



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY®  
Illinois Professional Development System

# Registry News



## Fall 2022 Newsletter

*You are receiving this email newsletter because you are a Gateways to Opportunity Registry Member. The Registry News will provide up-to-date information about programs and policy changes. Additionally, we always include something you can use in your classroom. Feel free to share this newsletter by printing a copy for your program, or forwarding it to a friend.*

### In This Issue

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## NEW TRAININGS



A number of new trainings have recently been added to the Gateways ilearning website. These trainings are available to all child care providers in the state, free of charge! They will help you meet requirements for DCFS licensing as well as count toward health and safety training hours. Check out [courses.inccrra.org](https://courses.inccrra.org) for easy access to these exciting new trainings.

**Supporting Breastfeeding-friendly Environments** – This training will help child care providers understand how to create chest/breastfeeding-friendly policies and environments that align with state and federal laws, Illinois licensing standards, and best practice. It was developed by the Illinois Public Health Institute with support from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health and provides one clock hour of professional development credit.

**School-Age and Youth Development Credential Level 1** – While this series of trainings has been around for a while, it is now available completely online! Providers are now able to take all 16 modules of the SAYD Credential Level 1 online and earn their credential.

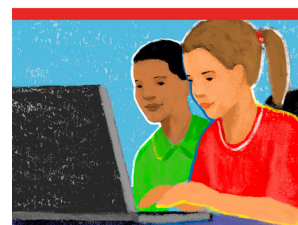
You can still find several other trainings you might need on ilearning as well, including Trauma Informed Care for Child Care Providers, Lead in Water: Protecting Illinois Children, and Asthma Management. We'll have more new trainings coming this Fall and important updates to some existing training too.

### Data Bits and Bites

The **Child Care Restoration Grant (CCRG)** assisted nearly 80% of surveyed facilities during the pandemic, and the Paycheck Protection Program helped nearly half.



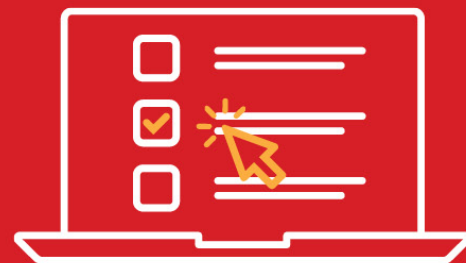
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# YOUR THOUGHTS MATTER!

Please take 1 minute to answer  
the Credential application survey



## Birth to Five Illinois Seeks Staff & Council Members Across the State

Illinois has committed to building a statewide regional and community infrastructure to improve quality, equity, and access to Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs and services across the State, particularly for families who have been historically marginalized. This initiative, [Birth to Five Illinois](#), has been established as the newest department of INCCRRA.



The Birth to Five Illinois regional staffing structure includes a [Council Manager](#) (all 39 have been hired), Family & Community Engagement Specialist (now hiring!), and Administrative Support (now hiring!) in [each region of the State](#).

- The Regional Administrative Support staff will be responsible for providing administrative, communications, and research/data support to the regional Birth to Five Illinois department.
- The Regional Family & Community Engagement Specialist will play a vital role in establishing the foundation of support for this new effort to build a statewide early childhood infrastructure within their region.

Job postings are currently live for numerous regions. **Applicants must live or have experience within the region for which they apply.** [Learn More & Apply Now!](#)

In order to create policies and take actions based on the current needs of children and families, Illinois needs residents from diverse families and with a wide range of experience to join their region's Birth to Five Action Council or Birth to Five Family Council. Be part of a leadership team providing direction and vision for the expansion of early childhood services in your region! Councils will meet one to two times per month.

Visit the [Councils page](#) to learn more. Or complete an Interest Form:

- [Action Council Interest Form](#)
- [Family Council Interest Form](#)

[Click here](#) to sign up from newsletters from Birth to Five Illinois.

## Illinois Cares for Kids is Inviting All Families to Join Ready4K!

**Ready4K is a free research-based text messaging program for families with child(ren) ages 0-11 in Illinois.** The program supports families, increases children's learning, and provides a method for the State to share customized early childhood messaging with families.

Each week, parents receive three text messages to help them build their child(ren)'s literacy skills by maximizing existing family routines in fun and easy ways. Messages are delivered in English, Spanish, Polish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, or Russian!

Want to learn more? Ready4K is hosting weekly information sessions to share about the program offer and discuss implementation. If you are interested in attending, please [register here!](#)

Have questions? Please reach out to LeeAnn Kiper at [lkiper@inccrra.org](mailto:lkiper@inccrra.org).





The Gateways Scholarship Program pays up to 100% of tuition at [participating colleges](#) for Early Childhood Education and Child Development (ECE/CD) coursework and degrees.

Newly expanded [guidelines](#) could mean that you are now eligible!

For more information, visit [www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/scholarship](http://www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/scholarship) or email [scholarship@inccrra.org](mailto:scholarship@inccrra.org).

### Illinois Cares for Kids - 'I Got Love'

Illinois is full of people who care, teach, and help. Across the state, in every community, early childhood education and care resources are available for families. You are a big part of the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) resources that are offered to families. Illinois is committed to telling families about their options and they are using the 'I Got Love' campaign to do just that. Look for this ad on tv, or in your social media feed and know you are part of this great work!



Find quality care today! [www.illinoiscaresforkids.org/](http://www.illinoiscaresforkids.org/)



### Suspension/Expulsion Prevention Steps for Child Care Providers

Child care providers should have an Expulsion Prevention Policy/Plan. [Click here](#) for a list of items to consider when developing or implementing your plan. Every child is different and not all strategies work with every child. They are all important to consider.

### Illinois Child Care COVID Impact Report

The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) received support from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to closely examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the early childhood education industry in Illinois. This [report](#) explores some of the overarching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state's early childhood educators, parents, and the industry as a whole from March 2020 to June 30, 2021. Using a mix of quantitative and qualitative analyses, we researched changes in enrollment, funding, staffing, finances, virtual learning, and more. Among other things, we found large differences in enrollment, new changes to keep everyone safe, and high stress levels among providers and staff members.





# Handprint Fall Trees

## They're cute and easy to make:

- Trace the child's hand and wrist on a piece of paper. If your kids are old enough, let them do this step by themselves to build their fine motor skills.
- Ask the child to paint or color the inside of their handprint. We recommend brown as this will be the trunk of the tree, but let kids' imaginations run wild.
- Have the child cut small pieces of red, yellow and orange tissue paper into squares. If your kids are too young to handle scissors, you'll need to do this step for them.
- Tell the child to crumple up the pieces of tissue paper and glue them to their tree.  
*(Note: you can use construction paper instead to make the craft easier.)*

*This is a fun fall activity for preschoolers that parents will also love!*



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