

Caregiver News

Publication of the Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. for those who care for, educate, and nurture the young child.

Provider Appreciation Day

May 8th is Provider Appreciation Day!

We appreciate you every single day of the year, but we want to take a moment to extend an extra thank you for the difficult yet incredibly important work you do for the children of Sullivan County.

You help our children build strong, healthy foundations. You allow the parents of Sullivan County to go to work worry-free and maintain their livelihoods. You work long days, always with a smile on your face, and you care for the children as if they were your own.

You give so much of yourselves to your community, to families, and—most importantly—to the children. Our agency is honored to stand behind you and support you throughout your journey as a Sullivan County childcare provider.

You may not hear this often enough, but please know this: you are important, you are valued, and you are an integral part of our community.

Contact Us

Business Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

Assistance in person by appointment:
 7 Community Lane, Liberty, NY 12754

Mail: PO Box 186, Ferndale, NY 12734

Phone: (845) 292-7166
 Toll free: (877) 292-7190

Help Wanted

Finding the right staff for your child care business is challenging. We are offering an opportunity to post your employment openings right here in our quarterly newsletter.

This is a **FREE** opportunity to advertise for potential employees. Our newsletter circulates each quarter to over three hundred recipients.

If you would like to post an employment opportunity in our next newsletter, please email information no later than May 4, 2026. Include the posting along with the point of contact.

Current Staff Openings:

Twin Bridge– Liberty
 Infant Teacher
 Contact: Tricia at 845-292-5909



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Featured Agency

Dr. Hope's Hub

There is hope among us—and you can find it at Dr. Hope's Hub, a place to begin an adventure fueled by curiosity, creativity, and community connection. At the hub, Dr. Hope Blecher Croney shares her experiences as an artist, author, educator, and nonprofit founder (yes, the teacher in her lists those roles alphabetically).

Over the past few years, Dr. Hope's Hub and Hope's Compass have supported numerous hope-filled community projects, including:

- the Community Menorah in Parksville;
- 200 youth-created luminaries along the Parksville Rail Trail;
- a new book vending machine at Liberty Middle School;
- Little Free Libraries in Parksville and on the SUNY Sullivan campus;
- memorial benches at Creekside Park in Liberty and Arthur's Acres Animal Sanctuary;
- speakers, art workshops, and youth-family programs at the Liberty Museum and Arts Center; *Shine the Light*, the first art installation on the museum's second and third floors;
- *Dove-Daffodil-Dash*, featuring participants' artwork at the Sullivan County Government Center; professional development workshops for teachers and administrators;
- and the planting of 12,000 yellow daffodil bulbs across Sullivan County as part of the worldwide Daffodil Gardens Project.

Additional projects include *Voices of Survivors/Honoring Survivors Through the Generations*, with programs and exhibits hosted at the Liberty Museum and Arts Center, the Sullivan County Historical Society & Museum, and Temple Sholom in Monticello.

This weaving together of curiosity, creativity, and camaraderie is possible not only because of Hope's time and energy, but also through the generosity of grants, corporate partners, and individual donors.

How and Why Dr. Hope's Hub Does This

Throughout her 40-year career in education—from kindergarten teacher to adjunct professor to district administrator—Hope has used creativity as a bridge for collaboration and fresh perspectives. Through conversations, research, brainstorming, writing, revising, and art-making, she continues to breathe life into ideas sparked by curiosity and sustained by connection with people of all ages.

Among the hundreds of books she has read over six decades, three remain especially woven into her work: *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson, and *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. There is always that one child, one character, one person waiting somewhere—fueling Hope's continued grant writing and program development for residents and visitors of greater Sullivan County.

At Dr. Hope's Hub, Hope brings together **Hope4Education**, her educational work, and **Hope's Compass**, the nonprofit, alongside multi-media art and award-winning books. The hub is a hope-filled space where visitors can stop by to see, read, create, and participate.

Looking Ahead to 2026 and Beyond

Upcoming opportunities include viewing and creating artwork, contributing small pieces at Creation Stations, making cyanotypes for World Photography Day, strolling with a photographer, painting a large collaborative canvas, planting daffodils, and meeting friends, neighbors, and visitors.



