

Spring Newsletter

Child Care Resource & Referral of Douglas, Klamath, & Lake Counties

April - June 2026



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[Training Bulletin](#)


[Click Here!](#)

A Note from the Director

Spring always brings a sense of renewal and energy, and this season is no exception for our CCR&R community. As we move into the months ahead, I continue to be inspired by the commitment, creativity, and care shown by the early learning professionals we have the privilege to support.

This spring, we are excited to welcome providers to our Spring Flings, a favorite annual tradition that blends connection, celebration, and meaningful professional learning. In Klamath Falls, providers will be energized by Lisa Murphy, the Ooey Gooey Lady, whose playful, child-centered approach reminds us of the power of joy in early learning. In Douglas County, we are thrilled to host Sharron Krull, who will lead Play Power, reinforcing the essential role of play in healthy development and learning.

I also want to recognize the tremendous success of our recent Courageous Care gatherings. Led by Dr. Amy King, these sessions invited educators into deep reflection around leadership, resilience, and trauma-informed practice. The engagement, thoughtful dialogue, and positive feedback affirmed just how powerful it is when we create intentional space for educators to grow together.

Building on this momentum, we are especially excited about our upcoming Master Class opportunity, featuring a dynamic group of speakers—Dr. Aoiffe McGee, Dr. Amy King, Heidi East McGowan, MBA, MPH, Certified Dare to Lead™ Facilitator, and Dr. Sally Guyon. This offering is designed for educators and leaders who are ready to go deeper, strengthening leadership capacity, expanding reflective practice, and continuing to build sustainable, inclusive early learning environments.

Thank you for the heart, dedication, and professionalism you bring to early learning every day. We are grateful to walk alongside you and look forward to learning, growing, and celebrating together this spring.



Heather Freiling
CCR&R Coordinator
Douglas Education Service District



Registration is Open

MASTER

Online Series for Early Childhood Educators & Care Providers

TRAINING

Set 3 training designed for experienced child care providers (3+ years in the field) at Step 8 or higher on the Oregon Registry. *2.5 hr sessions each month.*

April-June

July - September

October - December

January-March



Dr. Aoife Magee
Parenting Typologies & Caregiving Systems
[Register Here!](#)

Heidi McGowan
Leadership Development for Early Educators

Dr. Amy King
Advanced Practice in Early Childhood Behavior Support

Dr. Sally Guyon
Advanced Study of Infant/Toddler Development

Cost: \$40 per quarter OR register for the full year and save 50% for just \$80!

You asked—we listened!

We've thoughtfully curated a series of four advanced Set 3 trainings led by some of the top early childhood education trainers in the state. Our goal is to meet you where you are—as seasoned professionals, leaders, and experts in your own right. With years of experience behind you, this series is designed to deepen your practice, spark new insights, and honor the knowledge you already bring to the field.



Deadline to Register for Full Series is 3/30.

Participation Requirements:

Because these are advanced trainings, there are a few requirements in place to ensure that all participants are prepared and able to fully benefit from the experience. To participate, you must:

- Have at least 3 years of experience in the field and hold a Step 8+ on the Oregon Registry
- Commit to attending all 3 sessions of each training in order to receive credit
- Keep your video on and actively participate during each session
- Complete *Reflection Activities* as assigned



Care Connections & Education Presents:

SPRING FLING 2026

Klamath Community College

6 Training Hours:

SENSORY PLAY FOR EVERY DAY

Take a deep dive into the importance of play, it's role in cognitive development and how to get back in touch with your "why". There will be plenty of "ooey gooey" to get your hands on too!

Training CKCs:
1.5 Hours/Set 2 HGD
4.5 Hours of LEC
(1.5 of those hours are Set 2)

All attendees will be entered into a drawing to win one of two learning centers, each valued at over \$350.

Includes
Lunch
+
Door
Prizes

OOEY GOOEY
LADY[®]



LISA MURPHY

APRIL 18

Register
Today!



\$35 early bird rate
until 3/31. Then \$45



Care
Connections
& Education

DOUGLAS • KLAMATH • LAKE

a program of:



Oregon Department of
Early Learning and Care

Registration Opens April 1st!

You Don't
Want to Miss
This!

Save the Date

**MAY
16
2026**

SPRING FLING

PLAYING TO LEARN

*Featuring Keynote Speaker:
Sharon Krull, founder of Play Power*



Umpqua Community College

Meet Sharron:

Sharron's teaching experience spans over thirty-eight years and encompasses nearly all areas of early childhood education. She is a veteran preschool teacher having taught and directed at parent cooperative preschools for over 20 years. She has taught parent education classes, school-age childcare programs, and elementary school. She has been a Child Development Instructor at several California Community Colleges as well as a trainer, speaker, and writer. Sharron is currently an Early Childhood Educational Consultant for Discount School Supply and is a member of the national training team for "I Am Moving, I Am Learning," a program promoting a proactive approach to prevent childhood obesity which is an initiative by the Office of Head Start.

A Season of Growth

Spring is almost here — a perfect time to reset, refocus, and plan intentionally for the months ahead. As a participant in Preschool Promise, this season gives us an opportunity to strengthen programming, support transitions, and stay aligned with quality and compliance.

