The Child Care Connection
June 2019

A Message from Our Executive Director

Happy Summer!

Just because it is summer does not mean we are slowing down here at the Council! We have a busy schedule of training and professional development opportunities – check it out here. And mark your calendars for our regional Infant Toddler Conference – scheduled for September 14th.

We are also busy advocating in Albany and locally to address the many challenges facing the child care industry and working families. Through the Governor’s Child Care Availability Task Force, I am working hard to push for investments that will make it easier for families to access and afford child care, while at the same time supporting the need to help child care providers meet the rising minimum wage requirements.

The good news is that more of our policy-makers are focusing on child care. At our Annual Meeting in June, the NYS Commissioner of the Department of Labor, Roberta Reardon, spoke passionately about the importance of child care saying, “Child care is a vital issue that impacts every family in the state in one way or another. Accessible, affordable child care isn’t a women’s issue, it’s not a family issue, it’s SOCIETY’S issue. We have to do a better job by our children and by our working families. The Department of Labor stands ready to dig into this issue and be a part of the solution.”
We will continue to fight for a child care system that is adequately funded, supported and RESPECTED!

Thank you for all you do and have a wonderful and safe summer!

**Updated Immunization Requirements**

As of June 13, 2019 there is no longer a religious exemption to the requirement that children be vaccinated in order to attend public, private or parochial school (for students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade) or child day care settings.

This new legislation will affect some programs' current policies and procedures when accepting new children, as well as updating children's current medical statements & immunizations.

For more information on this new legislation, click here.

**CLASP Survey Opportunity**

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is interested in learning more about the experiences of immigrant families with young children and the direct service providers who support them. CLASP is a national, nonpartisan, anti-poverty organization that conducts research and advocacy around policies that support people who are low income and their families.

The purpose of this survey is to understand how young children in immigrant families and their parents are experiencing immigration policy changes. CLASP is interested in learning about any observed changes in the health or well-being of young children and any changes in families’ access to services and programs.

The survey will take approximately 25-45 minutes to complete. A random selection of respondents will win a $50 gift card.

**Upcoming Trainings**

7/9 - Regulaciones para los proveedores de familia y grupo familiar (Regulations Jeopardy)
7/10 - Bug Safari
7/17 - Regulations Jeopardy for Family/Group Child Care
7/24 - Red Flags and Modifying the Classroom
7/30 - Schedules, Routines, Transitions OH
CSEA will sponsor trainings for Family and Group Family child care providers. When registering for a training, contact Stefanie to see if your program is eligible!

**CACFP**

**Summer Sizzler**

*Stir frying is a healthy and quick cooking method that can easily transform chicken or any leftover meat or vegetables into another entree.*

**Ingredients**

- 3/4 lb chicken, turkey, or pork, cut in cubes or thin slices
- 2 1/2 cups Asian vegetable mix, frozen
- 1/2 tsp oil, olive or canola or cooking spray
- 1 tbsp soy sauce, low sodium (optional)

**Directions**

1. Slice chicken, turkey or pork into strips or cubes.
2. Spray pan (or wok or griddle) with cooking spray or use a little olive or canola oil.
3. Cook until meat is browned.
4. Add vegetables to the meat and cook 1 to 2 minutes until the vegetables are cooked but still colorful and crisp.

This can be served as Lunch/Supper | Serves 5 ages 3-5

**Reminder:** It's getting hot out there! Don't forget to serve your children lots of water!
Congratulations to the P.L.I. class of 2019, who will now take their place among the more than 800 graduates who collectively help create a safe and supportive environment for our children on Long Island.

This year's projects include efforts in anti-bullying, mentoring, healthy food choices and equitable access to voting for the residents of Suffolk County.

If you’re interested in learning more about our program and becoming part of the P.L.I. family, please contact Denise Ham, Director of P.L.I. Suffolk County for more information at DHam@childcaresuffolk.org, or call 631-462-0303 ext. 101. We’re now accepting applications for the 2019/2020 sessions.

Resource & Referral

Does your child care program offer summer and school break options for families?

Call us today at 631-462-0303 and ask to speak with the Resource and Referral Department to update your program's information for the summer season.