Don’t Forget about School-Age Child Care in Your Consumer Education Website

National Webinar
September 12, 2019
Introductions

- **Amy Page**, Child Care State Capacity Building Center (SCBC)
- **Heidi Rosenberg**, National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE)
Agenda and Objectives

- Data on school-age child care, including how states are integrating this type of care into their consumer education websites
- Recommendations on how to better serve families with school-age children via state child care searches
- Options for including school-age-friendly resources on the consumer education website
- Opportunities for partnerships and collaboration
Poll 1.

What is your position or role?
Moving from Compliance to a Commitment to Quality
Thinking about School-Age Child Care

- Does my website support the reasons people come to use it in the first place?

- Does my website help people complete a task, such as finding information and resources for school-age children?

- Does my website use words that people can easily understand?

- Is information easy to find on my website?
Use Your Target Audience As a North Star

Good web experience starts with

◆ defining your audience,
◆ identifying their most frequent and important tasks, and
◆ ensuring your content guides them to finish those tasks.
### Consumer Education Website Requirements

There are twelve required consumer information components that states and territories must offer on their child care consumer education websites.

**State-Level Consumer Information**
1. Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies
2. Licensing and Monitoring Process
3. Contact Information for Lead Agency
4. Deaths in Child Care Settings (Aggregate Data)
5. Injuries in Child Care Settings (Aggregate Data)
6. Child Abuse Cases (Child Care Settings on Substantiation Cases)
7. ZIP Code Search
8. Monitoring Reports
9. Date of Last Inspection
10. Three Years of Monitoring Data
11. Quality Rating
12. Corrective Actions

**Provider-Level Consumer Information**
1. Child Care and Related Agencies
2. Injuries in Child Care Settings (Aggregate Data)
3. Child Abuse Cases (Child Care Settings on Substantiation Cases)
4. Optional Language Usage

### Consumer Education Website Recommendations

State and territories may also provide other state-level information to consumers on their websites:

- Child Care Assistance
- Child Development
- Development Screening
- IDEA Parts B & C
- Family Engagement
- Other Assistance
- Public

Technical assistance is available to provide:

- Identify on the specific CCDF consumer education requirements
- Identification of barriers to implementation of the requirements and project management strategies to overcome those barriers
- Intensive support in identifying the challenges that are impacting progress to assess options and develop a plan for moving the requirements moving forward
- Highlights of innovative practices:
  - Providing all required information on a single consumer education website
  - Ways to seamlessly link multiple sites
  - Strategies for making consumer education materials available in multiple languages
  - Examples of multiple strategies for integrating licensed exempt programs into provider search tools
  - Examples of specific strategies for lowering reading level to be more accessible to a broader audience

### Office of Child Care Key Links

- Plain Language Summary of Statutory Changes

- CCDF Final Rule Fact Sheet: Overview of 2016 Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule
  - [Link](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/oa/pdf/files/ccdf_final_rule_fact_sheet.pdf)

- CCDF Plan Preprint 2019-2021 (DRAFT)

- Child Care and Development Fund Final Rule Frequently Asked Questions
  - [Link](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/oa/pdf/files/ccdf_final_rule_faq.pdf)

Poll 2.

- What features would be helpful to include for families of school-age children on the consumer education website?

- In other words, what information and resources might they need?
School-Age Child Care by the Numbers

Average of 611,378 school-age children served each month

*FY 2016 data

45% of all children served through subsidies are school-age
Child Care Settings

Where are school-age children served?

- 71% served in child care centers
- 25% served in family child care
- 5% served in child’s own home
28 states and territories see a double-digit percent increase in the number of school-age children served through subsidies during the summer months (June–August)
Find Child Care

Looking for child care in your state?
SELECT YOUR STATE TO BEGIN

Select a State

Submit

This site links to state child care search websites.
Age and Subsidy Acceptance

- 43 consumer education websites show the age range of children served by providers
  - 36 allow website user to filter for age, or school-age as a program type, to customize search
- 30 consumer education websites show whether providers accept CCDF subsidies
  - 20 allow website user to filter for subsidy/vouchers to customize search

*As of March, 2019*
License-Exempt Providers

• 31 states and territories include license-exempt providers on consumer education websites
  » 6 include license-exempt CCDF centers
  » 5 include license-exempt CCDF family child care
  » 20 include both license-exempt CCDF centers and CCDF family child care
Supporting School-Age-Friendly Child Care Search Tools

Recommendations and State Examples
State Child Care Search Tools

How do you make your child care searches more school-age friendly?