Planned projects include:

- *Shine the Light II* at the Liberty Museum and Arts Center
 - Community gatherings with local musicians and artists
 - Programs with the Student Activities Office at SUNY Sullivan
 - A Little Free Library/Creation Station at Walnut Mountain Park
 - Programs at the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library and the Liberty Public Library
 - *Iterations of Hope*, an exhibit, workshop, and reception at the Arts Nest at the Delaware Valley Opera Center
 - A youth-created *Communi-Tree* celebrating creativity for International Dot Day (Peter H. Reynolds)
- And more to come

Your Invitation

You are invited to be part of these programs and future offerings. Look for announcements in *The Canvas*, *The Catskiller*, *Sullivan County Democrat*, *The River Reporter*, *Mid-Hudson News*, and on WJFF and Bold Gold Media. Follow Hope's Compass on Facebook and visit DrHopesHub.org for participation opportunities. Most programs are free.

The current goal is to raise \$4,000 to fully fund programs through December 2026. You can help by spreading the word or making a tax-deductible donation via DrHopesHub.org, the QR code, or the Hope's Compass Fund through the Community Foundation of Orange, Sullivan and Rockland Counties, <https://tinyurl.com/33x6vz4n>.

Finally, when you find hope, you may notice she wanders with wonder—not lost, but imagining how ideas become projects. And if you're still looking, you might spot her in a cap or sweatshirt sharing a message of hope. Stop by for a hello and a smile. It feels good to make that personal connection—and to take part in tiny, mighty, beautiful steps together.



Children's Center Spotlight

The Children's Center at Sullivan County Family Court is a fun and safe place for your child(ren) to be while you attend appointments at Sullivan County Family Court, Fearless, or Sullivan County Probation. Services are **FREE** for children between 6 weeks and 12 years old.

We have information on fun community happenings, helpful community services, and information on WIC, SNAP, HEAP, weatherization, childcare programs and services, early intervention, food pantries and more!

Come play with us! Interested VOLUNTEERS please submit a letter of interest to include:

- ⇒ brief personal biography
- ⇒ why you are interested
- ⇒ why you would be a successful volunteer
- ⇒ times/days you are able to donate your time

You will be contacted you with more information.

**Watch for the announcement for our spring
OPEN HOUSE,
coming soon in April 2026.**

Children's Center Hours
Monday through Friday
8:45am-4:45pm

(Closed for lunch 12:30pm to 1:30pm daily)

100 North Street, Annex Building, Monticello

If you have any questions, please contact:
Lucia Hernandez, Program Manager
(845) 292-7166 or LHernandez@scchildcare.com

Observation & Support

TPOT & TPITOS are assessment tools that provide insight on challenging behaviors and social-emotional development in infant, toddler, and pre-school classrooms. Our reliable observer offers this service for free along with coaching to support your staff!

We can also administer free ITERS, FCCERS, and ECCERS assessments to determine your program's overall needs and strengths. If you are working with QUALITYstarsNY, this is a required component offered no cost to you!

Please reach out to us to schedule your observation!

Message from the Executive Director

Hello Friends and Neighbors –

During Governor Hochul's time in office, she has invested over \$8.6 billion in childcare to expand access and eligibility, while also supporting the child care workforce. The Governor's Executive Budget for SFY 2027 (April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027), released on January 20, 2026, continues this investment in child care with a proposed additional \$1.2 billion to NYSCCBG. [This includes \\$2.4 billion in base allocations for CCAP for federal fiscal year \(FFY\) 2027 with \\$155 million in supplemental funds for FFY 2026 for districts outside NYC.](#) If enacted as proposed, this funding would represent nearly 40% increase from the SFY 2026 Enacted Budget. In 2025, statewide, the number of children receiving CCAP increased approximately 25%. The proposed funding would continue this growth by further expanding the capacity to serve thousands of additional New York families statewide.

This is GREAT news but it is not enough for Sullivan County to meet the demand. When denials for CCAP began on July 1, 2025, we needed an increase of close to the 40% but now the need is greater.

We won't stop advocating and educating for our families – join us!

