el exterior a medida que nos acercamos al otoño?	5 ¿Puedes nombrar tres animales que empiecen con la letra S?	6 Dibuja una imagen de tu actividad de otoño favorita.
Ayude a su hijo a hacer una lista de objetivos para septiembre	8 Sal a caminar y busca señales de otoño. ¿Qué viste?	9 ¡Muestra a tu hijo cómo dibujar la letra S en el aire!	10 ¡Canta una canción que incluya la palabra Escuela!	11 Lea un libro sobre la temporada de otoño.	12 ¿Qué eventos especiales ocurren en septiembre?	13 ¡Hablemos de diferentes hojas y árboles!
14 ¡Haz una tarjeta para alguien que amas!	15 ¡Practica contar del 1 al 10 usando hojas o palitos!	16 Juega un juego de rimas usando palabras que empiecen con S.	17 Cuente una historia que sucede en el otoño.	18 Clasifique los artículos por tamaño o color con su hijo.	19 Sal y describe cómo se siente el clima.	20 Ayude a su hijo a dibujar un autorretrato
21 Pídale a su hijo que nombre su libro favorito y por qué.	22 Visita la biblioteca y consulta libros con temas de otoño.	23 ¿Cuántas veces puedes encontrar la letra S en esta agenda?	24 ¡Enséñele a su hijo cómo dibujar una cara sonriente!	25 Hable sobre lo que sucede con el clima en otoño.	26 Canten juntos la canción del ABC.	27 ¡Devuelve tus libros de la biblioteca y elige otros nuevos!
28 Haz una lista de cosas por las que estás agradecido.	29 ¡Imagina que eres una ardilla recogiendo nueces! Esconde y encuentra objetos.	30 ¡Celebre el fin de mes con una fiesta de baile de otoño!				

**SI PUDIERAS SER UN ÁRBOL, ¿QUÉ TIPO DE ÁRBOL SERÍAS? ¿DE QUÉ COLOR SERÍAN TUS HOJAS?
DIBUJA UNA IMAGEN AQUÍ**