OCFS Notice and National Summer Learning Week!
July 2019

Spotlight

Please note the following changes for medical statements and the Online Clearance System:

- The Child in Care Medical Statement (OCFS-LDSS-4433) has been revised and re-posted to the OCFS website. The only change to the content of this form is the removal of the religious exemption language.

Effective immediately, please utilize the revised form. Any old copies should be discarded. Please make programs aware of this update. Moving forward, they should utilize the new form. There is no expectation that programs will require new medical statements from children currently enrolled in care.

If a currently enrolled child is due to go to the doctor and submit a medical (updating immunizations,
for example) they should utilize the new form. The expectation is not that all parents have to go to the doctor to have a new form completed just for the sake of updating the form. New enrollees should utilize the new form.

- The link used to access the Online Clearance System (OCS) has changed. You can now access it at: https://cw.ocfs.ny.gov/ocs

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**It's Smart to Use the Arts**

**National Summer Learning Week (July 8-13): Masterpiece Day**

Having fun with the arts during the summer helps prevent the loss of academic knowledge and abilities—the “summer slide” that educators and parents worry about. Learning with the arts provides benefits that include:

- **Math skills:** Visual arts activities help kids recognize patterns, shapes, size, counting, and spatial relationships. Dancing and singing also help with patterns and counting.
- **Science skills:** Art projects, like hands-on science, invite kids to make decisions, experiment, and solve problems.
- **Language and literacy skills:** Writing short plays and performing is a great way to improve reading, speaking, and writing. Dictating or writing captions for paintings are other ways to improve literacy.

Here are just some of the ways you can focus on the arts this summer:

- **Fabricate a fairy tale.** With your group, pick a favorite fairy tale or folk tale and write your own version. Have kids provide illustrations to make a class book, “publish” the book online, or create a script so children can perform it for friends and family.

- **Beautify the neighborhood.** Engage children in an art project that will enrich their school, camp ground, or a nearby park. Have children paint personalized flags to put up around a doorway, draw a chalk “welcome mat” in a covered area, or make colorful signs using an outdoor space.

- **Take a museum field trip.** Many museums offer free entry during the summer. If possible, connect with the arts educator there and bring your group for a tour. Worried about kids getting antsy? Go beforehand to create a “treasure map” for kids to discover, with clues about the art and artists. Many museums have special programs and tours designed for kids – be sure to check out the website.

- **Invite a local artist.** Is there an up-and-coming musician, painter, sculptor, jewelry-maker, singer-songwriter, or hip-hop dancer nearby? Find one through a local arts or theater organization or that coffeehouse you keep meaning to check out. After the presentation, encourage kids to ask questions. Afterwards, kids can make and decorate thank you cards.
Make some music. Trade in your traditional lemonade stand for a bandstand! Give kids some simple instruments and practice a few easy songs. (No instruments? Just sing!) Then treat the neighborhood to a homemade music jamboree.

Read a book! Reading about the arts is perhaps one of the easiest ways to help kids think about, respond to, and appreciate the arts. Introduce a book before or after a hands-on activity to inspire kids and cheer on their accomplishments. Check with your local librarian for suggestions or try one of these:

- **Color Dance** by Ann Jonas. Combing two art forms, this book features dancers whose flowing scarves illustrate color concepts.
- **Dancing in the Wings** by Debbie Allen. Despite her too-big feet and too-long legs, Sassy is determined to be a ballet dancer, and her perseverance pays off.
- **The Dot** by Peter Reynolds. A frustrated first grader is convinced that she can't draw, until her teacher encourages her to let her creativity flourish.
- **Charlie Parker Played Be Bop** by Chris Raschka. Sparse, rhythmic, repetitive text echoes jazz syncopation, making it a perfect read aloud, before or after music activities.
- **Kamishibai Man** by Allen Say. Can an elderly, traveling storyteller find a new audience, now that television has all but replaced him?
- **Rifka Takes a Bow** by Betty Rosenberg Perlov. When Rifka accidentally makes her stage debut, she is greeted by appreciative applause.
- **Violet’s Music** by Angela Johnson. Violet’s passion is music and when she finds like-minded friends, they form a band.

Click here for the full article from PBS.

**Become a Power of 3:00 Ambassador**

The Network for Youth Success is holding our statewide Power of 3:00 Ambassador Program for the third year!

This year, we are selecting a cohort of passionate afterschool providers and supporters from across New York who will work directly with staff from the Network's Policy Department to develop the advocacy and media skill set to become an effective advocate for the children and youth they serve!

This is a free and all-expenses paid, year-long advocacy program! Learn more about the program and previous cohorts here.

To apply for the program, click here.

Applications are open until Wednesday, July 31.
Please share with anyone you think would be interested in this opportunity. We look forward to receiving your applications!

Attend the Site Leader Institute
Register Today!

Site directors in afterschool programs often have skills at working with children and youth but little to no training in program operation and management. In order to build the best foundation for programs, the Network for Youth Success will deliver training and support to site directors and leaders.

Who:
Site directors, program directors, or other new site-level leaders in afterschool, summer, expanded learning, or grant-funded programs (such as Advantage After School, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention, and the Empire State After-School Program).