Yours in Child Care,
Donna

Lending Library

We have a Lending Library and we love to share! The Sullivan County Child Care Council has books, theme boxes and more for your program to sign out and use. Give Darlene a call if you would like to borrow some of our goodies to compliment your theme or to support your program. We look forward to hearing from you!
(845) 292-7166

Medication Administration Training (MAT)

Only topical ointments, sunscreens and repellents are legally permitted to be applied in a childcare setting without a license or registration to administer medication.

To sign up or for more information on becoming a MAT Certified program please go to:

<https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/mat.aspx>

MAT Approved Programs

The following providers hold a license/registration to administer medication:

Bright Eyes Child Care Center Inc.
Jessica Dean
Early Childhood Cooperative Experience
Deborah Gubiotti
New Hope Manor
Twin Bridge Play School Inc.
Valley Daycare
RECAP Head Start (all locations)

Empire State Child Care Collaborative

Does running your childcare program feel overwhelming? What if you had a team cheering you on?

That's exactly what the Empire State Family Childcare Collaborative is all about.

This collaboration brings together childcare providers from across Sullivan County to connect, learn, laugh, and grow—together. Members gain access to powerful benefits that support both your business and your life. Members receive a free license to a childcare management system to help with enrollment, billing, communication, and more. You'll also have access to informational sessions, business coaching, and training opportunities designed with you in mind.

The focus is on you, not just your program. That's why members also receive telemedicine **access for themselves and their families**, financial health tools, and priority consideration for grants that may become available.

And then there's the best part—the community. Our meetings are fun, energizing, and full of great conversations, shared ideas, and real collaboration. Being part of this group means having a support system like no other—people who understand your work, value your experience

We currently have openings available, you don't have to do this alone. Call (845) 292-7166 for more information!

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Does your childcare provider participate in CACFP, a nutrition program that ensures kids in childcare eat healthy meals and snacks?

Call us and find out! Or if you are a provider that would like to find out how to participate, call Aimee at (845) 292-7166

National CACFP Week March 15– 21

National CACFP Week 2026 will be celebrated from March 15–21, 2026, with the theme "Stirring Up Goodness."

Focusing on raising awareness of the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program's role in combating hunger. Sponsored by the National CACFP Association. This campaign highlights the importance of serving nutritious meals in child care homes, centers and adult day cares.

Check out the website for ideas and ways to celebrate <https://www.cacfp.org/national-cacfp-week-main/>

We are very thankful to our registered and licensed providers that participate in the Sullivan County Child Care Council sponsored Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Below are the providers that make sure our community's children that are enrolled in their programs are being served nutritious meals and teaching children life long healthy eating habits!

Thank you:

Ingrid Aragon-Lopez
Darlene Balzano
Devon Conklin
Elizabeth Corchado
Jessica Dean
Kayla Dejesus
Tonya Dirie
Deborah Gubiotti
Diane Harvey
Rivka Lebovits
Patricia McGovern
Moshe Meth
Deirdre Migliaccio
Luz Quinones
Rachel Rausch
Wanda Rodriguez
Gianni Stoddard
Deborah Strachan
Jaquelyn Weiss– Rodriguez

If you are a child care provider and would like to participate please contact Aimee Pittaluga at (845) 292-7166.

Online Training

NYSOCFS/PDP Online Trainings—FREE!

www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/elearn.aspx

Don't forget to take the new Mandated Reporter Training!

Infant & Toddler Highlights

The Power of Dramatic Play for Infants & Toddlers

We often see young children pretending to feed a doll, using a block as a phone, or imitating everyday routines and may think they are “just playing.” In reality, these moments of dramatic play are doing important work. Through pretend play, infants and toddlers begin to make sense of the world around them while building language skills, strengthening memory, and supporting social-emotional development.

When children act out familiar experiences, they have opportunities to express feelings, practice problem-solving, and develop empathy as they care for dolls or play alongside peers. With simple props and the support of caring adults, dramatic play becomes a meaningful way for young children to explore relationships, build confidence, and grow their imaginations.

Adults play an important role in supporting infant and toddler dramatic play. Providing materials such as dolls, play food, scarves, everyday household items, or loose parts encourages children to use their imaginations. Allowing time and space for uninterrupted play helps children stay engaged and explore ideas at their own pace.

