

# CHILD CARE CONNECTOR

A Monthly ICPYC Early Childhood Educator Newsletter



## TRAINING CALENDAR

Professional development trainings build highly qualified educators that help children flourish. Region 9 Child Care Resource and Referral offers professional development trainings for early childhood educators. Contact Stephanie Clark at [sclark@icpyc.org](mailto:sclark@icpyc.org) if you have questions about trainings. Registration for all trainings should be completed [online](#). Please use the links provided to view our training calendar, register, and pay for trainings.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are closed DAILY from 12-1 p.m. for lunch
- Our offices will be closed the second Monday of each month from 1-4 p.m. for staff development.
- Closed for Holidays:
  - March 29th (Good Friday)

## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*[Read Across America Day](#)*

*[International Day of Happiness](#)*

*[Hope 4 NC Helpline](#)*





## **CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY**

For 25 years, the National Education Association (NEA) has celebrated Read Across America to raise awareness about the importance, value, and fun of reading. While NEA's Read Across America celebrates reading year-round, March 2 is Read Across America Day — a special day to call attention to the efforts of educators, parents, and others who motivate and teach children to read.

Use Read Across America to help children enjoy and relate to what they read by linking books and reading to other experiences in their lives. National Read Across America Day helps support literacy-based efforts in our community and build awareness for the critical role that early learning plays in each child's development.

Visit

<https://www.nea.org/professionals-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america> to learn more about Read Across America, find resources, and a list of diverse books.

## **HEALTHY SOCIAL BEHAVIORS PROJECT: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL CONNECTIONS**

Are you looking to improve your satisfaction in the job you do every day? Social Emotional Connections gives child care providers the opportunity to participate in conversations with other child care providers from around the state who do the same work, who care about the same topics, who are looking for information to help them manage classroom behaviors and avoid suspension or expulsion of the children in their classroom. When you join the Social Emotional Connections community you have the opportunity to share stories, experiences and ideas, offer encouragement, find inspiration, and receive helpful tips from NC Healthy Social Behavior Specialists on creating pro-social classroom experiences. To join the Social Emotional Connections community, click [here](#). For more information about Social Emotional Connections, contact NaTasha Peterson, Region 9 HSB Specialist, at 704.929.3940 or [npeterson@icpyc.org](mailto:npeterson@icpyc.org).



## UNPACKING ITERS-R: AN OVERVIEW OF THE INFANT/TODDLER ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALE – REVISED EDITION ON DEMAND TRAINING WEBINAR

The NC Birth-to-Three Quality Initiative is offering an online, on-demand course for everyone interested in understanding and using the Infant-Toddler Environment Rating Scale - Revised Edition (ITERS-R). This two-hour course introduces ITERS-R: what it is, its history and how NC uses the assessment. Every item of the assessment is discussed along with specific tips on how to improve your classroom quality and, in turn, improve your overall ITERS-R score. To register for the course, [click here](#). Registration is \$20.

You will need a copy of the Infant-Toddler Environment Rating Scale - Revised Edition (ITERS-R) book to follow along. This course is ideal for infant and toddler teachers preparing for the star-rated license assessments. For questions, please reach out to [B3QI@childcareservices.org](mailto:B3QI@childcareservices.org).

## ICPYC JOB BOARD

The Iredell County Partnership for Young Children (ICPYC) recognizes that many child care programs are struggling to find qualified staff. To assist child care programs in Iredell County, ICPYC has created a job board on our website to share available early childhood employment opportunities. The job board is designed to serve as a resource for the early care and education profession and connect those looking for employment with available employment opportunities. ICPYC will not make recommendations to individuals seeking employment or to employers looking for staff. If you are interested in the opportunity to allow ICPYC to share employment opportunities for your child care program, please contact Stephanie Clark at [980-759-1517](tel:980-759-1517) or [sclark@icpyc.org](mailto:sclark@icpyc.org). If you are looking for a job in the early childhood field, visit <https://www.iredellsmartstart.org/job-board> to see available positions in Iredell County.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS: MARCH 20, 2024

If you're happy and you know it, celebrate it on the International Day of Happiness! With all the responsibilities we carry each day, it is not always easy to be happy. It is important that we learn what we need to be happy, in spite of all the negative things we see and hear each day. Unfortunately, emotions like anger and sadness are increasingly becoming a way to cope, so here's a day to cheer up and appreciate the good, positive things in our lives.

