OKLAHOMA
Human Services

VOL. 6

# CHILD CARE SERVICES

## January 2022

## STABILIZATION GRANT UPDATES

## CYCLE 3 NOW OPEN

The third cycle of the stabilization grants opened on Monday, January 17th. Feburary 28th will be the last day to apply. Our finance department is continuing to process the final payments for cycle 2. Please check your emails ***(check your spam folder)*** for communication from the Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services Team. You are able to check the status of your application on the grants website at **http://okdhs.org/childcaregrants**. If you need assistance, please call the Child Care Services grant support center.




**The Child Care Services call center for grant support is now available. The hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm.**
**Phone #(405) 521-6177**

# Invitations to Play

Have you heard the term “invitation to play”? Does your program already use this quality practice? This practice invites children to play in a creative self-directed way and includes well thought out collections of materials arranged to spark a child’s interest and imagination. It encourages exploration and creativity, and extends a child’s ideas and learning beyond a teacher-led activity. For this activity, teachers provide the materials and invite the child to think about or explore an idea. Objects can include loose parts, photos, pictures, and books. The child chooses how to play with them.

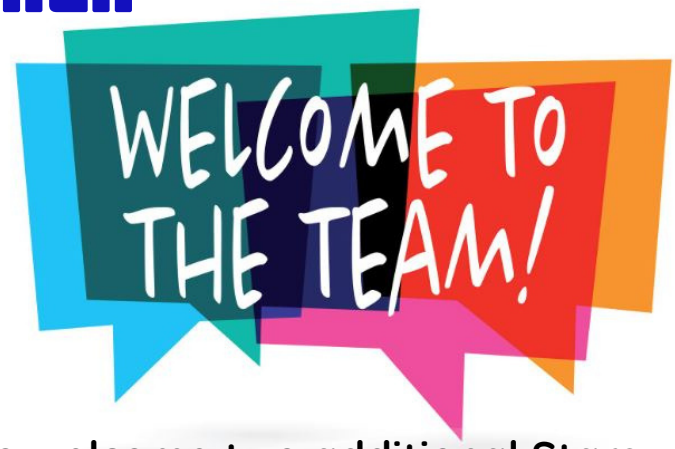
This type of play is important as it allows the child to learn through first-hand experiences and build self-confidence. Children are allowed to make their own choices and act independently. This encourages exploration, learning from mistakes, taking risks, creating, pretending, and inventing. We encourage you to learn more about this quality practice and consider utilizing invitations to play in your child care setting.







# NEW STARS OUTREACH SPECIALISTS!




We are thankful and excited to welcome two additional Stars Outreach Specialists (SOS) to the QRIS team, Amanda Rietz and Bree Dies! Amanda and Bree join the existing two SOS staff, Misti Denton and Tiffany McPherson.

Amanda has been with Child Care Services since 2017; she has previously worked as a Licensing Specialist in Oklahoma County and as a CCS Quality Coach. Amanda earned a Certificate of Mastery in Early Childhood Education (ECE), an Associates Degree in Child Development, and she has a B.S. degree in Child Development from UCO. Her previous work experience includes being an ECE teacher at OCCC's lab school and an adult education instructor at Rainbow Fleet R&R.

Bree has worked at DHS for 12 years and with Child Care Services for 9 of those years; she has been both a Licensing Specialist and Supervisor in northwest Oklahoma. Bree holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Social Work.

We have developed four SOS regions to serve all licensed child care providers in the state. The regions include Northeast-Misti Denton, Northwest-Bree Dies, Southeast-Tiffany McPherson, and Southwest-Amanda Rietz.

# Latest CDC guidance regarding isolation and quarantine:



HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/CORONAVIRUS/2019-NCOV/YOUR-HEALTH/QUARANTINE-ISOLATION.HTML

# Resources for a healthy Program

Do you need resources to give advice on keeping your program healthy? There is great information in OK Shared Services newsletter this month. If you aren't already registered to receive this information, at no cost, you can access it at the link below.

To sign up for OK Shared Services, simply go to **https://www.oksharedservices.org** and click on the "Register" link in the lower right-hand side of the page. Fill out the short form on the page, and click "Submit Request."

Please remember to inform your licensing specialist if you have any positive cases of Covid-19 at your program.



# SCHOOL AGE RATES & OVERPAYMENTS

For the school year starting August 2020, in response to the uncertainty surrounding in-person classes which varied by school district, OKDHS decided to continue paying providers a full time rate for school age children even when they only attended part time. However, this policy did not include any changes to the absent day payment policies which require a minimum number of full time attended days each month. To avoid over payments, part-time and full-time days must be accounted for accurately so the absent day payment policy is not violated. **This means providers must ensure proper swipes to account for full or part time attendance.** Please see the chart below to view proper swipes to reflect the type of care given. This initiative will continue through the end of 2022.

| School Age Swipe Types | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Type of care:** | **Hours of care in program:** | **Type of swipe:** |
| Part-Day Care | 1-4 hours | 1 swipe (1 in)<br>**-or-**<br>4 swipes (1 in, 1 out before school- 1 in, 1 out after school) |
| Full- Day Care | 4.01 hours or more | 2 swipes (1 in and 1 out) |

# CONTINUED COVID INITIATIVES

**OKDHS WILL CONTINUE TO FUND THE FOLLOWING INTERVENTIONS UTILIZING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS THROUGH THE END OF THIS YEAR :**

- COVERAGE OF SUBSIDY CO-PAYMENT FOR FAMILIES, PAID DIRECTLY TO PROVIDERS

- KITH.CARE PROVIDED FOR DESIGNATED ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES AND OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

- THREE MONTHS OF CHILDCARE SUBSIDY FOR THOSE UNEMPLOYED DUE TO COVID AND CURRENTLY LOOKING TO RE-ENGAGE IN THE WORKFORCE

- CONTINUATION OF $5 ADDED TO SUBSIDY RATE PER CHILD PER DAY BASED ON ATTENDANCE

- ALL SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FULL TIME PAYMENT EVEN WHEN THEY ONLY ATTEND PART TIME

- BUSINESS TRAINING RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS

- ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH OU-CECPD AT NO COST TO THE WORKFORCE