



A Note from the President

Amy Baldwin



A note from Pat, the Newsletter Coordinator. You will notice a few changes to the newsletter today. I will now be sending out a monthly newsletter so that the information will be more accurate and up to date. I will be introducing two board members each month so that you can get to know us better. The newsletter will be shorter with more links on where to get the information, including our own website. I have also linked some of the photos to the appropriate website so check that out. If you happen to read information that other providers may also be interested in, please send it to me at newsletter@dcfcca.org, and I will include it in the next issue. Enjoy! ~ Pat Goor

Welcome to our New and Renew Members!

Apple Valley

Carly Koski

Bloomington

Shirell Smith Kerney

Burnsville

Dady Pigeon

Cottage Grove

Susan Gannucci

Eagan

Danielle Dacas
Karla Grogan
Cynthia Huonder
Jeffrey Irrthum
Julie Knutson
Anna Lastine
Linda Rietz
Kathy Ronnei

Farmington

Kristine Hanson
Lori Kulander
Jane Newman

Hastings

Renee Beskau
Donna Karnick
Elaine Lucking
Melanee Lee
Jeannie Tribe

Inver Grove Heights

Tammy Frenger
Rebecca Perron

Lakeville

Debra Benz
Sarah Higgins
Sharon Wulff

Mendota Heights

Elisha Lopez

Randolph

Brenda Taylor

Rosemount

Michele Haas
Melissa Manther
Brenda McMenomy
Lisa Vander Loop
Dan Yahr

Savage

Angelique Bruggeman

Shakopee

Cheryl Nelson

Shoreview

Becky Manning

South St. Paul

Erica Grafsgaard
Denice Janssen
Tracie Matthews
Callie Schneider
Suzanne Wagner
Bonnie Wood

West St. Paul

Gloria Allie

Meet Geri Peterson, our Mentor Coordinator



I live in Eagan and have been licensed since 1983. I obtained my degree through the TEACH program, and have a BAS in Early Childhood Studies. I have been married to my husband, Arden, for 48 years. We have three adult daughters, and I am blessed with six grandchildren. My hobbies include reading, gardening and cooking, but my passion is family genealogy and helping adopted people trace their family roots through DNA matches. I also enjoy spending time with the grandchildren who happen to be more fun than their parents!

I currently use the Provider's Choice food program. I have offered Spanish enrichment classes and Preschool Delivers, although I am currently taking a COVID break. I use the Brightwheel App to record attendance, meal documentation and also to send photos and messages to parents.

What has been the best part of your child care career? I have enjoyed my long career in family child care because of the great families I have had in my care! I usually have families for many years and really enjoy watching the children grow and learn. However, it can be heart-wrenching to see them take their next step when they start school.

"Keep your business separate from your personal life, and do not take children of friends or neighbors."

What do you find most difficult in your child care profession? Right now the most difficult thing is keeping up with the continual changes in childcare.

How has COVID affected your business? I have not taken any new children since March. Although I trust all my current families to follow my policies, I did terminate one family for not complying with procedures to keep others safe. Currently parents do not enter my home. They drop off their children at the front door, and I send them out to their parents at the end of the day. I take temperatures upon arrival and usually before naps. In October, I implemented a mask policy for the children. It started as a "mask practice" to help parents transition the children for wearing masks. They have done so well they wanted to keep wearing them. The mask wearing has also prevented colds and illness! I currently assist three school-agers with their distant learning.

How has family child care changed in your career? When I started child care many years ago, child care providers were pretty much on their own. There were no resources available for grants, education or curriculum. Today, providers have more opportunities to further their professional development. The child-care networking opportunities are amazing too.



Why do you volunteer for the DCFCCA? I am currently the Mentor Facilitator, and also the Area Training Coordinator for Eagan along with my good friend, Carol Jesness. I started volunteering as a way to "give back" to my profession. Many of the volunteers have put in many years of their time and effort to help providers and families in Dakota County, and I felt it was important to help in whatever way I could. I would encourage other providers to consider volunteering as well. It is a great way to learn more about how child care works behind the scenes and an opportunity to meet new friends.

~ Geri Peterson

Meet Amy Baldwin, our President



I live in Farmington, and I was licensed from 2001-2015 and again in 2016 - current. My child care business is Amy's ABC Kids. I have two grown children, Kylee is 23 and Trevor is 20. I have been married to my husband, Eric, for 25 years. We have three dogs. I enjoy reading, music and taking walks. In 2019, I decided to get my real estate license, and I am currently an agent for Coldwell Banker.