Everyone has their own definition of happiness and the things that make them happy. There are no traditions set in stone for the International Day of Happiness. Happiness is about feeling content, not faking your feelings. On this day, and every day that follows, do whatever makes you happy! Being internally happy is key to being satisfied with your surroundings, so challenge yourself and be open to new people and experiences. Cherish the little things and be grateful for everything in that moment.





*"Be yourself; everybody else is already taken."*

— Oscar Wilde

## HOPE 4 NC HELPLINE

The stress of life and work, especially during the ongoing stressful times can feel overwhelming; but you don't have to handle it on your own. With support and someone to listen, you can find a way through. As part of the child care workforce, you are essential, both for families with young children and the state's economy. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the North Carolina Psychological Foundation, created Hope4Healers, also known as Hope 4 NC, a confidential mental health support for child care professionals. This resource is available to you and your family at no cost. Hope4Healers offers a timely, easily accessible helpline that is staffed 24/7 with counselors trained in helping when you call [919-226-2002](tel:919-226-2002).

## QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES - SPOTLIGHT

Quality Support Services are aligned with the National Association for the Education of Young Child's Program Standards to empower early childhood professionals to maintain and enhance quality in the classroom.

Technical assistance for early childhood professionals focuses on developmentally appropriate practices, intentional teaching, child interactions, positive classroom management, inclusive curriculum implementation, operational health and safety requirements, and supports family engagement. If you are an administrator or teacher needing assistance in your child care program or classroom, please contact Joanna Smith, Director of Early Childhood Education at [704.380.3874](tel:704.380.3874) or [jsmith@icpyc.org](mailto:jsmith@icpyc.org).





<b>First Aid &amp; CPR</b>	<p>This training is for early childhood providers who are currently certified or need full certification in Adult and Pediatric First Aid and CPR. Participants must have a valid email to receive a two-year certificate and pocket card following the training. Cards will be issued by the American Heart Association and will be emailed to each participant after the training. <b>\$40 payment is due to the trainer, Revonda Tucker, the day of the training. Please bring exact cash or a business check.</b></p> <p><b>Click to register:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/810746012147">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/810746012147</a></p>	<p>March 5, 2024 5:30-8:30 p.m. R. Tucker <b>ICPYC Statesville</b> <b>\$40</b></p>
<b>Unlocking Autism: Navigating Signs and Support Strategies</b>	<p>The "What is Autism?" training, hosted by North Carolina Behavior, is an informative session designed to equip participants with an understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The training aims to familiarize attendees with the diagnostic criteria for ASD, enabling them to recognize and understand the diverse range of symptoms associated with the disorder. Participants will also delve into dispelling common myths and misunderstandings surrounding ASD, fostering a more informed and empathetic perspective. The session further explores the impact of ASD on academics and advocates for a strength-based approach to better support individuals with autism. Attendees will gain insight into the concerns within the neurodiversity movement, promoting an inclusive and accepting environment. The training caters to the audience's curiosity about Autism by providing information on the disorder, highlighting key symptoms, and offering guidance on what teachers can do to bridge the gap between themselves and children with an ASD diagnosis. Additionally, the session will furnish resources for further exploration and support, empowering participants to enhance their knowledge and skills in catering to the needs of individuals with ASD.</p> <p><b>Click to register:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/824374495307">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/824374495307</a></p>	<p>March 5, 2024 6:30-8:00 p.m. 1.5 DCDEE Credits N. Corgen <b>ONLINE</b> <b>FREE</b></p>
<b>How Are You? How Am I?</b>	<p>Most preschool teachers are diligent about introducing their students to a large variety of literature and pre-literacy activities. But emotional literacy – the ability to identify, understand and respond to emotions in yourself and others in a healthy manner – is even more basic to school readiness. We'll examine the many benefits to children who gain a strong foundation in emotional literacy, explore simple ways in which you can foster emotional literacy in your classroom, and share some excellent resources for tools and activities teachers can incorporate into their daily classroom curriculum to make intentional teaching of emotions fun and easy.</p> <p><b>Click to register:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/810747225777">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/810747225777</a></p>	<p>March 7, 2024 6:30-8:30 p.m. 2.0 DCDEE Credits N. Peterson <b>ONLINE</b> <b>\$5</b></p>
<b>ITS SIDS</b>	<p>What are the risk factors for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)? Do you know how to decrease the risk of SIDS? Are you implementing safe-sleeping policies in your classroom or family child care home? Anyone who cares for infants and toddlers must complete this training. <b>This training must be renewed every 3 years.</b></p> <p><b>Click to register:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/769682720737">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/769682720737</a></p>	<p>March 14, 2024 6:30-8:30 p.m. 2.0 DCDEE Credits A. Shell <b>ONLINE</b> <b>\$10</b></p>
<b>Infants &amp; Toddlers: Early Childhood Development and Resources</b>	<p>Training developed by the North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center covering Infants and Toddlers: Early Childhood Development and Resources. Participants will review developmental milestones for infants and toddlers and gain specific knowledge of typical vs. atypical development, identify strategies and ways to communicate with parents/caregivers when there are concerns related to a specific child's development, learn more about community resources related to developmental needs including who can and how to refer, and identify ways to collaborate amongst early educators, parents/caregivers, developmental support staff, and other community support members.</p> <p><b>Click to register:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/824379008807">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/824379008807</a></p>	<p>March 25, 2024 6:30-8:30 p.m. 2.0 DCDEE Credits R. Lentz <b>ICPYC Mooresville</b> <b>FREE</b></p>