- Include licensed and license-exempt school-age child care programs in your search database.
- Enhance your search filters.
- Enhance the information presented in search results.
Integrating School-Age-Friendly Search Filters

- Dynamic search filters (users can choose more than one item in a list)
- Age group
- School-age-friendly care attributes
  - Transportation
  - Summer camps
  - Schedules (school year only, year-round, summer care, school vacation care)
# School-Age-Friendly Search Filters: Oklahoma

## Oklahoma Child Care Locator

Watch the video about choosing quality child care. For additional information on how to find and choose quality child care, call the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association at 1-888-962-2772 or [https://www.oklahomachildcare.org](https://www.oklahomachildcare.org)

**Selecting Quality Child Care - A Parent's Guide**

### Facility Name
If you know the name of the facility you are looking for, enter it here.

- **Facility Name:**

### Facility Location
Multiple entries allowed to narrow choices, if desired. If no entries are made, all facilities will be shown.

- **County:**
- **City:**
- **Zip Code:**

### Program Operated
Select as many as needed. If no boxes are checked, all facilities will be shown.

- **Day Time:**
- **Evenings:**
- **Overnight:**
- **Weekend:**
- **Drop In (hourly):**
- **Year Round:**
- **School Year Only:**
- **Summer Only:**
- **School Vacation Only:**
- **Sick Care:**

### Star Level
Select Star level from list. Default is all levels.

- **All Levels:**

![Facility Location](image)

### Ages Accepted
- **0-11 months**
- **12-23 months**
- **2 yr old**
- **3 yr old**
- **4 yr old**
- **5 yr old**
- **6+ yr old**

### Facility Type
- **All Centers and Homes**
- **Centers**
- **Homes**

### Transportation
If no box is checked, facilities will be shown without regard to Transportation services.

- ToFrom Children's Schools
- ToFrom Children's Homes
- Field Trips

### Accept Subsidy?
If not checked, facilities with or without OKDHS subsidy contract will be shown.

- **Only Show Facilities that accept subsidy payments**

For information about assistance, contact Oklahoma Child Care Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search for Child Care</th>
<th>Clear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

To locate a child care facility, mark your choices to narrow the search, then click the "Search for Child Care" button to get a list of facilities matching your criteria. (Click "Clear" to clear all choices and start over.)

---

**Description of Star Levels** - Child care programs at every star level vary widely in the services and quality of care they provide. Take time in evaluating your child care options. Contact [Child Care Services](http://childcarefind.okdhs.org/childcarefind/) for a checklist and steps to finding child care.

---

## School-Age-Friendly Search Filters: Oklahoma

Watch the video about choosing quality child care. For additional information on how to find and choose quality child care, call the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association at 1-888-962-2772 or [https://www.oklahomachildcare.org Selecting Quality Child Care - A Parent’s Guide](https://www.oklahomachildcare.org)

### Facility Name
If you know the name of the facility you are looking for, enter it here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Facility Location
Multiple entries allowed to narrow choices, if desired. If no entries are made, all facilities will be shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Program Operated
Select as many as needed. If no boxes are checked, all facilities will be shown.

- [ ] Day Time
- [ ] Evenings
- [ ] Overnight
- [ ] Weekend
- [ ] Drop In (hourly)
- [ ] Year Round
- [ ] School Year Only
- [ ] Summer Only
- [ ] School Vacation Only
- [ ] Sick Care

### Star Level
Select Star level from list. Default is all levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Star Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Levels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School-Age-Friendly Search Filters: Oklahoma

Watch the video about choosing quality child care. For additional information on how to find and choose quality child care, call the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association at 1-888-962-2772 or https://www.oklahomachildcare.org

Selecting Quality Child Care – A Parent’s Guide

Ages Accepted

☐ 0-11 months  ☐ 12-23 months  ☐ 2 yr old
☐ 3 yr old  ☐ 4 yr old  ☐ 5 yr old
☐ 6+ yr old

Facility Type

☐ All Centers and Homes  ☐ Centers  ☐ Homes

Transportation

If no box is checked, facilities will be shown without regard to Transportation services.