I have been in the childcare business and continue to be because I enjoy the children, and I also embrace being my own boss. My best advice to providers is "Take care of you". We usually put the children's needs first and forget about ourselves. I felt guilty taking time off, but I decided that I deserve time off just as much as anyone else.

Before I started in the family child care field, I wish I would have known that even though you are home with your own children, it is difficult to participate in school events or chaperone field trips. From a personal side, networking with other providers through this association has helped and also looking into grants.

Our favorite activities include Magna-Tiles, indoor slide and Cosmic yoga. I use Providers Choice food program, and I have a private Facebook page just for the daycare families. I post daily reports, updates and vacation reminders. I have started using Venmo for electronic payments. Most of my advertisement is through word of mouth, and I also post openings on Facebook. The most difficult issue for me is parent communication and being on the same page when it comes to behavioral issues or potty training.

**"Take care of you.
I felt guilty
taking time off,
but I decided that
I deserve time off
just as much as
anyone else."**

How has COVID affected your business? We were recently affected by COVID when my whole family tested positive, and we had to quarantine for two weeks. I have no idea where the transmission happened since I do require masks for drop off and pick up, and we use lots of hand sanitizer. When I reopened in 2016, I choose not to care for school age children so no virtual learning expectations from parents.



Also, when I reopened in 2016, I wanted to become more involved and meet more people in the childcare business. By volunteering for the association, I have had the opportunity to be an Area Coordinator, the Secretary, a short stint as Newsletter Coordinator and now I am the President. I have been on the board four years so far, and feel very connected to the Dakota County child care community.

~ Amy Baldwin

New 2020-2021 Training Registration Policies

- ♦ All virtual training registrations will be accepted on-line through our website. Providers will need to use an electronic device that includes a camera and sound to fully participate and receive credit for attendance. No exceptions.
- ♦ Registrations will be accepted until 72 hours prior to training date. We reserve the right to limit maximum number of attendees based on trainer's request. **Providers must be signed onto virtual classroom before the starting time of the training.**
- ♦ If hand-outs are provided by the trainer, it will be the provider's responsibility to print them prior to the training.
- ♦ DCFCCA offers free online training for our members. Non-members may purchase individual training as needed. See registration form for payment information.
- ♦ If you need to cancel your registration, please use the **Cancel My Registration Form** on our website.
- ♦ If you do not have on-line access for registration, you may leave a message on our voicemail at **952-985-3495**. Please spell your name, classes you want to register for and leave a phone number..



If you are new to using Zoom
or want to learn more about it ,
watch this YouTube tutorial!

[Click Here](#)

MAKE A LIST OF THINGS
THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY

MAKE A LIST OF THINGS
YOU DO EVERY DAY

COMPARE THE LISTS

ADJUST ACCORDINGLY

New On-Line Training Information!

- ♦ Instructions for attending a Webinar will be emailed to you 48 hours prior to the event.
- ♦ A video camera on your device is required for proof of attendance. Make sure your name is displayed.
- ♦ A training certificate may be requested by emailing Beth at training@dcfcca.org.

January 2021 Training Options

Month of January Self-Paced KCF VI Two Hours	Filling Your Cup - Practicing the Art of Self-Care Presented by Stacy Boysen Create a life that feels lighter and right-sized for you! Learn to recognize the signs of stress and practice simple stress management techniques. Prune your to-do list, learn when to say yes or no, and go from exhausted and overwhelmed to energized and in control! Find purpose and passion in your work and become more focused and satisfied!
Thursday, January 7 6:30pm - 8:30pm KCF VI	The Tax Consequences of COVID-19 Presented by Tom Copeland Learn how to treat unemployment benefits, the stimulus check and the SBA loans on your tax return. Learn how to calculate your Time-Space percent in 2020, particularly if you were closed for part of the year. Discuss the new tax changes for 2020. Discuss whether you should withdraw money from your IRA or claim Social Security benefits early to ease your financial situation and more!
Monday, January 25 and Monday, February 1st 6:30pm - 8:30pm KCF II.A You must attend all four hours to receive any credit.	1-2-3 Learn Curriculum Presented by Wendy Prokosch Learn what 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum has to offer as a curriculum to family childcare and center-based facilities. Understand the importance of why a curriculum is needed for early childcare by making sure all of the needed areas of learning are being met. Discover how 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum works along side MN-ECIPS and a few other Parent Aware approved Curricula. Practice using and creating lesson plans from 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum.

