

OFFICES IN BOZEMAN AND HELENA 1143 Stoneridge Dr, Bozeman, MT 59718 901 N Benton Ave, Helena, MT 59601 (406) 587-7786 or (800) 962-0418

## PROMOTING QUALITY CHILD CARE

CCCMONTANA.ORG

March 15, 2020

Dear Families,

With <u>Governor Bullock's announcement of school closures in Montana for the next two weeks</u>, we all have important questions and concerns. We are writing today to provide you with an update on the operations of Child Care Connections (CCC), and to provide additional resources and support.

CCC is both required and committed to continue to offer essential services during a state of emergency. These services include administration of the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship and other critical services that local Child Care Providers and families depend upon.

We respond to the mandates of Montana Department of Health and Human Services and County Health Departments during health crisis situations such as this. At this time there have been no directives given from the State of County officials regarding child care or child care closures. We recognize that most Child Care Providers are small business owners and encourage them to do what they feel is best for themselves and the children and families in their care. We urge you to keep in mind that we are here to offer guidance and support to the best of our ability during this time.

It is our social responsibility to take actions to keep our staff, and community, from the spread of COVID-19. To protect our staff and the public **our offices in Bozeman and Helena will be closed to the public on Monday, March 16**<sup>th</sup>, **as our staff works to develop a more comprehensive plan of support for you**.

During this time, our staff will continue to provide services during our normal business hours of 7 am -5 pm. Staff can be contacted by phone or email, and paperwork can be submitted via fax or placed in the secure drop-box to the right of the main entrance at both of our offices.

We thank you for your patience during this uncertain time. As we get more information, we will update you as soon as possible. Additionally, we will be posting regular updates and resources to our social media and website, and we will respond to all questions and comments in a timely fashion.

Thank you,

Kami Ryles

Kami Ryles Assistant Director/Family Services Coordinator Child Care Connections

P.S. If you're feeling panicked remember that good hygiene, hand washing, and social distancing are simple ways to stay safe and healthy. For more information visit <u>CDC.gov</u>.