☐ To/From Children’s Schools
☐ To/From Children’s Homes
☐ Field Trips

Accept Subsidy?

If not checked, facilities with or without OKDHS subsidy contract will be shown.

☐ Only Show Facilities that accept subsidy payments?

For information about assistance, contact Oklahoma Child Care Services

Search for Child Care  Clear

To locate a child care facility, mark your choices to narrow the search, then click the "Search for Child Care" button to get a list of facilities matching your criteria. (Click "Clear" to clear all choices and start over.)

School-Age-Friendly Search Filters: Minnesota

Helen H. Taylor Early Childhood Education Center

- 4901 Olsen Memorial Hwy
- Minneapolis, MN 55422
- 763-541-7422
- Monday - Friday
  - 6:45 AM - 6:00 PM
- Accepts CCAP
- 4 of 4 stars

Head Start

Helen H Taylor Early Childhood

- 1.8 miles away
- Active License
- Eligible for scholarships
- Accepts CCAP

School-Age-Friendly Search Filters: New Mexico

Advanced Search Options:

Type of Care
- Child Care Centers
- School Age Programs
- Head Start Programs
- New Mexico PreK
- Licensed Family Child Care
- Registered Family Child Care

Quality
- 1 Star
- 2 Stars
- 3 Stars
- 4 Stars
- 5 Stars
- No Rating - (Registered)

Ages Served
- Infant
- 1 year
- 2 years
- 3 years
- 4 years
- 5 years
- 6-12 years
- 13 years and up

School-Age-Friendly Search Filters: New Mexico

School-Age-Friendly Search Filters: Indiana

Select any Child Care filters that apply to you. All filters are optional. When you're done, click search.

Select as many age groups that apply for your child/children:

- Infant (0-12 months)
- Toddler (13-35 months)
- Preschool (3-5 years)
- **School Age (6 up to 13 years)**
- No Preference

Select the days and times that you need Child Care for your child/children:

- Monday - Friday
- Sunday

School-Age-Friendly Search Filters: Indiana

School-Age-Friendly Child Care Search Results

Recommendations and State Examples
Clearly display information on your results pages that show:

- Age ranges served
- Subsidy information
- Transportation
- Summer camp / school breaks
- Quality rating
School-Age-Friendly Search Results: New Mexico

School-Age-Friendly Search Results: New Mexico

Santa Fe Boys & Girls Club - Camino Jacobo
52 Camino de Jacobo
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-204-0303
County: Santa Fe
Website: www.santafabgc.org

Quality Rating
2-STAR Basic Licensure

Ages Served
6-12 years old

Hours of Operation
Monday: 7:30 AM - 05:30 PM
Tuesday: 7:30 AM - 05:30 PM
Wednesday: 7:30 AM - 05:30 PM
Thursday: 7:30 AM - 05:30 PM
Friday: 7:30 AM - 05:30 PM

Schedule
Full & Part Time, Full Year

Environment
No Swimming Pool
Wheelchair Accessible
Non Faith-based
Outdoor play area fenced

Type of Care
School Age Program

License ID:
153872

In order to get the Inspection Reports for this site, please copy the License ID above and paste it/type it in the "Number" field displayed at the CYFD Inspection Reports Website. Note: Be sure to not include any extra spaces.

Meals
Breakfast
Morning Snack
Lunch
Afternoon Snack

Financial Assistance
Accepts Full Time Child Care Assistance
Accepts Part Time Child Care Assistance

Animals / Pets

School-Age-Friendly Search Results: Delaware

YMCA OF DELAWARE / CENTRAL BRANCH
YMCA CHILDRENS CORNER 1
Ymca Of Delaware / Central Branch Ymca Childrens
Corner 1
Licensed Child Care Center

