

# Child Care Connection

MSDH Child Care Licensure Bureau

April 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.”*

## MSDH Regulation Reminder

Spring is in the air—a perfect time for a fresh start! As you tackle your spring cleaning, why not extend that same energy to your professional practices?

Now is an ideal opportunity to dive into the latest regulations, ensuring you and your team are up to date on recent changes. Take time to review what’s new, make any necessary adjustments, and identify training opportunities to stay fully compliant.

Explore the information below to get started and set your team up for success this season.

- ✓ printed copy of the NEW *Child Care Regulations (Complete) Effective February 26, 2026*. This document is available on the MSDH website under *Regulations and Guidelines* → *Child Care Regulations*.
- ✓ Training for staff on “Prevention of Shaken Baby/Abuse Head Trauma” can be found on (1) Texas A&M Early Childhood Course website or with (2) ProSolutions website

Texas A&M:

- Link to create an account: [Login](#)
- Childcare Training Courses Page: [Childcare Training Courses | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension](#)
- Scroll down and locate NEW FREE COURSES-- Texas Annual Training
- Click the 1<sup>st</sup> one or 3<sup>rd</sup> one---[Brain Development, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and Abusive Head Trauma: Shaken Baby Syndrome](#)

ProSolutions:

- Link to create an account: [ProSolutions Training](#)

Training Unit Reminders:

- ✓ When you enroll in a training, please plan to attend. If you are unable to do so, log in to your LIFT-ED/WELS portal, select “Professional Portal,” then choose “My Registered PDOs” from the dropdown menu to withdraw. Participants who do not withdraw in advance will be marked as a “No Show” on the day of training.
- ✓ Once a virtual or face-to-face training reaches capacity, additional enrollments cannot be accepted.
- ✓ If you have any questions or issues, please contact the trainer using the email addresses listed below. Kindly share this information with your staff.
  - Josie Smith: [josie.smith@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:josie.smith@msdh.ms.gov)
  - Josenda Dockery: [Josenda.dockery@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:Josenda.dockery@msdh.ms.gov)
  - Sandra Smith: [Sandra.smith@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:Sandra.smith@msdh.ms.gov)
  - Martha Jordan: [martha.jordan1@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:martha.jordan1@msdh.ms.gov)

## April 2026 Trainings

Date	Time	Training Topic	Location	Trainer
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Regulations Governing Licensure of Child Care Family Homes for 5 OR Fewer Children	Virtual <b>(ONLY for Family Homes Centers)</b>	J. Dockery
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Directors' Orientation	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Southaven, MS	J. Dockery
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Directors' Orientation	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Playground Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Olive Branch, MS	J. Dockery
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Olive Branch, MS	J. Dockery
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:00am-12:00pm	Directors' Orientation	Olive Branch, MS	J. Dockery
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	12:30pm-3:30pm	Playground Safety	Olive Branch, MS	J. Dockery
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-8:30pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Dockery
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am-11:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Brookhaven	S. Smith
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	11:30am-2:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Brookhaven	S. Smith
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm-5:30pm	Playground Safety	Brookhaven	S. Smith
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	1-4 pm	Playground Safety	Tupelo, MS	J. Smith
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	9-12 pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Tupelo, MS	J. Smith
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	9-12 pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Meridian, MS	J. Smith
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	1-4 pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Meridian, MS	J. Smith
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	9-12 pm	Playground Safety	Meridian, MS	J. Smith
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	1-4 pm	Directors Orientation	Meridian, MS	J. Smith
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	9-12 pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	1-4 pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9-12 pm	Playground Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1-4 pm	Directors Orientation	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	5-8 pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	9-12 pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	J. Smith
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	1-4 pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	J. Smith

<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9:00 am-12:00pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Jackson, MS	M. Jordan
<b>April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 am-12:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 1	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>April 7<sup>th</sup></b>	1:00-4:00pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>April 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 am-12:00pm	Director's Orientation	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>April 8<sup>th</sup></b>	1:00-4:00pm	Playground Safety	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>April 13<sup>th</sup></b>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulation Part 1	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>April 14<sup>th</sup></b>	5:30pm-8:30pm	Child Care Regulations Part 2	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00-12:00pm	CCDF Health & Safety	Virtual/Online	M. Jordan
<b>April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	9:00 am-12:00pm	Director's Orientation	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan
<b>April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	1:00 pm -4:00pm	Playground	Cleveland, MS	M. Jordan



## MSDH Sun and Heat Safety

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun is the most serious environmental risk factor for skin and lip cancer. Even a few serious sunburns can double your lifetime risk of cancer.

