

Issue 8

2019



Growing Tomorrow's Leaders...  
Today

Enriching the Community

# Family Enrichment Network Child Care Resource and Referral Parent Newsletter

## Family Enrichment Network Services

Family Enrichment Network is committed to offering services that enrich the lives of people in every corner of our community.

From our Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R), which can help you find the right child care provider, to our Kinship Care program, and everything in between, there are many services for you to take advantage of. Here is a list of some more services we offer.

- Kinship Care program: offers support for adults who find themselves raising another family member's child. This program is available in both Broome and Tioga Counties.
- Nutritional Outreach and Education Program: Not sure if you qualify for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) Call and we can help! This program is available in both Broome and Tioga Counties.
- WIC Help NY: Not sure if you qualify for WIC (The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)? Call and we can help! This program is available in both Broome and Delaware Counties.
- Caring Homes: Provides case management and financial assistance for homeless families or families at risk of homelessness, living in Broome County & meeting income guidelines.
- Early Head Start/ Head Start: Helps parents from prenatal to children age 5 with child care needs and support. This program is available in both Broome and Tioga Counties.
- UPK: Pre-Kindergarten programs for Binghamton, Johnson City, and Union-Endicott School Districts.
- Special Education Services: Available for the evaluation of your preschool child to receive special services, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, or physical therapy. This program is available in both Broome and Chenango Counties.
- Courthouse Children's Center: Do you need safe child care while you have business in the Family Court in Broome County? Use this great resource!
- Want to become a Child Care Provider? CCR&R can help answer questions and assist you in opening your own child care business.

For more information on any of our programs, check our website at:

[www.familyenrichment.org](http://www.familyenrichment.org) or call 607-723-8313.

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Life affords no greater responsibility,  
no greater privilege, than the raising  
of the next generation.  
~ C. Everet Koop, M.D.

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## Child Care Options

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Listed below are brief descriptions of common types of child care programs in New York State. Each program is regulated by the state Office of Children and Family Services.

Day Care Centers - provide care for more than six children at a time, not in a personal residence.

Small Day Care Centers - provide care for up to six children, not in a personal residence.

Family Day Care Homes - provide care for three to six children at a time in a residence; may add one or two school-age children. The maximum allowable number of children will depend on whether there are and how many infants are in care.

Group Family Day Care Homes - provide care for seven to twelve children at a time in a residence; may add one or two school-age children. The maximum allowable number of children will depend on whether there are and how many infants are in care. A provider must use an assistant when more than six children are present.

\*Each of the programs listed above can serve children ages six weeks through twelve years and operate for more than three hours a day.

School-Age Child Care Programs - provide care for more than six children from kindergarten through age twelve. Care for children during non-school hours; also may provide care during school vacation periods and holidays.

Other forms of legal child care include:

Nursery Schools - provide care for three hours a day or less. In New York City, the City Department of Health regulates these programs. A nursery school may voluntarily register with the State Education Department (SED).

Pre-Kindergartens (UPK)- usually located in public schools, but can also be found in private schools or day care centers; supervised by the SED.

Head Start Centers - targeted for preschool-age children from low income families; federally funded and usually licensed as Day Care Centers.

Informal Care and Legally Exempt Child Care - is home-based care for one to two children at a time in addition to the provider's children; are not required to register, unless the programs receives child care subsidy payments from DSS, then must enroll.

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## Child Care Subsidy Income Guidelines

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You may be eligible to receive help with the cost of your childcare if your household income is below 200% of the income standard.

NYS Annual Income Standards for Child Care Subsidy—effective June 1, 2018

family size	200% income standard	100% income standard
1	\$24,280	\$12,140
2	\$32,920	\$16,460
3	\$41,560	\$20,780
4	\$50,200	\$25,100
5	\$58,840	\$29,420
6	\$67,480	\$33,740
7	\$76,120	\$38,060
8	\$84,760	\$42,380
Additional Family Size	\$ 8,640 per person	\$4,320 per person

For additional information or to apply for assistance, please call the Day Care Unit at the Department of Social Services at (607) 778-2628 in Broome County; (607) 687-8500 in Tioga County; and (607) 337-1500 in Chenango County.