- Star Level: 5 stars
- Address: 501 West 11Th Street Wilmington DE, 19801
- Phone Number: 302-571-6970
- Age Range: 6 Weeks Through 5 Years
- Capacity: 99
- Hours: 6:45 AM - 6:00 PM
- Special Conditions:
- Regulated Services:
- Financial Arrangements: Child Care Food Program; Nonprofit; Purchase of Care
- Reported Injuries & Deaths:
  - 2018: 2 facility injuries and no facility deaths reported.
  - 2017: 9 facility injuries and no facility deaths reported.
  - 2016: 6 facility injuries and no facility deaths reported.
  - 2015: 2 facility injuries and no facility deaths reported.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, INC.
Neighborhood House, Inc.
Licensed Child Care Center

- Star Level: Not Participating
- Address: 1218 B Street Wilmington DE, 19801
- Phone Number: (302) 658-5404
- Age Range: 5 Years Through 12 Years
- Capacity: 55
- Hours: 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM
- Special Conditions:
- Regulated Services: School-Age Care Only
- Financial Arrangements: Child Care Food Program; Purchase of Care
- Reported Injuries & Deaths:
  - No facility injuries reported and no facility deaths reported.

*Five years of information is reported on this website. For providers licensed for more than five years, contact OCCL to schedule a file review to view previous licensing history.*

Integrating School-Age Resources into the Consumer Education Website

State and National Examples
Opportunities for Collaboration and Leveraging Partnerships

- Support data integration to strengthen your child care search:
  - Work with partner agencies to optimize data sharing and integration (for example, licensed-exempt school-age programs and summer camps)
  - Collaborate with afterschool networks to leverage their data and maps
- Cross-post and cross-promote resources and events via social media
- Coauthor resources
- Foster partnerships
Expanding School-Age Resources: Options to Consider

Choosing care resources:
- School-age care options
- Selecting a quality school-age program
- Selecting quality summer care
- Summer care options

Child development best practice resources:
- School-age developmental milestones and child development information (social-emotional, cognitive, and so on)
- Summer learning loss
- Reading resources
- Family activities
- Games that promote learning (executive functions, and so on)
Integrating Resources: Tennessee

How to Choose the Right Afterschool Program

If your children need afterschool care, it's important to choose a quality program for them. Afterschool programs should be safe, creative, engaging and fun.

Studies indicate that good afterschool programs can provide a significant boost in the development of children 5-18 years of age.

Afterschool programs should be appropriate for the age of your child. At any age, the top priority is a safe environment that includes constant supervision and encouraging care.

When you look at options, it's important to tour the facility, ask plenty of questions and observe

Used with permission from KidCentral TN. (n.d.). How to choose the right afterschool program [Web page]. Retrieved from https://www.kidcentraltn.com/support/child-care/how-to-choose-the-right-afterschool-program.html
Integrating Resources: Rhode Island

Afterschool Care

What Does Quality Look Like? | How to Choose Quality

Summer Learning

What Does Quality Look Like?

A high-quality afterschool program provides a healthy environment and a range of enriching activities. The following are characteristics of high-quality afterschool programs that support positive developmental outcomes.

A Healthy and Safe Environment

Before leaving your child in any afterschool program, ensure that the program is safe and healthy. This includes considerations such as meals, sanitary bathrooms, safe equipment and indoor and outdoor spaces.

A Stimulating Environment and Opportunities to Practice Emerging Skills

It is important for your child to have many opportunities to practice and hone skills. Hands-on experiential learning activities are effective ways to deepen children’s learning and connect to the real-world experiences.

Welcomes and Includes Families

As a parent you should feel welcomed any time you visit your child’s afterschool program.

Integrating Resources: Rhode Island

Afterschool Care

What Does Quality Look Like? | How to Choose Quality | Summer Learning

What Does Quality Look Like?
A high-quality afterschool program provides a healthy environment and a range of enriching activities. The following are characteristics of high-quality afterschool programs that support positive developmental outcomes.

A Healthy and Safe Environment
Before leaving your child in any afterschool program, ensure that the program is safe and healthy. This includes considerations such as meals, sanitary bathrooms, safe equipment and indoor and outdoor spaces.

A Stimulating Environment and Opportunities to Practice Emerging Skills
It is important for your child to have many opportunities to practice and hone skills. Hands-on experiential learning activities are effective ways to deepen children’s learning and connect to the real-world experiences.

Welcomes and Includes Families
As a parent you should feel welcomed any time you visit your child’s afterschool program. There should be opportunities for you to be involved with the program’s activities.

