

CARE

CONNECTIONS

Child Care Resource & Referral

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

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“WHEN CHILDREN ARE NURTURED IN SAFE, RESPONSIVE, AND HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS, THEY INVITE US INTO THEIR MAGICAL WORLDS AND REMIND US OF THE POWER OF BELONGING.”

Happy Spring Quarter!

Retreat registration is open! It is FREE this year thanks to sponsorship from South Coast Regional Early Learning Hub. Registration packet emailed to listserv last Monday (3/16/26). Reach out if you need a copy.

Statewide Webinars- Spring 2026
Care Connections



NATURE AS PLAY:

Exploring Effective Strategies for Early
Environmental Education

Dr. Teresa Coker



Need Ideas for A
Earth Day A April 22? A

SATURDAY - APRIL 11 & 18, 2026

8:30 am - 12:30 pm *both days

Held over Zoom

Attend for 8 Set Two Training Hours (HSN and LEC) Free!

Attend for SOU Credit (1 Credit ED 207/399) \$60 Tuition

A Hands-on Workshop

This double-Saturday workshop will experientially provide hands-on, interdisciplinary activities and resources for young children designed to develop a sense of wonder and appreciation for the natural world. Through play, inquiry activities, and free exploration, students will experience ways to provide opportunities for children to develop knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are the necessary foundation for environmental literate citizens.

Dr. Teresa Coker is the Coordinator Master of Science in Education graduate program at Southern Oregon University. With experience in formal and non-formal education, Teresa values interdisciplinary, lifelong education, and continually seeks ways to make education accessible and attainable for all. Her research interests include educational program evaluation and culturally responsive teaching.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CONTACT:

jaimie.rice@socc.edu or 541-260-1371 (call/text)

SOU credit Questions?

Susan Faller; fallers@sou.edu





Statewide CCR&R Trainings



April 1, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

**The Four Pillars of your Happy Home & Classroom:
Raise and educate children who thrive.**

Megan Barella

Explore the 4 Pillars of Your Happy Home (and Classroom!): Compassion, Connection, Confidence and Cooperation to maximize learning and help children thrive. Equal parts theory, experiential activities, and enlightening discussions, this workshop is upbeat and interactive. You'll leave renewed and refreshed for the work you do with new parenting and mindfulness tools to share with your communities!

Set 2, UGB, Preschool

April 7, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

See the Child, Not the Label

Amy Williams

Children are often given a label, which may or may not be correct. Participants will look at specific behavior patterns from the children in the classroom and learn to address specific behaviors to lead to a more successful, respectful, and enriching community.

Set 2, SN, All Ages

April 8, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

Parenting for the Next Generation: Positive Parent Empowerment

Megan Barella

Examine positive parenting techniques to support parents and transform challenging relationships into effective positive parenting communities. This interactive workshop empowers educators to empower parents. Develop strategies to ensure collaborative partnerships between parents and educators to raise children who thrive, and are ready to become leaders for the next generation. Return to your community with an individualized positive parenting action plan.

Set 2, FCS, No Age

Please join us for virtual Statewide trainings!

Pre-register for one or more by **[filling out this form.](#)**

Questions? jessie.williams@socc.edu

You must complete the registration process to receive the Zoom link.

Statewide CCR&R Trainings Continued

April 9, 2026 6:00 - 7 pm

Getting to know 211info

Kerry Wels

211info helps communities identify, navigate, and connect with the local resources they need. This presentation will cover the basics of the services that 211info offers. We will discuss 211info's Child Care and Community Service referrals and different ways that 211info can help you and the families of children in your care.

Set 1, PM, No Age

April 14, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

Supporting Independence:

Practical Life in the Classroom for Children with Disabilities

Amy Williams

Independence is at the heart of education — but for children with disabilities, the path to independence may look different. This interactive session gives educators the knowledge, mindset, and tools to make Practical Life experiences accessible and empowering for every child.

Set 2, SN, Preschool & School Age

April 15, 2026 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Adults Want to Learn: Adult Learning Principles Series

Jasmin Rivera

Have you ever seen staff tune out during professional development? Even when it seems like folks are not interested, humans are naturally wired to learn. In this session, we will use our knowledge of adult learning principles to explore and apply strategies that result in increased learner engagement.

Set 2, PPLD, No Age

Please join us for virtual Statewide trainings!