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## Financial Assistance Tip Sheet

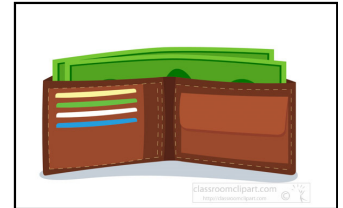
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### ASK YOUR EMPLOYER ABOUT:

- Dependent care benefits – A Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account allows you to have money set aside from your salary, pre-tax, each pay period in order to get reimbursed for eligible expenses related to the care of your dependents. <http://taxes.about.com>
- Child tax credits – The Child Care Tax Credit allows you to apply up to \$3,000 of expenses paid in a year for one qualifying child or \$6,000 for two or more qualifying children to your taxes through the Dependent Care Tax Credit. It can be claimed in addition to the Credit for Child and Dependent Care expenses. [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)
- NYS Employee Dependent Care Advantage Account – The Dependent Care Advantage Account (DCAAccount) is a negotiated employee benefit that helps State employee families who have to pay for child care, elder care, or disabled dependent care while they are at work. [www.flexpend.state.ny.us](http://www.flexpend.state.ny.us)
- Employer subsidized childcare slots – A discounted rate at a child care center in which the parent’s employer subsidizes the cost for a certain number of slots.

### ASK YOUR PROVIDER ABOUT:

- Multi-child discounts- a discounted rate for the second or third child from the same family
- Sliding scale fees – the cost of child care is calculated based on the parent’s income
- Scholarships – offered by individual programs to aid families who need help with the cost of care.
- Negotiable rates
- Reduced or free breakfast/lunch programs
- Volunteer hours in the center in exchange for child care
- Child care services exchange
- Head Start – A free federally funded program for 3 to 5 year olds for income eligible children
- Early Head Start – A free federally funded program for infants 6 weeks to 3 year olds for income eligible children

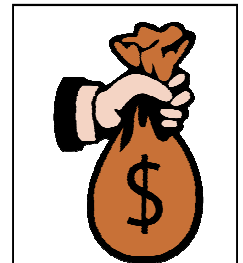



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### Average Weekly Cost of Child Care in Broome County For Full-Time Care in Registered/Licensed Child Care Programs

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	Child Care Center	Family Child Care Home	School-Age Program
Infant	\$199.00	\$149.00	—
Toddler	\$188.00	\$145.00	—
Preschooler	\$177.00	\$143.00	—
School Ager	\$160.00	\$135.00	\$120.00



## Quality Child Care

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We hear a lot about wanting our children to be in a quality child care program. But what does a quality child care program look like? Here are some things you want to see:

### Educated, attentive, and engaged teachers and staff

Teachers with degrees and specific training in early childhood education.

Teachers who crouch to eye level to speak to children.

Teachers who hold, cuddle, show affection, and speak directly to children, especially infants and toddlers.

Families and children exchanging information about the child's development and learning progress.

### A safe, healthy, and child-friendly environment

A room well-equipped with sufficient and appropriate materials and toys.

Classrooms in which materials and activities are organized logically and placed at eye level for the children.

Materials and toys accessible to children in an orderly display.

Centers that encourage safe, outdoor playtime.

Frequent hand washing by children and adults.

Children offered breakfast, lunch, and a time to nap.

Visitors welcomed with appropriate parental consent.

### Stimulating activities and appropriately structures routines

Children have a variety of activities in their daily routine using indoor and outdoor spaces, including experiences with language, literacy, math, science, art, music, movement, and dramatic play.

Children participating with teachers and each other in individual, small-group, and large-group activities.

Children who are engaged in their activities.

Preschoolers who are allowed to play independently.