### Why It Matters

- Serious sunburns, especially during childhood and adolescence, can double the chance of developing malignant melanoma, one of the most deadly forms of skin cancer.
- Skin cancer cases have been rising among younger adults in recent years.
- Unprotected skin can be harmed by UV rays in as little as 15 minutes, yet it can take up to 12 hours for skin to show the full effects of sun exposure.

### Sun Safety

Adults of all ages – and especially children – should take steps against sun exposure from April through September:

- Use sunscreen rated SPF-15 or higher with both UVA and UVB protection. Remember that last year's sunscreen may not still be effective — check the expiration date on the packaging.
- Apply sunscreen half an hour before you go outside for full effectiveness. [More sunscreen tips](#)
- Seek shade, especially during midday when the sun's rays are strongest and do the most damage. Avoid direct exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and seek shade under an umbrella or tree.
- Cover up with clothing to protect exposed skin. Loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and long pants made from tightly woven fabric offer the best protection. Light clothing is not a substitute for sunscreen: a T-shirt only has an SPF of about 4.
- Get a hat with a wide brim to shade the face, head, ears, and neck. UV rays can reach anyone on cloudy and hazy days as well as bright and sunny days
- Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100 percent of both UVA and UVB rays as possible. Sunglasses protect both the eyes and tender skin around the eyes from sun exposure.

Find Your Local Heat Risk—Copy and Paste Link

[HeatRisk | Tracking | NCEH | CDC](#)

## Healthy Children Organization Information

### Sun Safety: Information for Parents About Sunburn & Sunscreen



Warm, sunny days are wonderful. It's good for children to spend time playing and exercising outdoors, and it's important they enjoy it safely. Here are some tips on how to help keep your family safe from too much exposure to the sun's harmful rays.

#### Simple rules to protect your family from sunburns

- Keep babies younger than 6 months out of direct sunlight. Find shade under a tree, an umbrella, or the stroller canopy.
- Dress yourself and your children in cool, comfortable clothing that covers the body when possible. Think lightweight cotton pants, long-sleeved shirts and hats.
- Select clothes made with a tight weave, which protect better than clothes with a looser weave.

Tip: If you're not sure how tight a fabric's weave is, hold it up to see how much light shines through. The less light, the better. Or you can look for protective clothing labeled with an Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF).

- Wear a hat with an all-around 3-inch brim to shield the face, ears, and back of the neck.
- Limit your sun exposure between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., when UV rays are strongest.
- Wear sunglasses with at least 99% UV protection. Look for youth-sized sunglasses with UV protection for your child.
  - Use sunscreen (see more below).

- Make sure everyone in your family knows how to protect their skin and eyes. Remember to set a good example by practicing sun safety yourself.