Pre-register for one or more by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code →



Statewide CCR&R Trainings Continued

April 15, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

**Family Engagement in Early Learning Programs:
Strategies for Building Strong Relationships and Empowering Families**
Aoife Magee

In this workshop, participants will examine strategies to build a culture of family engagement in early childhood programs. We will explore the importance of using a strengths-based approach and techniques for developing relationships and empowering families. Participants will examine family-friendly policies and procedures, connection to resources in communities, and advocacy methods to support the best for all families.

Set 1, PM, No Age

April 27, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

**Building Relationships Across Cultures:
Strategies for Cultural Intelligence in Early Education**
Kianna Lewis

Explore strategies for building positive partnerships with diverse families and communities in early education. Respect cultural strengths while coordinating community resources. Engage families to foster inclusivity and enhance children's learning experiences.

Set 2, DIV/FCS, No Age

April 29, 2026 6:00 - 8 pm

Introduction to the Environment Rating Scales (ERS)
Aimee Brown

What are the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and how are they being used in Oregon's Spark? This introductory training will provide an overview of the ERS assessments. The training will include discussion of the three basic needs of children addressed in the ERS scales and how the assessments will be used to support continuous quality improvement.

Set 1, OA, All Ages

You must complete the registration process to receive the Zoom link.
Participants who miss more than 15 minutes of the session are not eligible for ORO credit

Statewide CCR&R Trainings Continued

April 30, 2026 6:00 - 8 pm

Curious, Playful, Capable Children: How Playful Inquiry Approaches Reveals Children's Assets and Capabilities through Exploration and Discovery

Christyn Dundorf Mathews

The science of learning documents that play and joy is essential to how children learn. This session explores children's natural capabilities and the ways in which Playful Inquiry Approaches supports their emergence.

Strategies to nurture capabilities will be considered.

Set 2, HGD, Preschool

May 5, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

Important Conversations with Families: Cultivating Respectful and Clear Partnerships

Amy Williams

Ideally, we are always in a peaceful partnership with the families that we serve. Yet, sometimes we must have conversations that are difficult and uncomfortable that may put that partnership at risk. Examine ways to create a safe, trusting atmosphere, explore ways to communicate when emotions run high, and maintain a relationship that is respectful, clear and effective.

Set 2, FCS, No Age

May 12, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

Learning to Spot Our Blind Spots: Understanding Implicit Bias and Working to Eliminate It In Our Teaching Practices

Kelley Lawson

Implicit biases are attitudes and stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner, we all have them. In this class, we will explore how these biases impact young children in our programs and develop strategies to recognize and rewrite these subconscious messages.

Set 2, DIV, I/T & Preschool

You must complete the registration process to receive the Zoom link.

Participants who miss more than 15 minutes of the session are not eligible for ORO credit

Statewide CCR&R Trainings Continued

May 19, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Toxic Stress in Young Children Trauma Informed Teaching and Caregiving

Tiyana Morris

In this Trauma-Informed Teaching series, we are introducing Adverse Childhood Experiences and the effects it has on a child's social-emotional development and behaviors within families and community systems.

Set 1, HSN, No Age

June 9, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

Privilege and Me: Examining Social Identity, Unearned Advantages, and how we can work to make Things fair for Everyone

Kelley Lawson

Privilege is unearned access or advantages granted to specific groups of people because of their membership in a social group. It can be based on various social identities such as race, gender, religion, socioeconomic status, ability status, sexuality, age, or education level. In this class, participants will examine their personal perspectives of privilege and how these shape their ECE practices.

Set 2, DIV, No Age

June 30, 2026 6:00 - 9 pm

Cultural Intelligence: An Exploration of Cultural Differences

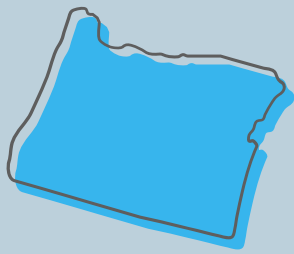
Kianna Lewis

Participants will examine cultural awareness and its influence on interactions in this Cultural Intelligence training. Participants will analyze their own cultural values and biases, interpret their effects on relationships, and apply equitable practices. This session explores strategies to foster inclusivity and respect for cultural differences in classrooms and workplaces, enhancing collaboration and respectful interactions.

Set 2, DIV, No Age

You must complete the registration process to receive the Zoom link.