Welcomes Child Input
High-quality programs allow for children’s voices to be heard when building various aspects of the program and also provide children with many choices in their afterschool experience.

Trained and Qualified staff
The program should have trained and qualified staff to work with school-age children. This is critical to ensure that the staff can recognize and provide for the wide array of children’s developmental and educational needs.

How to Choose a High-Quality Afterschool Program

- Characteristics: Think about the type of afterschool program that would best serve your child and family’s needs, such as hours, activities offered, etc.
- Search for programs that meet your needs: Contact a BrightStars referral specialist at 1-855-398-7605 or search online.

National Resources to Support School-Age Information on the Consumer Education Website

ChildCare.gov, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and NCASE Resources
School-Age Child Care

There are various options for before- and afterschool care for your school-age child (also known as out-of-school-time care). Child care centers and family child care homes may offer this type of care. Recreation centers, places of worship, and youth programs, including organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers may also offer before- and afterschool programs.

Additionally, in many communities, local schools provide afterschool care or hire another agency to provide onsite care before and after school. These programs are convenient for families since transportation is not an issue. Contact your child’s elementary school to find out whether an onsite program is available.

Depending on the rules in your state, before- and afterschool care programs may or may not be required to be licensed. Licensing does not guarantee quality; however, it sets minimum standards and ensures that programs are monitored for compliance with these standards.

Tips for Choosing This Type of Care

- If before- and after-school care programs are required to be licensed in your state, ask to see a copy of the program’s license, registration or certification, and inspection history.
- Most states post inspection reports online. Use the See Your State’s Resources feature on this website to see inspection reports of child care providers you are considering. These reports provide valuable information about the quality of child care programs. Check them before you select a program and regularly while your child is enrolled.
- Ask how many adults and children are in each group of children.
- Make sure that each staff person has received training on important health and safety topics such as first aid and CPR, giving children medication, and child development. Learn more about the health and safety trainings that all adults caring for children should have.
- Ask about the daily schedule, enrichment activities, support for children doing homework, and whether a healthy meal or snack is provided.
- Confirm that every adult working or volunteering in the program has had a comprehensive background check.
- Get a copy of the provider’s policies and contract. These documents should cover important topics, including hours of operation, rates, fees, field trip permission slips, transportation agreements, and absence policies. Read more about recommended items that should be included in a child care contract.
- Ask about the program’s policies for days that school is out of session for breaks or bad weather.
- Print a list of questions and things to look for that you can take with you when visiting potential before- and after-school care programs.

Developmental Milestones

Middle Childhood (6–8 years of age)

Developmental Milestones
Middle childhood brings many changes in a child's life. By this time, children can dress themselves, catch a ball more easily using only their hands, sort their shoes by size, and start to read. Independence from family becomes more important now. Children also begin to explore their world by making new friends and going to school. Here is some information on how children develop during middle childhood:

Emotional/Social Changes
Children in this age group might:

- Show more independence from parents and family
- Start to think about the future

Developmental Milestones

Middle Childhood (9–11 years of age)

Developmental Milestones
Your child's growing independence from the family and interest in friends might be obvious by now. Healthy friendships are very important to your child's development, but peer pressure can become strong during this time. Children who feel good about themselves are more able to resist negative peer pressure and make better choices for themselves. This is an important time for children to gain a sense of responsibility along with their growing independence. Also, physical changes of puberty might be showing by now, especially for girls. Another big change children need to prepare for during this time is starting middle or junior high school.

Emotional/Social Changes
Children in this age group might:

https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/positiveparenting/middle2.html
Visit the NCASE Resource Library:
https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ncase-resource-library
## Choosing a School-Age Child Care Provider

### Selecting a Quality School-Age Program

Child Care Aware® is committed to helping parents find the best information on locating quality child care and child care resources in their community. In partnership with Child Care Resource & Referral agencies (CCRR), Child Care Aware® builds consumer awareness and supports families in making choices for the care and education of their children.