Register for
TRAINING

February 2021 Training Options

Monday, February 1st 6:30pm - 8:30pm KCF II.A Part 2 Part 1 on January 25th is required to attend this training. You must attend all four hours to receive any training hours.	1-2-3 Learn Curriculum Presented by Wendy Prokosch Learn what 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum has to offer as a curriculum to family childcare and center-based facilities. Understand the importance of why a curriculum is needed for early childcare by making sure all of the needed areas of learning are being met. Discover how 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum works along side MN-ECIPS and a few other Parent Aware approved Curricula. Practice using and creating lesson plans from 1-2-3 Learn Curriculum.
Tuesday, February 16th 6:30pm - 8:30pm KCF II.C	The Why Behind the Words: Strengthening the Learning Environment Presented by Dana Ellingson Explore words and strategies that establish supportive relationships with children and guide them as individuals and as a community of learners. Investigate current practices for classroom management and effective learning environments. Topics of respect and perspective taking will be discussed. Take a look at behaviors that trigger our own sense of control as educators and how we can adjust language or strategies we use, to help give children the power to change their own behaviors.
Thursday, February 18th 6:30pm - 8:30pm KCF II.A	Sensory Smart Childcare, Moving Beyond the Bin Presented by Theresa Peplinski Learn how to engage the children in a variety of sensory experiences. Review the eight sensory realms, identifying the importance of each on child development. Engage in a exploration of ideas to incorporate a wider variety of multi-sensory activities in your childcare program. Recognize and verbalize the sensory experiences that are already being offered while learning the terminology to classify and describe these activities as valuable and positive learning experiences.

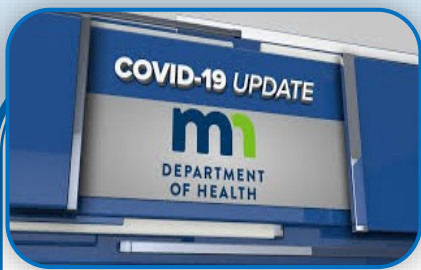
Register for
TRAINING

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3	4	5	6	7 Online Training	8	9
10	11	12	13 Virtual Board Meeting	14	15	16
17	18  Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 Online Training Part 1	26	27	28	29	30

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2  Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7	8 Online Training Part 2	9	10 Virtual Board Meeting	11	12	13
14 	15  PRESIDENTS DAY	16 Online Training	17	18 Online Training	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						



[Sample Letter to Parents regarding the importance of supporting your program and following public health guidelines.](#)

[Child Care Providers - Responding to COVID19](#)

[COVID-19 Resources for Families](#)

[COVID-19 Testing Information](#)

[Schools and Child Care: COVID-19](#)

[Materials and Resources for COVID-19 Response](#)



Positive Case in your Program?

Follow the guidance in [What To Do When Notified of a Lab- Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in Child Care Settings and Youth Programs](#), and complete the [survey](#), marking medium or high priority if you have questions, concerns or need assistance with contact tracing. The Children's Cabinet will continue to support providers in getting their questions answered.

Health related questions can be sent to health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us.