Caregivers can also support dramatic play by observing, narrating what children are doing, and joining in when invited. Using simple language, modeling positive interactions, and following a child's lead helps extend play without taking it over. Most importantly, creating a safe, responsive environment allows infants and toddlers to feel confident as they engage in pretend play.

By supporting dramatic play, child care providers help nurture important learning during everyday moments. If you would like ideas, resources, or support in creating meaningful dramatic play experiences for infants and toddlers, we encourage you to reach out to the Infant and Toddler Specialist. Together, we can ensure our youngest learners have rich opportunities to grow, explore and learn through play.

Infant & Toddler Services for Providers

Infant & Toddler Technical Assistance Center

The Infant & Toddler Technical Assistance Network, funded by the NYSOCFS, is an initiative aimed at supporting high quality infant and toddler care. The Network offers support to programs serving infants and toddlers.

The Infant & Toddler Specialist can offer a variety of education and quality improvement support via phone, text, email, zoom trainings and in-person visits.

Intensive Technical Assistance

The Council offers intensive technical assistance to support and enhance your knowledge/skills.

Individualized training can be set up to address your program needs in one session or multiple session workshops (conducted in your program during a convenient time for you).

Consider the following topics, or choose your own:

- “Creating a Positive Environment”
- “Staff Relationships”
- “Improving Your Programs Financial Strength”
- “Meeting with Parents for the First Time”
- “Selling Your Program”
- “Ideas for Better Nutrition & Physical Activity”
- “Learning through Nature”
- “Picky Eaters”
- “Personality Conflicts with Kids in Care”

Contact us at info@scchildcare.com to request a session.

This free service is funded by NYSOCFS.

OCFS Child Care Forms

Required OCFS forms are available at:

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/documents/docsChildCare.asp>

Print new ones directly from the website as needed, or go to <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/documents/docs%20Pubs.asp> and you can order free copies of all OCFS Forms using the order form.

If you choose to use your own form, make sure you include all the information from the corresponding OCFS form.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 CACFP Menus due	4	5	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins	9	10 Marketing Your Business Zoom, 6-8 PM	11	12 QUALITYstarsNY Zoom, 6-8 PM	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21
Celebrate CACFP WEEK						
22	23	24	25	26 CPR/FA 9:30AM –1:30PM	27	28 Health & Safety for Infants & Tod- dlers Training 10am-12pm
29	30	31	March 2026			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2026			1	2	3 CACFP Menus due	4
5	6	7 Your Programs Policies & Procedures Zoom, 6-8 PM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 CPR/FA 9:30AM –1:30PM	24	25 Preventing Child Abuse & Maltreat- ment Training 10am-12pm *This training is NOT Mandated Reporter Training
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2026					1	2
3 CACFP Menus due	4	5	6 Balancing Work & Family Zoom, 6-8 PM	7	8 Provider Appreciation Day	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25 Office Closed Children Center Closed	26	27	28 CPR/FA 9:30AM –1:30PM	29	30

CDA CONTENT AREAS

1. Planning a safe, healthy, learning environment
2. Steps to advance children's physical and intellectual development
3. Positive ways to support children's social and emotional development
4. Strategies to establish productive relationships with families
5. Strategies to manage an effective program operation
6. Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
7. Observing and recording children's behavior
8. Principles of child development and learning

CORE COMPETENCY AREAS

1. Child Growth and Development
2. Family and Community Relationships
3. Observation and Assessment
4. Environment and Curriculum
5. Health, Safety and Nutrition
6. Professionalism and Leadership
7. Administration and Management

OCFS TOPICS

1. Principles of Child Development
2. Nutrition and Health Needs of Infants and Children
3. Program Development
4. Safety and Security Procedures
5. Business Record Maintenance and Management
6. Child Abuse and Maltreatment Identification & Prevention
7. Statues and regulations pertaining to child daycare
8. Statues & regs pertaining to Child Abuse & Maltreatment
9. Shaken Baby Syndrome
10. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

Health and Safety Training

This is a 15-hour Health & Safety training course intended for both brand-new and seasoned home-based providers and the directors/staff of SACC and DCC programs. This training sets a solid foundation of regulations and provides guidance in best practice with a heavy focus on keeping children safe and healthy.