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## Additional Information To Help In the Search for Child Care

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Use the "*As You Think About Child Care...*" book included with your referrals for additional tips, checklists and questions to ask when looking for a child care program to meet your needs.

For information on OCFS child care regulations, visit: [ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/daycare\\_regulations](http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/daycare_regulations)

## Community Resources

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### Medical and Insurance Resources:

Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network at 457 State Street, Binghamton, behind the Colonial Plaza or call 772-0517.

### Parenting Support and Resources:

Binghamton PAL Center at 457 State Street, Binghamton or call 771-6334.

Endicott Family Education Center at 200 Jefferson Ave., Endicott or call 760-5755.

Johnson City Family Resource Center at 601 Columbia Drive, Johnson City or call 763-1252.

Owego Family Resource Center at 72 North Street, Owego or call 687-1571.

Waverly Family Resource Center at 374 Broad St., Waverly or call 565-2374.

Norwich PAL Center at 27 West Main Street, Norwich or call 334-8909.

### Budget Stretchers and Food Resources:

WIC: Broome County call 723-8313 ext. 1651

Chenango County call Opportunities for Chenango at 334-7114

Tioga County call Tioga Opportunities at 687-4222 or 1-866-352-3680

SNAP (Food Stamps): Broome County call 723-8313 ext. 827

Chenango County call 337-1500

Tioga County call 201-5678

CHOW: call 211.

Salvation Army: call 722-2987.

**For assistance with any other needs, call 211 to help you find the right resource.**

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## Parent Advocacy

### **Not As Difficult Or Time-Consuming As You Might Think!**

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All parents and families have a variety of needs and interests, and every family is different. We also know that no matter what your individual circumstances are, as a parent, you want the best for your children.

One of the best ways to ensure that your children get what they need is to be actively involved. We also know that parents are very busy people with limited free time and countless demands upon it. But there are also a multitude of programs and resources that can help you, and being an advocate for your child doesn't have to be as time-consuming as you might think.

Join Child Care Aware Parent Network, a free website for everyone who cares about children and the quality of care they receive. It is not only for parents. It is intended to bring child care to the forefront of the nation's agenda and to create new perspectives about the priority of children's issues. Parent Network offers high quality information on parents and child care. When you join, you will receive networking and advocacy tools, as well as free webinars on important topics.

Join today at [www.ccaparentnetwork.org](http://www.ccaparentnetwork.org).



### **Family Enrichment Network**

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Growing Tomorrow's Leaders...Today  
Enriching the Community

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

The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. This mission includes a strong commitment to partnering with families and community agencies to develop and provide programs to achieve the best results for children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.

To learn more about our mission, and share in our vision that all children and families have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential, please visit our website at [www.familyenrichment.org](http://www.familyenrichment.org).

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## **Family Enrichment Network Complaint Procedure**

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### Complaints about child care programs:

Complaints about child care programs in the community should be called into the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Syracuse Regional Office (SRO) Complaint/Inquiry Line at 1-800-732-5207.

If guidance or assistance with a child care program concern is needed, contact the CCR&R Director at (607) 723-8313 ext. 872. The concern will be documented. The complainant will be notified that all complaints are handled by the SRO of OCFS and will be encouraged to call the Complaint/Inquiry Line 1-800-732-5207 and the SCR Public Hotline at 1-800-342-3720, if necessary for concerns of maltreatment or abuse. The CCR&R Director will follow up all complaints by calling OCFS and relaying information concerning the complaint.

In the absence of the CCR&R Director, community members can call the FEN Human Resources Director or Executive Director.

### Complaints about CCR&R services:

Clients or community members who have a complaint about the CCR&R service or staff can contact the CCR&R Director at (607) 723-8313 ext. 872; FEN Human Resources Director at (607) 723-8313 ext. 814; or FEN Executive Director at (607) 723-8313 ext. 835. The Agency policies and procedures will be followed to respond to the complaint.