<b>Iredell County Director's Forum</b>	<p>This training is for child care owners/administrators/FCCH providers. During the Director's Forum providers will receive updates and information from local and state representatives. Please come ready to listen, ask questions, and share your thoughts and concerns. We look forward to seeing you soon!</p> <p>Click to register: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/825826127177">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/825826127177</a></p>	<p>March 26, 2024 6:30-8:30 p.m. 2.0 DCDEE Credits J. Smith <b>ICPYC Statesville FREE</b></p>
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**ICPYC:** Iredell County Partnership for Young Children (734 Salisbury Road, Statesville, NC 28677)  
**Mooreville:** Iredell County Partnership for Young Children (249 Williamson Road, Suite 102, Mooreville NC 28117)  
**Online:** Registrants will receive a Zoom link by email 24 to 48 hours before the training.

*For questions about trainings, please contact Stephanie Clark at 980-759-1517 or [sclark@icpyc.org](mailto:sclark@icpyc.org).*

## **TRAINING POLICIES**

### **Online**

- Registration should be completed online. All registrants must have an individual email address.
- Each registrant will receive an email containing a Zoom link 24 to 48 hours before the online training. This link should not be shared with others. Individuals that are not registered will not be allowed to join online trainings. Download Zoom at <https://zoom.us/download>.
- If more than 1 person will be using the same device for a training, prior approval is required.
- Registrants should log onto the training at least 10 minutes before the online training begins.
- Registrants attempting to join more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time will not be permitted to join the online training.
- Trainings should not be attended while working in the classroom, taking attention away from supervising young children. Teacher/Child ratio in the classroom should be maintained at all times.
- Participants should not be driving, at a sporting event, or preoccupied with other activities while attending online trainings.
- If it is determined that participants are unable to fully participate in the training or become disruptive, participants will be removed from the training and will not receive credit.
- Participants are required to participate in discussions and activities during the training. You must have the capability to use a web camera, mute/unmute, and use the chat box throughout the training.
- Participants must leave web camera on throughout the training.
- To receive credit hours, participants must attend the entire training and complete all necessary surveys. Training certificates will be emailed 24 to 48 hours following the training and CEU certificates will be mailed 4 to 6 weeks following the training.
- Trainings should not be recorded and shown to other staff members at a later date.
- All trainings will begin on time and no refunds or credits will be given without 24-hour notice of cancellation.

### **In-Person**

- The above policies, that apply, should be followed for in-person trainings.
- Guests are not allowed to attend trainings with individuals registered to attend in-person trainings.
- The doors of the building will be locked 15 minutes after the scheduled start of all evening and Saturday trainings. Participants who arrive more than 15 minutes late for any training are ineligible to receive training credit.