Sullivan County Child Care Council is currently offering many trainings for FREE or at low cost to all Sullivan County licensed and registered providers.

Our CPR/FA classes are offered to our licensed/registered or legally exempt enrolled programs for a nominal fee of \$25 to cover the cost of the cards. Please call for more details. (845) 292-7166 X 306

Educational Incentive Program (EIP)

EIP is sponsored by the NYSOCFS, funded by the federal Child Care & Development Fund and administered by the Professional Development Program (PDP), Rockefeller College, University at Albany. The following grants & scholarships are available to child care providers:

- **College Credit, Non-Credit Bearing & Credential Training:** to assist child care providers in paying for professional development training & education
- **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) & First Aid (FA):** to assist income eligible providers offset the cost
- **The MAT Rebate Program:** For child care facilities to offset the cost of the training to certify staff to administer medication in a child care setting.

Apply online at: <https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/mytraining/EIPAPP/preapp.aspx>

You may also contact EIP by email ateip-to@albany.edu, or by phone at either (800) 295-9616 or (518) 442-6575.


**Spotlight on
REGULATIONS**
Building and Equipment


Welcome

Sweet Smiles Group Blooming Kids

.3 Building and Equipment

(a) Each applicant must submit to the Office at the time of application for licensure a diagram of the proposed group family day care home showing: all rooms in the home, including the rooms which will be used for day care and the purposes for which such rooms will be used; the number and location of exits and alternate means of egress; and the outdoor play areas available to the children in care. An updated diagram must be submitted to the Office immediately upon making any change that impacts the child care program.

(1) Child care can only be provided in the areas of the group family day care home that have been included in the diagram and approved as child care space.

(b) Rooms that will be used by the children must be well-lighted and well-ventilated. Heating, ventilating and lighting equipment must be adequate for the protection of the health of the children.

(c) When care is provided, there must be sufficient light in the rooms where children are sleeping to allow supervision of and the safe movement and egress for the children.

(d) A temperature of at least 68° degrees Fahrenheit must be maintained in all rooms to be occupied by children.

(e) A firm clean crib, cot, bed or washable padded mat of age-appropriate size and construction must be provided for all children requiring a rest period.

(f) All cribs must be in compliance with the safety standards established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Stackable cribs are prohibited.

(g) Toxic paints or finishes must not be used on room surfaces, furniture or any other equipment, materials or furnishings which may be used by children or are within their reach.

(h) Peeling or damaged paint or plaster must be repaired.

(i) Concrete floors in areas identified as program space must be covered with appropriate material.

(j) The home must have adequate indoor space for the comfort of the children and to accommodate a variety of activities for the number of children in care.

(k) Each home must have access to outdoor space which is adequate for active play. Outdoor space may include public parks, school yards, or public play areas. A written plan or diagram outlining how children will safely travel to and from this location must be developed and approved by the Office.

(l) A bathroom not more than one floor level away from the program area must be accessible to children.

(m) All toilets and potty chairs must be located in rooms separate from those used for cooking, playing, sleeping or eating.

(n) Adequate and safe water supply and sewage facilities must be provided and must comply with State and local laws. Hot and cold running water must be available and accessible at all times.

(o) All residences used for group family day care homes must remain in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Fire and Building Code of New York State, or other applicable fire and building codes when the Fire and Building Code of New York State is not applicable.

(p) The house or building number of the day care program shall be conspicuously displayed and visible from the street.

Dear Jodi,

I am so frustrated! I have a sign in the front of my facility that displays the building number and this winter has taken a toll on it. The house numbers are worn out and hard to see. I am not expecting any new children, as I am at full capacity. Can I just take this ugly thing down and replace it in the spring? I mean everyone knows where my house is anyway.
~Out with the Old.