For additional resources or help finding your local Child Care Resource 
& Referral agency (CCRR), call:
1-800-424-2246
TTY Line: 1-866-276-9428
ChildCareAware.org
For local information contact:

---

### Remember to think about the needs of your family and your child.

**Ask The Children:**
- Do you like coming here?
- Are you able to choose what activities you want to do and with whom?
- Do you help plan activities?
- Do the children here get along well with each other?
- Do you feel safe here?

**Ask The Director:**
- Does the program have references?
- Is the program licensed?
- Does the program follow quality standards for school-age care?
- Is the program accredited?
- Does the program have written policies and procedures, including emergency plans?
- Have all staff members been trained in CPR and first aid?
- Do the staff have specific training to work with school-age children?
- Has a satisfactory criminal history background check been conducted on each adult present?
- Has the program been inspected by the licensing agency within the last 12 months?
- Does the program welcome drop-in visits and parent ideas and involvement?
- Does the program offer any financial assistance?
- How does the program serve children with special needs?
- How does the program support children’s education and learning?

**Ask The Staff:**
- What is your system for knowing where my child is at all times?
- What is your procedure for handling emergencies?
- How do you handle sick children?
- Are children able to get a drink or use the bathroom when needed?

---

**Helpful Hint:** You can copy and take this checklist with you on visits, or use the Evaluating Child Care Worksheet that has additional information and room for writing notes. This worksheet is available at www.childcareaware.org or by calling 1-800-424-2246.

---

Consumer Education Toolkit

https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/school-age-consumer-education-toolkit
Summer Learning and Enrichment: Tips for School-Age Care Providers

BEFORE SUMMER:

• Their child having a library card. If not, consider helping them obtain one.
• Needing assistance with accessing healthy meals and snacks during the summer. Ask their child needs transportation to and from your program? If needed, help families obtain transportation vouchers and share information about summer meal programs.

Create a plan for the summer months:

• What do you hope to accomplish with the children you’ll be serving? Write down goals related to academic learning, social and emotional development, and other areas of skill building. Seek input from children and families about what they hope to get out of your summertime programming, and include with your own goals.
• If you are a year-round provider, think about what you will do during the summer months that’s different from the school year. How will you make use of the longer full-day program time? Think of ways to engage in more extended hands-on learning activities, such as inquiry-based projects.
• Create a list of activities in support of your goals to inspire you and the children you serve. Determine what resources, materials or supports you will need to carry out those activities, identify professional development and training opportunities that can help you deepen your understanding of how to support children’s learning and development in different areas.

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS:

Build a relationship with parents, caregivers, and children:

• Share more about your activities and themes with families on a weekly basis—via email, a handout, or online through a parent communication portal. Also invite parents/caregivers to share noteworthy accomplishments or events that their child experiences (e.g., finishing a book on their reading list, jumping off the diving board for the first time, or ordering the zoo together as a family). Find a way to recognize these special occasions at your program.
• Explore ways to share pictures with families. Photos can help parents feel connected to what their children are doing and spark conversations about their day.
• Have children pick one thing about the day to discuss with their families. Make this part of a pick-up/pickup routine or another time when children come together before heading home.
• Find ways to celebrate children’s reading successes. For example, let children place a special sticker next to the name of each book they read on their book list, and recognize milestones such as a child completing the final book from their summer reading list.
• Consider organizing a family picnic or picnic dinner so families can meet other parents/caregivers and see what the children have been working on. Keep children engaged and put on a performance for their families.

Summer Learning Fun: Tips for Parents and Caregivers

School may be out for the summer, but your child’s learning doesn’t have to take a vacation! Children learn best when they have opportunities to build skills and knowledge across settings. These include summer child care programs as well as time spent at home. Read on for tips on how to engage your child in fun, meaningful learning activities throughout the summer.

BEFORE SUMMER:

Meet with your child’s teacher to:
- Get a list of recommended books for summer reading. Your child’s teacher can identify books that match your child’s reading level and interest.
- Ask about specific skills your child could pursue over the summer, and explore ways to align those skills with your child’s interests. Focusing on what your child already enjoys and feels confident about can make them more excited to learn.
- Discuss what your child can write about during the summer—a place or with their help, such as a journal or letter to relatives.

TIPS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Talk with your child to:
- Find out what they would like to learn about or experience during the summer.
- Share details about summer plans. What kinds of activities will your child get to do? Ask any of their friends attending the same program? Consider visiting the program with your child ahead of time so they are familiar with the setting and staff.
- Learn what kinds of books your child would enjoy reading over the summer and help them create a reading list.