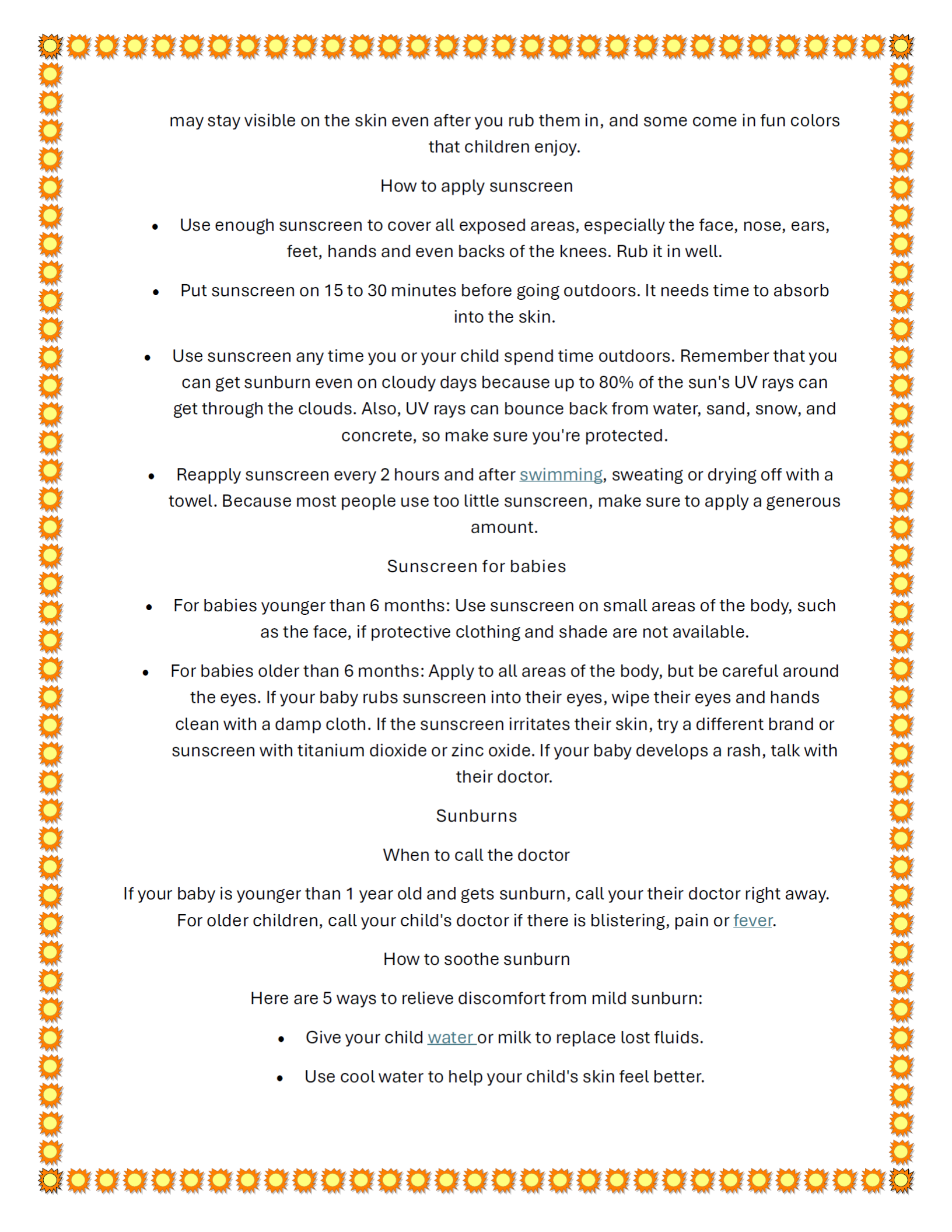


## Sunscreen

Sunscreen can help protect the skin from sunburn and some [skin cancers](#) but only if used correctly. Keep in mind that sunscreen should be used for sun protection, not as a reason to stay in the sun longer.

### How to choose a sunscreen

- Use a sunscreen that says "broad-spectrum" on the label; that means it will screen out both UVB and UVA rays.
- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 (up to SPF 50). An SPF of 15 or 30 should be fine for most people. More research studies are needed to test if sunscreen with more than SPF 50 offers any extra protection.
- If possible, avoid the sunscreen ingredient oxybenzone because of concerns about mild hormonal properties. Remember, though, that it's important to take steps to prevent [sunburn](#), so using any sunscreen is better than not using sunscreen at all.
- For sensitive areas of the body, such as the nose, cheeks, tops of the ears and shoulders, choose a sunscreen with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide. These products



may stay visible on the skin even after you rub them in, and some come in fun colors that children enjoy.

#### How to apply sunscreen

- Use enough sunscreen to cover all exposed areas, especially the face, nose, ears, feet, hands and even backs of the knees. Rub it in well.
- Put sunscreen on 15 to 30 minutes before going outdoors. It needs time to absorb into the skin.
- Use sunscreen any time you or your child spend time outdoors. Remember that you can get sunburn even on cloudy days because up to 80% of the sun's UV rays can get through the clouds. Also, UV rays can bounce back from water, sand, snow, and concrete, so make sure you're protected.
- Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours and after [swimming](#), sweating or drying off with a towel. Because most people use too little sunscreen, make sure to apply a generous amount.

#### Sunscreen for babies

- For babies younger than 6 months: Use sunscreen on small areas of the body, such as the face, if protective clothing and shade are not available.
- For babies older than 6 months: Apply to all areas of the body, but be careful around the eyes. If your baby rubs sunscreen into their eyes, wipe their eyes and hands clean with a damp cloth. If the sunscreen irritates their skin, try a different brand or sunscreen with titanium dioxide or zinc oxide. If your baby develops a rash, talk with their doctor.

#### Sunburns

##### When to call the doctor

If your baby is younger than 1 year old and gets sunburn, call your their doctor right away. For older children, call your child's doctor if there is blistering, pain or [fever](#).