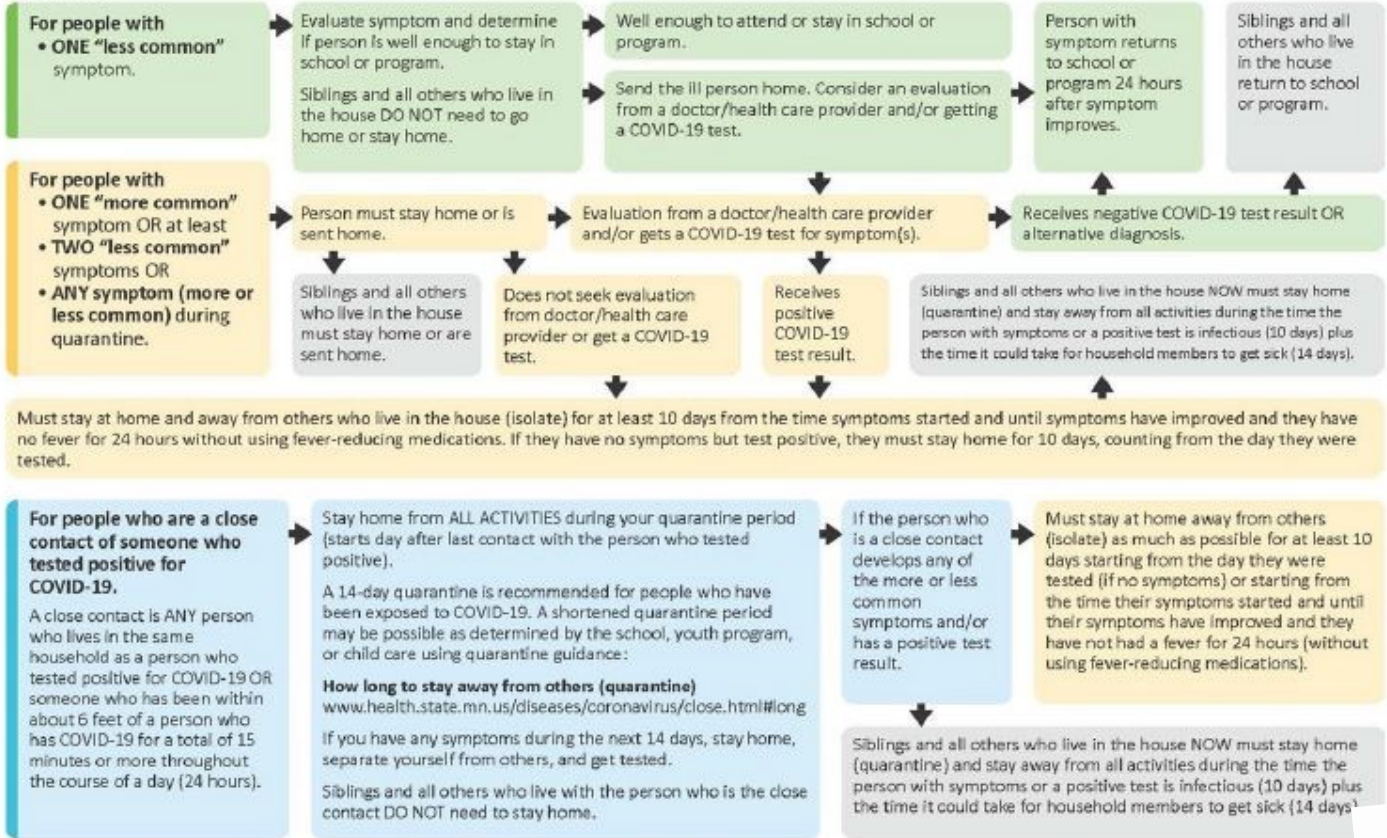
All other questions related to child care and COVID-19 should be directed to childrenscabinet.mmb@state.mn.us.

COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs



Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- **More common:** fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less common:** sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.



mn MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN

Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000 | 625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-01
Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format. | Updated 12/21/2020

Click

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Help us every time
you shop Amazon.





Do you have a side business, in addition to licensed child care?

It doesn't need to be child care related but it must be something that you are a part of.

We are offering a 50% discount off our regular advertising rates as shown. If you are interested in advertising your business in the next issue, please email Pat at newsleter@dcfcca.org for more detailed information.



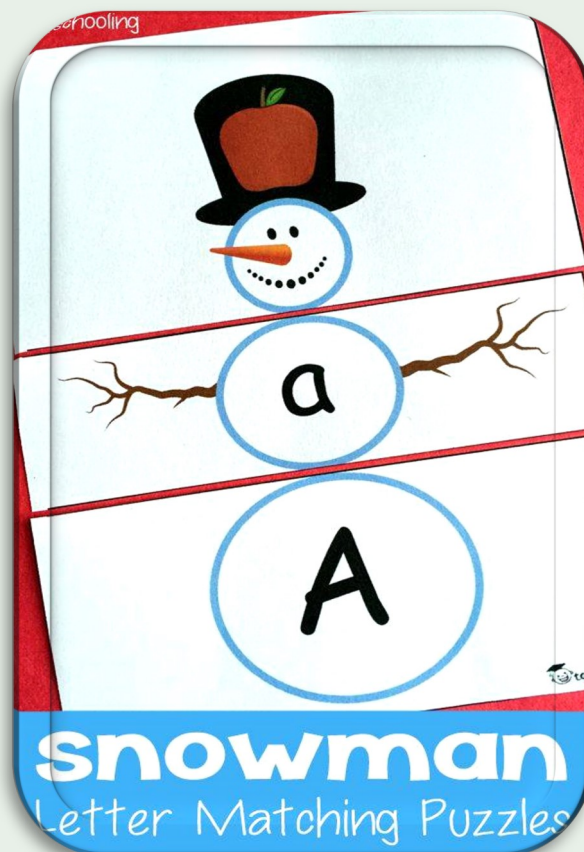
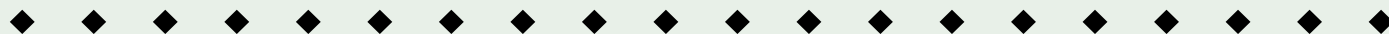
Advertisement Size	Single Issue Cost
Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	\$50.00
Quarter Page	\$30.00
Eighth Page	\$20.00