MEET WITH YOUR CHILD’S SUMMER CHILD CARE PROVIDER TO:
- Talk about your goals for your child’s summer child care. Share the information you get from your child’s teacher, including your child’s skills and interests.
- Find out what themes and activities the provider has planned. You can use this information to come up with fun ways to build on program activities whenever you are with your child.
- Let them know the best way to share information with you about your child’s activities.
- Share information about your family and routines. Discuss aspects of your child’s background, such as the provider should be aware of or to watch for. Many providers have learning families’ share stories, traditions, cultural celebrations, or other activities with the children in their program.
- Find out where your child can access healthy meals and snacks during the summer months. Ask your child’s care provider if they are connected to an summer meals program. Summer food programs can help provide your family with healthy meals while school is not in session.

DURING SUMMER:

Make reading a regular routine:
- Have your child read every day—either independently or with you or another caregiver, such as an older sibling. Also, continue reading aloud to your child after they begin reading independently. Reading helps build language comprehension skills and can inspire your child to read new and richer vocabulary.
- Ask your child questions about the plot or details of the book they’re reading. To summarize what’s happened to that point and to predict what they think will happen next. These steps promote reading comprehension and make the reading experience more meaningful. Prompt your child to tell you if they come across a word or phrase they don’t understand.

Promote math learning:
- Play games together, board games and card games are fun ways to help children strengthen and retain math skills. Games also help your child develop cooperative play skills and problem-solving skills. Many games are suitable for players of all ages, so you can include the whole family.
- Cook together: involving your child in meal preparation is a great way to promote math learning as you measure out ingredients, set baking temperatures, and consider cooking times.

END OF SUMMER:

Turn your child care drop-off and pickup into learning opportunities:
- Play “I Spy” with shapes, numbers, letters, words, and other objects on the drive or walk to your child care provider. Find patterns in the designs of buildings and learn you pass by.
- Talk about your child’s favorite part of the book they read the night before. Use this time to turn everyday activities into fun brain-building exercises.

Stay active and have fun:
- Take advantage of the longer days to play an active game of tag or go for a long walk together. Children get more exercise when school is out in session, which may lead to unhealthy weight gain. There are many fun ways to help your child stay physically active all summer long.

Seek out educational and interactive games and apps. Letting your child have some screen time can be beneficial, but try to balance your child’s screen time with other activities, such as engaging in physical activity or participating in educational and non-educational activities that are fun as well as educational.

This document was developed with funds from Grant #OAA00001 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, by the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment. This material may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ncase-resource-library/summer-learning-fun-tips-parents-and-caregivers
Mott Statewide Afterschool Networks

http://www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net/
Poll 3.

How much did your understanding about this topic improve as a result of this webinar?
Poll 4.

How likely are you to use these strategies in the future for your work with consumer education websites?
“Ask Me Anything” Webinar

September 26, 2019, 2:00–2:30 p.m. (ET)

- This 30-minute follow-up webinar will answer questions raised today.
- Send additional questions to: CapacityBuildingCenter@icfi.com.
- Note: every individual question may not be answered during the webinar.
Next Hot Topic Webinar

Creating Data Governance Structures for Consumer Education Websites

October 10, 2019, 2:00–3:00 p.m. (ET)

- **Description:** this webinar will help you understand data integration and governance and how it can help maximize the information shared with families on the consumer education website

- **Intended audiences:** state and territory Child Care and Development Fund Administrators, child care resource and referral agency staff, information technology staff, early childhood training and technical assistance providers, and quality improvement specialists

- **Registration link:**
  
  https://ccsssn.adobeconnect.com/creatingdatagovernance/event/registration.html
Poll 5.

What additional webinar topics interest you?
Consumer Education Resources


SCBC Consumer Education Website Guides

Recordings of each webinar, as well as additional resources on each webinar topic, will be posted to the following web page:


  - **Designing Websites That Are Accessible for All Families**, https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/designing-websites-are-accessible-all-families
  - **Improving Consumer Education Websites with User Research**, https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/improving-consumer-education-websites-user-research