

THE CONNECTION

The latest news and updates from Child Care Connections



IN THIS ISSUE

WE'RE HIRING!

MONTANA CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM

ARPA CHILD CARE FUNDING

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL NEEDS

NOVEMBER HARVEST:

WINTER SQUASH

PLAY AND GROW

EMERGENCY

PREPAREDNESS

TRAVEL WITH KIDS

CCCMONTANA.ORG



We're hiring!

Child Care Connections' is looking for new team members! Join our team.

Find our open positions at
cccmontana.org/about-us/join-our-team



Montana Crisis Response Program

Everyone has been impacted by COVID-19. Thousands of Montanans are facing challenges and experiencing anxiety, depression, stress, and sadness. You are not alone, find free, anonymous COVID-19 support by calling (877) 503-0833 or visiting montanacrisisrecovery.com

ARPA Child Care Funding

Through the ARPA, Montana has been awarded more the \$110 million in one-time-only funding to support stabilization grants to child care providers to cover their operating expenses as they face less revenue and higher expenses during the pandemic. This funding will also expand and support child care infrastructure throughout the state, including support for emergency and essential workers.

More info at dphhs.mt.gov/arpa/childcare/ or scan



Upcoming CCC Events

November 30th: Giving Tuesday

December 1st-5: Festival of Trees-Helena

December 4th: Christmas Stroll-Bozeman

December 6th: Pint Night at MAP Brewing

Special Needs: Subsidy and CCC's Lending Library



For Families: The Best Beginnings Special Needs Subsidy Program provides supplemental child care assistance helping families and child care providers meet realistic costs of individualized care.

For Providers: We have established a Special Needs Lending Library which will allow you to check out materials that can provide children much-needed assistance right inside of your classroom! Not only will children receive support right away, but it will also give you much-needed information about how best to support the child's needs within your classroom setting. By trying an item in an authentic setting, you will be able to find out whether it will work in your environment and whether the child enjoys that particular mode of support.

Visit: <https://cccmontana.org/family-resources/#special-needs-subsidy> for more info or scan here



November Harvest: Winter Squash



Did you know that winter squash stays fresh longer than summer squash?

Winter Squash is not only nutritious but delicious! Butternut, acorn, and pumpkin squash are all variations of winter squash. Looking for some fresh ideas for dinner?

Roasted Butternut Squash

- 6 Servings

Ingredients

- 1 Butternut Squash-peeled, seeded, cubed
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and ground black pepper to taste
- Optional: drizzle with honey or sprinkle with dried rosemary

Preparation

- Preheat oven to 400°F
- Toss squash with olive oil and garlic in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper (and additional seasons as needed).
- Arrange coated squash on a baking sheet.
- Roast at 400°F until squash is tender and lightly browned, stirring once, for 25-30 minutes.

Are you a child care provider? Learn more about the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) on our website. Or scan here:



Winter Squash Stories for kids:

- *The Little Squash Seed*, by Gayla Scale
- *Sophie's Squash*, by Pat Zietlow
- *From Seed to Pumpkin*, by Wendy Pfeffer



Play and Grow: Taking a Color Walk



This month's activity is (drum roll please): taking a color walk!

Preparation: Pick a color that you and your child will be looking for as you go on your walk. Find an item (such as a colored block, car, crayon, etc.) that is the same color, and get ready to explore your community!

Introducing the Activity:

- "Today, we're going to go on a color walk! As we walk, we're going to look for things that are red, red. Do you see this block? We're going to look for things that are the same color."
- "Look! You're wearing a red jacket for our walk!"
- "You're right! The mailbox is red! That leaf is red too!"

You'll want to start with your child's favorite color and engage in the activity for as long as you are both engaged and enjoying the moment. Pick another color for the next time that you take a walk or run an errand.

Adapting the Activity: With younger infants and toddlers, take a color walk where you point out different colors and objects as you walk. Bring some of these items up close so your little one can really see and explore them.

With older children, this activity can be adapted to look for different shapes in the community, different letters, words or signs.

Emergency Preparedness: Holiday Online Shopping



This holiday shopping season, protect yourself against cyberattacks.

Avoid cyber risks by:

- Limiting personal information you share online
- Keep your apps updated to the newest version
- Create strong passwords by using:
 - upper and lower case letters
 - numbers
 - and special characters
- Watch for suspicious activity, offers that are too good, or sites that need a lot of personal information
- Check your account statements and credit reports regularly

For more information about cyberattacks, visit ready.gov/cybersecurity

Traveling with Kids

This time of the year, many families travel and gather together for the holidays. For some travel activities for kids, check out our blog post by CCC's own Katy Reasoner, and enjoy your holidays!

Find the article here:
cccmontana.org/kids-travel