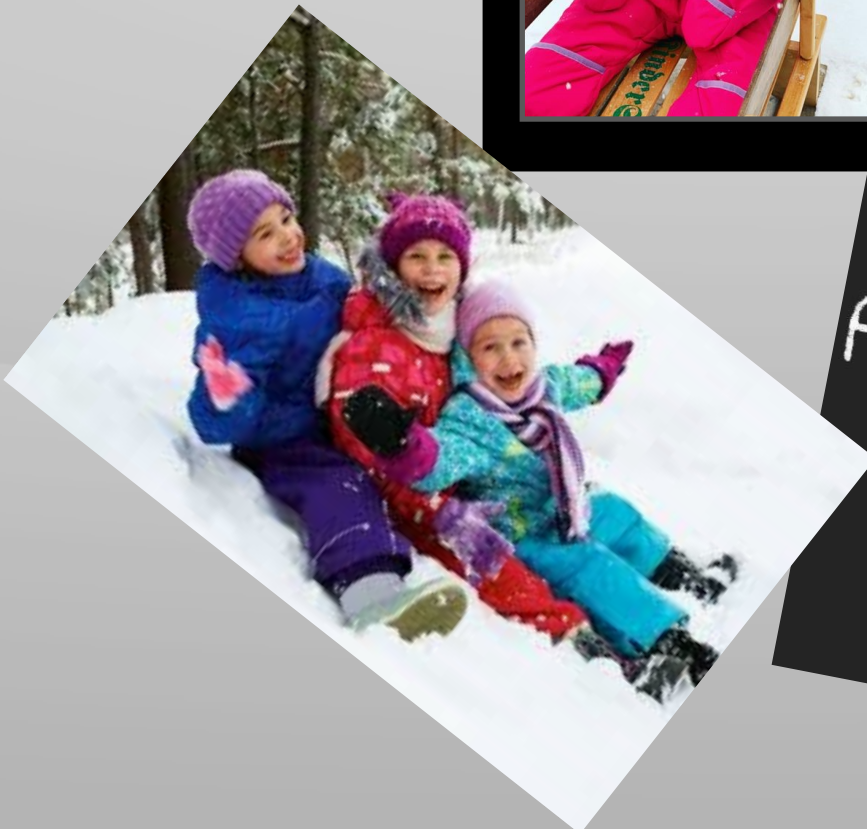
You know you're a child care provider when...



It takes longer to get everyone ready to play outside than the time you *actually* play outside.



Help us spread a little sunshine! Do you know a fellow provider or group that needs a pat on the back, a thank you, cheering up, words of encouragement or just a note? Celebrations, congratulations, weddings, births, adoptions, retirement, birthday, graduation, hospitalization, a job loss, a serious illness or a death — we'd like to know. Click on the sun or anywhere in this text box to be directed to the form on our website at www.dcfcca.org.



Mentor Program

Starting a family child care business can be exciting but also daunting. Our Mentor Program can help you avoid making rookie mistakes, and find your own path to reach your goals as you build your child care business.

Any newly licensed provider who utilizes our FREE one-year membership will be assigned to a mentor. A mentor can help by offering advice, perhaps a different perspective, offer networking opportunities, as well as offer support and encouragement. For more information, go to our website at www.dcfcca.org/MentorProgram.html or email mentor@dcfcca.org.