Participants who miss more than 15 minutes of the session are not eligible for ORO credit



Statewide CCR&R Trainings En Español



April 6, 2026 6:00-9:00 PM

Examinando y aplicando las influencias culturales en el comportamiento desafiante

(Examining and Applying Cultural Influences to Challenging Behaviors)

Lucia Aleman Oregon

Participantes examinarán la influencia de la cultura en el desarrollo de la identidad y el comportamiento de los niños. Explorarán el papel de la familia y la cultura en el comportamiento y desarrollarán actividades culturales para promover la conducta positiva. Participantes desarrollarán estrategias para obtener más información acerca de la influencia de la cultura en el comportamiento desafiante de los niños en sus programas.

Participants will examine how culture influences identity development and behavior in young children. They will explore the role of family and culture on behavior and develop culturally specific activities to promote positive behavior. Participants will develop strategies they will use to obtain more information about how culture might be influencing the challenging behavior of children in their program.

Set 2, UGB/DIV, Preschool

All Trainings Take Place On Zoom

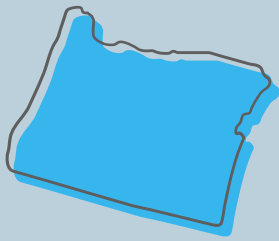
Please join us for virtual Statewide trainings!

Pre-register for one or more by filling out this form or scanning the QR code -->

You must complete the registration process to receive the Zoom link.



Participants who miss more than 15 minutes of the session are not eligible for ORO credit



Statewide CCR&R Trainings En Español



April 16, 2026 6:00-9:00 PM

Integración de múltiples idiomas en entornos de cuidado infantil (Integrating Multiple Languages into Child Care Settings)

Cassandra Hernandez

Esta capacitación ayudará a los proveedores a explorar los beneficios de la integración de idiomas. Los participantes conocerán recursos y estrategias que apoyan la adquisición del lenguaje y tendrán la oportunidad de practicar esas habilidades. Además, examinarán cómo la incorporación de múltiples idiomas puede relacionarse con el QRIS y mejorar la calidad del cuidado

This training will assist providers in exploring the benefits of language integration. Participants will explore resources and strategies that support language acquisition and have the opportunity to practice those skills.

Participants will examine how adding multiple languages can relate to QRIS and improves quality of care.

Set 2, DIV, All Ages

May 20, 2026 6:00-9:00 PM

Experiencias Adversas en la Infancia y Estrés Tóxico en la Primera Infancia: Prácticas de Enseñanza y Cuidado con Enfoque Informado por el Trauma

(Adverse Childhood Experiences and Toxic Stress in Young Children: Trauma Informed Teaching and Caregiving)

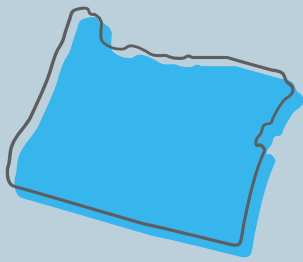
Tiyana Morris

En esta serie sobre Enseñanza Informada por el Trauma, introducimos las Experiencias Adversas en la Infancia y cómo estas afectan el desarrollo socioemocional y los comportamientos de los niños en las familias y en los sistemas comunitarios.

In this Trauma-Informed Teaching series, we are introducing Adverse Childhood Experiences and the effects it has on a child's social-emotional development and behaviors within families and community systems.

Set 1, HSN, no edad

Participants who miss more than 15 minutes of the session are not eligible for ORO credit



Statewide CCR&R Trainings En Español



June 4, 2026 6:00-8 PM

¿Cómo dices?

Interpretando la comunicación infantil y las señales de los bebés

Say What?

Discerning Infant Communication and Reading Babies Cues

Sara Ashou

En esta sesión, las y los participantes examinarán cómo se desarrolla el lenguaje en la primera infancia y practicarán estrategias para comprender las señales y formas de comunicación de los bebés, promoviendo un desarrollo saludable del lenguaje.

In this session participants will examine how develop language and practice, apply practices to understand babies cues, and promote healthy language development.

Set 2, HGD, I/T

June 18, 2026 6:00-9 PM

Los Beneficios de la Atención Plena y la Expresión Creativa

(The Benefits of Mindfulness and Creative Expression)

Sara Ashou

En este taller práctico, las y los participantes explorarán los beneficios del mindfulness y la creatividad para reducir el estrés y fortalecer el bienestar general. Examinaremos estos enfoques de manera lúdica, utilizando materiales y actividades como experiencias sensoriales, arte, música, movimiento, piezas sueltas, reflexión y consignas sencillas.