· Make the Most of Outdoor Learning

Spring is ideal for expanding intentional outdoor learning — not just play, but purposeful exploration. Outdoor learning supports whole-child development, including physical health and social-emotional growth.

· Stay Focused on Instructional Quality

Spring fatigue is real, so consistency matters. Strong, structured programming builds kindergarten readiness and reinforces family confidence.

· Strengthen Family Engagement

Spring offers natural opportunities to connect. Consistent communication helps maintain strong attendance and engagement.

· Emphasize Health & Wellness

With warmer weather more movement outside calms the classroom inside. It's also a good time to review outdoor safety and health protocols.

· Begin Kindergarten Transition Planning

Spring is the runway for fall success. Purposeful preparation now supports smoother transitions later.

Looking Ahead

As we move toward summer, our focus is not just finishing strong — but preparing children confidently for what's next. Thank you for your continued dedication to your children and their families. We're excited to see your classrooms bloom this spring!

Your Preschool Promise Team



Heather Freiling
CCR&R Program Director/PSP Lead



Dani McKiddy
PSP Facilitator
Douglas



Nicole Martin
PSP Facilitator
Douglas



Melisa Miner
PSP Facilitator
Klamath



Terri Lawrence
PSP Facilitator
Klamath

Inclusive Partners

Tip of the Term

Young children experience and understand the world through their senses. When their sensory systems become overwhelmed or under-stimulated, it can affect their behavior, focus, and ability to participate in activities. Building short sensory breaks into the day can help children regulate their bodies and emotions.

Simple activities like stretching, jumping, pushing against a wall, carrying books, squeezing playdough, or taking a few deep breaths can give children the input they need to reset. These brief moments of movement or sensory play can improve attention, reduce frustration, and help children feel more calm and ready to learn.

Providing a variety of sensory opportunities throughout the day supports children's self-regulation and helps create a more comfortable and responsive learning environment.



Want to learn more about inclusive supports? Call today!



Stephanie Cravalho
541.492.6614
Douglas County



Trudy Willhite
541.492.6630
Klamath/Lake County



Every Child Belongs

Oregon Department of
Early Learning and Care

Every Child Belongs (ECB) Program is committed to supporting young children with social-emotional and behavioral needs in early learning settings throughout Douglas, Klamath and Lake Counties. Through consultation, coaching, and individualized planning, we work collaboratively to promote positive behavior, strengthen social-emotional development, and support successful inclusion in early learning and childcare settings.

What We Offer

- Center consultation and observation
- Individualized behavior support planning
- Social-emotional strategy development
- Resource connection and referral guidance

Don't hesitate to reach out! We are here to support you.
541.492.6614

ECB Connect is our quick-access support system. If you have concerns about a child's behavior or social-emotional development ECB Connect offers a brief consultation, problem-solving and guidance on next steps. ECB Connect is designed to provide timely, responsive support so that challenges can be addressed early and effectively. If you are unsure whether a child may need more formal support, ECB Connect is a great first step.

www.everychildbelongs.org

Resources

DELC Resources

[Provider Updates](#)

[Provider Resources](#)

[Resource Documents](#)

Community Resources

[Douglas Resource Directory](#)

[Klamath/Lake Resource Directory](#)

[Klamath/Lake Spanish Resource Directory](#)

[Take Root](#)

[DC Library Calendar](#)

[Klamath Library Calendar](#)

[Lake Events Calendar](#)

[Douglas - Women in Business Leadership Conference](#)

Douglas County Childcare Coalition

[Click Here](#) for updates on:

- Douglas County Incentive Program
- Klamath County Incentive Program
- Provider “ASK” Form
- Childcare Provider Appreciation Day Proclamation

Grant Information

[Spring 2026 Grant Opportunities](#)

[Ford Guidebook](#)

[WIIN Guidebook](#)





**DOUGLAS COUNTY CHILDCARE
OWNERS ENCOURAGED TO
PARTICIPATE IN
SMALL BUSINESS
PITCH
NIGHT**

**Win up to \$10,000 Cash for
your Business**

**Thursday
April 30, 2026**

**Guaranteed support from the DC
Childcare Coalition:
\$250 for applying
\$250 if selected to pitch**

**Applicants who have previously received PitchNight
funding from the DC Childcare Coalition are not
eligible for additional support funds**



**Text or Email for details:
Robin.VanWinkle@douglasesd.k12.or.us
541-530-4125**

**Visit the site below for event info:
umpquagrowthtalks.com/pitch-night/**

[Click here for more information!](#)



Spring Hours

Open Mon-Fri 8:00am - 4:30pm

Closures

Spring Break - March 23-26

Memorial Day - May 25

Juneteenth - June 19th

How can we help?

- Connect to Oregon's Early Learning Systems
- Technical Assistance and Referrals to Extra Supports
- Navigate Licensing/DHS

- Program Quality Improvement
- Cohort and Coaching Opportunities
- Connect to Professional Development and Higher Education



541-672-CARE

672care.org