

Midweek Meet 4c updates for August 15, 2023

- **Special Thank You-** Thank you for continuing to care for children and families during these very challenging times.
- **ODJFS Web Page Redesign-** As of July 11, 2023, the ODJFS web pages have a new look. The goal is to improve your experience with better organized information and easier navigation. There are also new features to help you find what you need, including tiles that direct the user and search tools. The new site is mobile and table friendly. If you previously bookmarked a page, the URL for that page may have changed and your bookmark may no longer work.
 - Check Out What is New! Visit [Ohio Department of Job and Family Services](#) to explore our new look.
- **New Early Childhood Inclusion Credential-** A free, on-demand Early Childhood Inclusion Credential is now available for all early care and education professionals!
 - With Ohio PROMISE, Ohio is on its way to ensuring that every Ohio family is healthy and supported when needed. Children with disabilities must be included with their friends, neighbors, and peers from birth so they can thrive wherever they live, play, and learn. [The Professional Early Childhood Inclusion Credential](#) (PECIC) was created to raise the level of awareness, knowledge, competency, and confidence of professionals attending to the needs of children with disabilities, their families, and creating an inclusive environment for all children.
 - The credential will eventually include three levels of professional learning, with Tier 1 available now and Tiers 2 and 3 coming later this calendar year. The credential is free, completely on-demand, and has Ohio Approved hours associated with completion. Click on the link above to learn what it takes to complete the initial level of the credential, how earning the credential will benefit you, and answers to other questions you may have. No experience, level of education, or workplace affiliation is necessary to benefit from completing the credential.
- **New Inclusive Child Care Program Designation-** A new Inclusive Child Care designation is now available for all early care and education programs!
 - Ohio PROMISE is a new statewide initiative that will Promote Resources, Opportunities, and Meaningful Inclusion through Support and Education. This inclusive child care initiative is focused on increasing access for children with special needs through new professional development, a program designation to create awareness for families, and through services and supports for both families and programs.
 - In addition to the Early Childhood Inclusion Credential detailed in the email below, a new **Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP)** designation has been created. Please see the [manual procedure letter](#) outlining the details. Programs with the ICCP designation will be identified on the Ohio Search for Early Care and Education Programs webpage (childcaresearch.ohio.gov), in the Fall of 2023, to assist families in locating inclusive child care.
 - If you have questions about the procedure letter, please contact the Child Care Policy Help Desk at 1-877-302-2347, option 4.

- **Inclusive Child Care Program Designation FAQs-** Please see the **ATTACHED** frequently asked question document for the **Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP)** designation that was announced recently in an email sent on Monday August 7, 2023 and a few reminders below:
 - The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is issuing funds for the designation, as outlined in the [Manual Procedure Letter](#) (MPL).
 - Prior to applying for the designation, your program must have individuals who meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the MPL.
 - OCCRRA should only be contacted for questions specific to the Professional Early Childhood Inclusion Credential.
- **Family Child Care Start-Up Incentives-** The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) issued a [Manual Procedure Letter](#) outlining start-up incentives for family child care (FCC) home providers. These incentive dollars were available to the first 100 FCC providers to become licensed between January 1, 2023, through January 1, 2024.
 - *ODJFS is pleased to announce that we have reached the goal of 100 new licensed family child care home providers who are able to provide publicly funded child care to Ohio's children. We are excited to see this growth and for these opportunities for Ohio's families so they can continue to work and go to school.*
- **Communicable Disease-** Please see the **ATTACHED** Child Care Manual Procedure Letter for information on the new, online free Communicable Disease Training in the Ohio Professional Registry and Updated Process to Become an Approved Communicable Disease Trainer.
- **Professional Development (PD) Certificate for SUTQ-** Our department sent the following communication **only** to programs that did not meet the professional development standard for the last biennium on or around Friday July 21st:

According to the trainings verified in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR), you have at least one employee in a Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) role (Administrator, Lead Teacher, or Assistant Teacher) that requires a Professional Development (PD) Certificate who did not obtain their PD Certificate for the last biennium ending June 30, 2023. As a result, your program's SUTQ rating is in jeopardy of being removed. In order to maintain your SUTQ rating, the employee(s) who did not meet the PD Certificate requirement are required to obtain their PD Certificate for the current biennium by Sunday, October 29, 2023. Your first action should be to confirm all employees for your program are current employees and have the correct roles. If there are any employees linked to your program who are no longer employed, unlink them from your program. If the professional has multiple OPR profiles, that may also affect the PD Certificate and the OPR will need to be corrected.

For questions regarding the OPR, contact the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association at 1-877-547-6978. For questions regarding the SUTQ standards, contact the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Child Care Policy Help Desk at 1-877-302-2347, option 4.

Thanks

