

December Provider Advisory Council Meeting



Early Learning Program Updates

- Annual Updates - All programs will be receiving an email from ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com over the coming months with information about annual closure day updates. Please make sure your contact information is up to date.
- Reporting Absences - All programs are asked to report each time that a child has 5 consecutive absences.
- Provider Referral/Payment Reminders-
 - The next Provider Referral emails will go out next week. Please review the email once received to confirm all children are referred correctly.
 - CCS Rate Increase effective 10/1/22!
 - Reminder: Children referred to your program at a blended rate will not change over the winter break.



5 Day Consecutive Absences Report

Provider Name *

License Number *

Name of Person Submitting Form *

First Name

Last Name



Child Care for Essential Workers (City of Austin)

- Workforce Solutions received funding from the City of Austin and CDBG to provide child care for children of Essential Workers in the following categories:
 - Child care Industry (teachers, caregivers, etc.)
 - Education (teachers, support staff, bus drivers, etc.)
 - Pharmacy and Healthcare Workers
 - First Responders
 - Critical Infrastructure (Grocery, Utilities, Trucking, etc.)
 - Other Infrastructure Workers (State and Local Government, Mail/Deliver Services, Banking, Gas Stations, Military, Restaurant and other Food Delivery, etc.)
- ***NEW*** Families living in Travis County (outside of the COA full purpose boundary), meet the income guidelines, have a child under the age of 5 and have at least one parent working in a category above. Families living in the COA full purpose boundary may enroll children under 13 years of age.
- Families must select a TRS quality rated center with this program.

Maximum Gross (Pre-Tax) Income to Participate	
Household Size	Yearly Income
2	\$70,600
3	\$79,450
4	\$88,250
5	\$95,350
6	\$102,400
7	\$109,450
8	\$116,550

Austin Public Health Reminders!



- **Travis County flu activity continue to surpass recent trends.**
 - The likelihood of spreading viruses is heightened during indoor group gatherings. Continue to encourage staff and families to stay home if they are sick or not feeling well.
 - The flu positivity rate in Travis County was 25.16% (typically below 10% for this point in the season).
 - If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, the CDC recommends masking and testing at least five days after exposure.
- Everyone 6 months and older is eligible for seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccines!
 - Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find flu and COVID-19 vaccine providers near you.
 - APH Also offers Vaccination Clinics



National Handwashing Awareness Week

December 4- 10, 2022

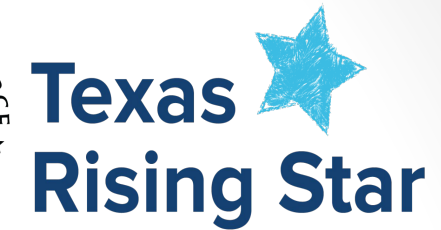


www.henrythehand.org

Find an ECE Curriculum Kit here:

<https://henrythehand.com/programs/infection-prevention-partnership/early-childhood-program/>

Welcome to the Texas Rising Star Program!



- As of 10/3/2022 all Early Learning Programs contracted with Child Care Services must meet Texas Rising Star Entry Level Designation. This includes:
 - Licensed or Registered by CCR
 - Not on Corrective Action with CCR
 - Have 75 or fewer total points when CCR history is reviewed
(High Deficiencies =5 points each, Medium-High Deficiencies = 3 points each)
- Programs that meet Entry Level Designation will work to be certified as at least a Texas Rising Star Two-Star program by September 30th, 2024.
- Many resources and supports are available to programs working toward TRS Certification, including a TRS Mentor.



Texas Rising Star Entry Level Designation Survey

All Capital Area Entry Level Designated programs are encouraged to complete the following Survey: <https://forms.gle/KKTuGKKioJd5ERxU9>

This survey will assist Workforce Solutions Capital Area with:

- Determining when your program is ready to begin working on Texas Rising Star Certification
- Determining which Texas Rising Star Mentor would be the best fit for your program
- Helping us know which resources might be needed to help your program achieve Texas Rising Star Certification.

Don't wait! Take the brief 5 minute survey today!



Cohorts beginning January 2023



WFS Capital Area Mentors will help you achieve TRS Certification by supporting you through evaluation and enhancement of your **Procedures** while building **Relationships** based on **Equity** and developmentally appropriate **Practice**.

Early Learning Programs will be invited to a cohort based on survey response, eligibility, interest, permit type, program size, and mentor availability. Please email questions to wfs.trs@wfscapitalarea.com.



NAEYC/TXAEYC Market Research Survey

- NAEYC needs your expertise to guide how NAEYC and TXAEYC best meet the current and future needs of the child care and early learning sector
- As an added “thank you!” for your time and expertise, interested individuals can add their email address at the end of the survey to be included in a raffle. NAEYC will choose 100 winners for a \$250 gift

Take the Survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53GZP2F>



National Association for the
Education of Young Children



Texas Association for the
Education of Young Children



Child Care Workforce Support Series



TWC, in partnership with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Civitas Strategies Early Start, has compiled a series of videos and resources for Early Learning Programs.

This brand new series of eight webinars and accompanying written guides features best practices on topics such as:

- Attracting the best talent, including how to write a job posting;
- How to vet and hire a candidate, including reviewing resumes, conducting interviews and reference checks, and extending an offer;
- An onboarding guide for new employees;
- How to offer competitive compensation and bonuses;
- Structuring and restructuring benefits packages; and
- Business and professional development opportunities for child care programs and their staff.

These resources and videos can be found on the [Attracting and Retaining Staff](#) webpage hosted on childcare.texas.gov.

Free Texas Annual Training Available Now!

In partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Promoting Early Education Quality program is offering a suite of twelve online courses, aligned with the annual professional development requirements from Minimum Standards, for **FREE** for early childhood professionals in Texas.

Trainees can earn up to 20 clock hours via the Texas Annual Training category on the AgriLife Learning Platform.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI
LIFE
EXTENSION

PROMOTING EARLY
EDUCATION QUALITY



Scan to begin the Texas
Annual Training courses



tx.ag/TexasAnnualTraining



WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS
Capital Area
Connecting People to Jobs

Training Opportunities

- Check out our Eventbrite Page and never miss a training!
 - 2022-23 Training Calendar will be available on our Website soon! (www.wfscapitalarea.com)
 - Upcoming Trainings posted through January for registration including:
 - TRS Category Trainings (offered quarterly in English and Spanish)
 - TRS Category 2 Training IN-PERSON
 - Spanish on December 10th
 - English on December 17th
 - TRS Orientation (Jan. 12th, Zoom)
- Texas Rising Star Programs
 - Our TRS Director Meetings will continue in January. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 5th, at 12:00pm and 6:00pm.
- Be on the lookout for our monthly CPR/ First Aid classes which will begin in the new year!



**CPR/ First Aid
Coming Soon!!!**



Texas 
Rising Star

BakerRipley Child Care Services Team and Contacts

Topics/Questions	Contact Information
<u>Parent Inquires</u> - parents are interested in services, want to sign up for waitlist, need changes, etc.	austinccs@wfscapitalarea.com
<u>Finance Team</u> - questions about payments, missing dates, full time/blended amounts, etc.	ccsfinance@wfscapitalarea.com
<u>Provider Services</u> - update your Provider Information Form, attendance, rates, holidays, etc.	ccsproviderservices@wfscapitalarea.com
<u>Quality Initiatives</u> - want to become a TRS provider, have questions about the process, PPR distribution, training, etc.	ccsquality@wfscapitalarea.com
<u>Local Referral Partners</u> – send in referral, become a referral partner, etc.	ccslocalreferral@wfscapitalarea.com