##### How to soothe sunburn

Here are 5 ways to relieve discomfort from mild sunburn:

- Give your child [water](#) or milk to replace lost fluids.
- Use cool water to help your child's skin feel better.

- Give your child [pain medicine](#) to relieve painful sunburns. (For a baby 6 months or younger, give acetaminophen. For a child older than 6 months, give either acetaminophen or ibuprofen.)
  - Only use medicated lotions if your child's doctor says it is OK.
  - Keep your child out of the sun until the sunburn is fully healed.

#### Remember

The sun gives energy to all living things on earth, but it can also harm us. Its ultraviolet (UV) rays can damage skin and eyes and cause skin cancer. One-quarter of our lifetime sun exposure happens during childhood and adolescence.

Since children spend a lot of time outdoors, especially in the summer, it's important to protect them from the sun. Talk with your pediatrician if you have any questions about sun protection for your child.



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# Healthy Homes for Everyone

*practical actions. shared solutions. lasting impact.*

National Healthy Homes Month • April 2026

You could also include for more information visit: [Healthy Homes - Mississippi State Department of Health](#)





Dear Early Childhood Professionals,

The Office of Early Childhood's Approved Specialized Training Program, also known as Boot Camp, will begin **Part I of this two-part training on April 13 – May 8, 2026.**

By completing both parts of the Approved Specialized Training Program (Boot Camp), teachers and assistant teachers, whether in general or special education, who lack a focus on early childhood education, will earn the equivalent of 12 hours of approved early childhood coursework, qualifying them to teach in Pre-K classrooms\*.

Part I consists of a four-week self-paced online course. Participants will be required to use the Learning Management System (LMS) platform to complete all assignments and assessments via a desktop or laptop computer. Participants who successfully complete the Early Childhood Online Pre-K Boot Camp will be eligible to earn 2.6 CEUs, 20 SEMIs, 2 OSLs, and 26 contact hours.

Part II consists of an online course that begins in fall 2026 and concludes in spring 2027. To complete Part II of the training program, participants must finish all online modules, pass all assessments, and submit assignments through the Learning Management System (LMS) and Canvas Early Edu. Successful completion of Part II will result in a certificate of completion.

Certified teachers who complete both Part I and Part II may be eligible for an added Pre-K endorsement\*.

**Registration for Boot Camp Part One will open March 23, 2026 via the GoSignMeUp website: [Browse Courses](#)**

\*Certified teachers seeking a license endorsement in prekindergarten must meet pre-existing license endorsement criteria. **This program does NOT allow participants an opportunity to earn an educator's license.**

For more information, please email [earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org](mailto:earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org).

# 2026

## MISSISSIPPI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CONFERENCE

### SAVE THE DATE:

- June 16-18, 2026
- Cadence Bank Arena and Conference Center  
Tupelo, MS
- Registration Opens  
February 16

[Click here to REGISTER](#)

[Call for Proposals](#)

Proposal Submission Deadline:  
February 27

Please email  
[earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org](mailto:earlychildhoodtrainings@mdek12.org)  
if you have any questions.

# 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.

# MECIC provides on-site support for early childhood teachers and directors!

individualized ● challenging behavior ● supporting all children

## MECIC Referral

To request on-site support, follow  
the QR code and answer a few  
questions!



**SCAN HERE**

**Let us know if we can help you.**

# MS DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIAL RENEWAL

## Dates and Locations

March 10, 2026; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Senatobia  
March 10, 2026; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Indianola  
March 10, 2026; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Columbus  
March 11, 2025; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Tupelo  
March 12, 2026; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm - Jackson  
March 12, 2026; 9:00 am – 4:00 pm – D'Iberville  
March 18, 2026; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Oxford  
March 23, 2026; 8:30 am – 3:30 pm – Batesville  
March 24, 2026; 9:00 am – 4:00 pm - Hattiesburg  
April 09, 2026; 9:00 am – 4:00 pm - Brookhaven

*All trainings are in-person.*

## Renewal Eligibility

- **Previously completed and passed the MS Director's Credential (9-Module) course**
- **Credential has expired or will expire in 2026**
- **Have a copy of your original credential certificate or most recent renewal certificate**

Scan  
to  
Register



## 6 CONTACT HOURS

Confirmation of enrollment will be sent via email.  
Monitor your email for additional information  
regarding training details.

# RESOURCE & REFERRAL CENTER

## WE ARE OPEN IN AN AREA NEAR YOU!



### Center Locations:

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