In this hands-on workshop, participants will explore the benefits of using mindfulness and creativity to reduce stress and improve an overall sense of well-being. We will examine mindfulness and creative expression in a playful way by using a selection of materials and activities that may include sensory experiences, art materials, music, movement, loose parts, reflection, and simple prompts.

Set 2, PPLD, No age

Participants who miss more than 15 minutes of the session are not eligible for ORO credit

Spark Overview

2026 Sessions

Introducing the Spark Program and Quality Improvement Cycle:
Attendance to Part 1 session is required before signing up for Part 2


Quarterly Sessions 6 pm to 8 pm CKC: PM	Part 1 Introduction May 14 Aug 13 Nov 12	Part 2 Quality Improvement Cycle May 21 Aug 20 Nov 19
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Session content is the same for all scheduled months in 2026.
Contact your CCR&R to register!



Educational Opportunities



**Your next class
might have a few
new friends!**

Getting your degree
in Early Childhood
Development is the
fastest way to
become Lead
Teacher Qualified!

Apply today to join our Southern Oregon Early Learning
Professional Development Consortium!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Contact Taya Noland at 541.888.7336
www.socc.edu/childhood



Childhood Education & Family Studies Program

1st Year Spring Term

COMM218Z Interpersonal Communication 4 credits

Prerequisite(s): (WR90R)

COMM 218Z increases the knowledge and use of competent communication skills to better understand oneself, others, and the role of communication in interpersonal relationships.

ECE 154 01 Children's Language & Literacy Development - (3 Credit)

This course teaches students how to develop strategies for teaching language acquisition and literacy skill development at each developmental stage through the four interrelated areas of speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Quality children's literature, ways to implement its use, and ways to evaluate its appropriateness for young children are discussed.

ECE 209 01 & 209B 01 Theory and Practice I Pre-K - (3 Credit)

**Prerequisites: ECE 163/163B; Corequisite: ECE 209B. Central Background Registry (CBR) check is required for this course.*

You must contact Education Faculty Brenda Jackson **at least two terms in advance** to begin the paperwork process, including site placement.

HDFS 229 01 Child Development PreK - Adolescent - (3 Credit)

This course covers the principles of theory and development for children aged six through emerging adulthood. Emphasis is placed on physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development, including a strong focus on brain development. The course readings and discussions will focus on typical development with an introduction to atypical development. Caregiving, teaching, and practice based strategies with children and adolescents are introduced.

2nd Year Spring Term

ED 134 01 Children Who are Dual Language Learners - (2 Credit)

This course focuses on the unique characteristics of teaching young children who are Dual Language Learners (DLL). Theory and best practice are studied. Emphasis is on developmentally appropriate curriculum and strategies to help dual language learners thrive in a classroom setting.

PE231 Wellness for Life 3 credits

Physical assessment techniques to assess present strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular health will be administered in this course. Students will receive informational tools needed to facilitate positive change in their present state of fitness. Basic blood work will assess cholesterol, glucose, and other results. Health issues and concepts are also covered.

HDFS222 Understanding Families: Supporting Diversity Disability and Risk 3 credits

A practical and theoretical course examining the traditional and evolving roles and functions of families in the 21st century. Topics include cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity, supporting families at risk, creating professional alliances with families, communicating and collaborating with families. Emphasis is placed on understanding how the family effects the development of children aged 0 – 8.

Please check out our website at: <http://www.socc.edu/childhood>

Email us at ece@socc.edu

*ORO hours listed are subject to change, please check your Oregon Registry for final hours of credits after submission.

Southwestern Oregon Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.



Contacts

CARE Connections, your local Child Care Resource & Referral serving Coos and Curry Counties, is a non-profit organization funded through the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). Our mission is to improve the quality of early learning experiences for young children by providing education, information and support to those that care for young children.

CARE Connections links families and Early Educators to each other and to other resources in the community. For early educator training, education, and program information, please call or email:

Coos Office: 541-888-7957

Curry Office: 541-813-1674

Toll-Free: 1-800-611-7555

Website: <https://www.socc.edu/for-the-community/care-connections/>

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Care Connections Contacts

For assistance please call 541-888-7957

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CARE Connections

Toll-Free 1-800-611-7555

Child Care Referrals 211info.org

Email children@211info.org

USDA Food Program

OCDC 541-770-5893