Where:
Network for Youth Success Offices
415 River Street, Second Floor
Troy, New York 12180

When:
- Orientation webinar: July 17th, 10am
- Content webinar, “Beyond the Bell” resource: July 31st, 10 AM
Upcoming Events

7/17: 2019 Site Leader Institute, Troy, NY
Site directors in afterschool programs often have skills at working with children and youth but little to no training in program operation and management. In order to build the best foundation for programs, the Network for Youth Success will deliver training and support to site directors and leaders. The goal of this training is to expose new directors to the knowledge base and skill set of effective afterschool supervision and management. The training will focus on positive youth development approaches and the supervision of those approaches. The training will also review practices on resource management, family and community partnerships, project management, and coaching techniques for supervisors. For more information and how to register, click here.

7/20: Monroe County Girls Sports Festival, Rochester, NY
The Monroe County Girls Sports Festival is a great opportunity for young women, ages 6-12, to showcase their athletic ability, be active, learn about leadership and teamwork, and take on new challenges. The festival supports young women from Monroe County in their pursuit of new experiences and new opportunities. Festival participants will be able to choose four different sports to explore. Local teams and organizations will manage each of the sports and participants are welcome to select any four available sports, but are also encouraged to try a sport they have never experienced before. Registration is free! Additional information can be found at www.monroecounty.gov/GirlsSportsFestival

7/23: Framing Our Future: Emerging Trends and Opportunities for Afterschool, NYC, NY
This signature event at Baruch College in New York City celebrates the impact of the field on youth and families and promotes innovation and research to sustain this work. There is expected to be over 200 participants including executive directors and supervisors from youth-serving community-based agencies, funders, colleagues in higher education, policy makers, and educators. For more information and registration, click here.

7/30: School-Age Care Credential Informational Meeting, Poughkeepsie, NY
The New York State School-Age Care Credential has been developed to promote quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation of school-age staff members and providers based on their ability to meet the unique needs of this age group. It is an opportunity for adults working with school-age children to gain professional recognition for demonstrating competence in their on-the-job skills. Come to an informational meeting on Tuesday, July 30 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm to learn about the credential and the credential process as well as meet the instructor/advisor, Arlene Rider. For more information or to enroll contact Darla Fulmer at (845) 473-4141 ext. 216 or dfulmer@childcaredutchess.org.

8/4-8/10: Mindfulness Training for Educators, Lake Placid, NY
This weeklong program set in the idyllic environment of a lakeside retreat in the Adirondacks explores teaching for the 21st century. Participants will learn mindfulness practices, meditation, the neuroscience of learning, the nature of mind, and how to cultivate their inner resources. Each day will include experiential learning, as well as a cognitive element — and afternoons will be free to enjoy the many outdoor activities available to us, or to simply relax and read a book. Learn how mindfulness might benefit you in your role as an educator, and re-connect with the ideals that brought you into this field! Click here for more information and how to register.

8/19-8/20: Games in Education Symposium, Troy, NY
This is a two-day event focusing on the use of technology to supplement and inspire education in the classroom. Participants span early childhood through post secondary educators in New York’s Capital District and surrounding regions who are interested in finding ways to use video games and related technology to enrich and inspire interest by students in core curriculum topics. The symposium has run annually since 2007 and is free for educators to attend. See more at: http://gamesineducation.org/

8/22 & 8/26: Health & Safety Training: SAC Directors, Troy, NY
This training is a 15 hour requirement for all new directors. Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. This is a two-day course. Participants must attend both days. Click here for more information and how to register.

9/17: Distance Learning SAC Credential Course, Statewide
Looking to advance in the school-age child care field? Register for the Distance Learning SAC Credential Course this September and you be qualified to be a Site Director by the end of the school year! Click here for more information and how to register.

9/18: Capital Region SAC Credential Course, Albany, NY
The New York State School-Age Care Credential promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation of schoolage staff members and providers. It is an opportunity for adults working with schoolage children to gain professional recognition for demonstrating competence in their on-the-job skills. The first semester of the course begins September 18 and goes until December 18. The second semester will begin January 8, 2020 and go to April 8, 2020. These classes will be held from 6:30pm-9:30pm and the cost of attendance is $1,250. Click here for more information and how to register.

10/5: North Country Training Institute, Plattsburgh, NY
Join Erin Broderick and Timothy Fowler for a day of school-age training! The North Country Training Institute will cover topics relevant to school-age providers in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. This day-long event features four 90-minute sessions (a total of 6 hours of training): guiding positive behaviors, managing transitions, engineering design, and bookmaking. For more information and how to register, click here.

10/14: Columbus Day Training Event, Albany, NY
Join Timothy Fowler and Jay Roscup for 6 hours of training! More information coming soon!
10/24: Lights On Afterschool, Nationwide
Since 2000, Lights On Afterschool has been celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families, and communities. Click here for more information.

11/8: Regional Network Symposium, Rochester, NY
Our Regional Network Symposium will be November 8 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Rochester! Look out for more information here and on our website.

11/9: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester, NY
Our Training Institute will be Saturday, November 9, at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Rochester! Participants of this event will receive six OCFS training hours, a variety of training topics appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children, networking opportunities, and a buffet lunch! Click here for more information and how to register or to access the RFP to present.

Our 2020 Annual Conference will be in Troy for 2020! Save the date now! Look for more information here and on our website as we get closer to the date!

Follow us!