Provider Directory on Website -

As a member, your business can be listed on the Provider Directory! This includes days and hours you are open, as well as a brief description of your business. Please keep your information current. Submit an update or add a new listing using this link

www.dcfcca.org/ProviderDirectory

Get the latest information regarding all things DCFCCA! Get information about training registration, answers to questions about the pandemic and general childcare policies.

For get access to this private DCFCCA Facebook page, e-mail Amy at president@dcfcca.org.



DCFCCA Care Line

Apple Valley	
Joan Finley	952-236-8119
Jean Dommer	952-423-2192
Burnsville	
Jodi Grimes	952-895-7361
Eagan	
Cindy Ciernia	651-688-7396
Inver Grove Heights	
Beth Beltz	651-450-7988
Lakeville	
Missy Torbenson	952-891-1275
Melissa Enke	952-378-1123
Mendota Heights	
Hannah Huberty	612-636-3562
Rosemount	
Renee' Kulhanek	651-423-5067



2020—2021 Board and Leadership Directory

Board Members

President	Amy Baldwin	651-398-1949	president@dcfcca.org
Secretary	Renee' Kulhanek	651-423-5067	secretary@dcfcca.org
Treasurer	Jean Mathison	651-994-7854	treasurer@dcfcca.org
Area Coordinator Facilitator	Heather LeBlanc	612-229-6085	areacoordinator@dcfcca.org
Training Coordinator	Beth Beltz	651-450-7988	training@dcfcca.org
Membership Coordinator	Cindy Bills	651-423-4497	membership@dcfcca.org
Fundraiser Coordinator	Kat Doring	651-442-2426	fundraising@dcfcca.org
Mentor Facilitator	Geri Peterson	651-347-0856	mentor@dcfcca.org
Website Coordinator	Hannah Huberty	612-636-3562	website@dcfcca.org
Newsletter Coordinator	Pat Goor	651-246-8387	newsletter@dcfcca.org

Area Coordinators

Apple Valley Area	Amy Baldwin Renee' Kulhanek	applevalley@dcfcca.org
Eagan Area	Geri Peterson Carol Jesness	eagan@dcfcca.org
Hastings Area	Patti Kopp	hastings@dcfcca.org
Mendota Heights Area	Beth Beltz Joan Chadwick	mendotaheights@dcfcca.org
Rosemount Area		rosemount@dcfcca.org

Committee Chairs

Conference Chair	Hannah Huberty	conference@dcfcca.org
Newsletter Chair	Pat Goor	newsletter@dcfcca.org
PACT (Providers Acknowledging Corrections Together)	Joan Finley	PACT@dcfcca.org
Sunshine Committee	Joan Chadwick	sunshine@dcfcca.org
Toy Co-op	Kris Voorhees	toycoop@dcfcca.org

The Caring Connection is published by the Dakota County Family Child Care Association (DCFCCA). To submit an article and photographs for publication, send your article and permission to publish to The Caring Connection, DCFCCA, P.O. Box 22065, Eagan, MN 55122. This newsletter is sent to all of our members so your ideas will be shared with other providers in our community.

The Caring Connection volunteers reserve the right to edit articles for publication. The articles published in The Caring Connection reflect the views and opinions of the authors, and do not reflect the views of its members or the Executive Board of DCFCCA.

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Coordinator at newsletter@dcfcca.org to receive information about advertising rates and an advertising agreement. All advertisements must be submitted exactly as you would like them to be published, along with payment required for the selected size of advertising space.

Deadlines for articles and advertisements are as follows:

Publication: Feb 2021 due by January 15, 2021

Publication: March 2021 due by February 15, 2021



Dakota County Family Child Care Association

DCFCCA is a non-profit organization of licensed family child care providers in Dakota County. Major goals of the Association are:

1. To promote quality family child care through education and support groups for providers;
2. To promote the image of quality family child care in the community; and
3. To aid in communication between providers, Dept. of Human Services, parents and community.

All-County trainings are held twice a year. Area trainings are held in various locations around the county. New members are always welcome. Membership fees are non-refundable. Membership fees are reviewed annually and are as follows:

\$40.00 - 1 year \$75.00 - 2 years \$100.00 - 3 years Individual class fee is \$20.00

Make checks payable to DCFCCA and mail to: DCFCCA - Membership, P.O. Box 22065, Eagan, MN 55122. All returned checks are subject to a \$25.00 fee. Membership fees are non-refundable.

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____
(print clearly)

DCFCCA Membership: New or Renew \$40 - 1 year \$70 - 2 year \$95 - 3 year