Dear Out with the Old,
I am so glad you are full to capacity. That is very exciting and I am sure you have a wonderful program with all those children in care. So, lets keep it that way- the numbers on the sign are not there so much for the parents as they are for emergency responders. If something happened to one of the children, that number serves as a beacon to your door step. I would suggest that you to bring it in from the cold when there are no children in care and give it a fresh coat of paint. Once it is dry, pop it back out in front of your facility.
~ Jodi

From the Desk of the Registrar

Hello,
Well this winter has sure worn me out. Time for some color and sweet smells of Spring!! Remember to check your outdoor spaces and get back to nature with the children. Also, take some time for you and most importantly have fun and relax when you can!
Happy 2026!! Lets make it a good one!
~Sue

Wellness in Child Care

As an Early Childhood professional, you work to provide a healthy, safe and growing environment for the children in your care. However, you should be taking care of your health, safety and growth as well. This column will introduce tips for all childcare providers to keep you and your program in tip top shape.

Emotional Wellness

- Other healthy habits are a great way to help manage stress (healthy eating, physical activity and adequate sleep).
- Practice mindfulness when you can.
- Take a break or take a minute, even a little bit can make.

TIP: Box Breathing

Nutrition

- Promote and model healthy eating by providing healthy foods including plenty of fruit and vegetables and lean protein.
- Limit sugar intake and foods high in saturated fat.
- Hydrate with water
- Fat should not be restricted in the diets of children younger than 2 years of age, but limit intake of saturated fats for children 2 years of age and older.

TIP: Mindful Eating

NY Works for Children/ASPIRE

What The Aspire Registry can do for you:

- ◆ Provide you with a free online professional portfolio
- ◆ Keep a record of your education, employment, and professional development all in one place
- ◆ Help you find and register for training and professional development
- ◆ Get you one step closer to QualityStarsNY participation!

What The Aspire Registry can do for the early childhood field:

- ◆ Bring increased recognition, professionalism, and compensation to the early childhood field
- ◆ Collect important data to influence policy decisions

As always, please feel free to reach out with any specific questions about The Aspire Registry by emailing us at info@nyworksforchildren.org.

Legally Exempt

WELCOME to our new Legally Exempt Enrollment Agent—Mckenzie!

Become a Legally Exempt Provider!

Are you a parent struggling to find childcare? Do you know someone who has been struggling to find childcare? A family member or friend who is 18+ years old, can watch up to 8 children who are all related, and up to 2 children who are not related!

Tips to Enrollment

- ◆ **MUST** have a family with an approved child care assistance case
- ◆ **MUST** complete pre-service training (**Non-Relative only**)
- ◆ **MUST** submit a complete enrollment packet
- ◆ **All boxes/section must be checked/filled out, even if it is N/A**
- ◆ **Non-Relative** providers **MUST** complete a background check
- ◆ **Relative** providers **ONLY** include: Grandparent/Great-grandparent, Sibling who is living in a separate residence, Aunt or Uncle
- ◆ **To be classified as “In-Home”, care MUST be done in the child’s home**
- ◆ **Enrollment process may take 40 days+**

There are **NEW** online trainings just for LE providers available in English & Spanish! www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/elearn.aspx

Legally Exempt Rates

	Standard	Under 2 yrs	2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-12 yrs
Weekly		\$181	\$172	\$171	\$153
Daily		\$38	\$36	\$34	\$34
Part Day		\$25	\$24	\$23	\$23

LE Group Child Care	Under 2 yrs	2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-12 yrs
Weekly	NA	NA	\$208	\$193
Daily	NA	NA	\$44	\$44
Part Day	NA	NA	\$29	\$29

www.CPSC.gov

Name of Product: Giraffe Plush Toy with clip, Llama Plush Toy with clip

Description: Hazard: The legs of the plush toy can detach from the body allowing the release of small beads that are on the legs, posing a choking hazard to young children.

Sold at: Hobby Lobby

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: January 29, 2026



Business Support

Staying Financially Strong

Childcare providers are more than caregivers—you are business owners, entrepreneurs, and future-builders. Your work makes it possible for parents to work, businesses to run, and communities like Sullivan County to grow and thrive.

In a challenging economy, staying financially stable requires intention and creativity. Knowing your numbers, reviewing tuition regularly, and setting clear policies that protect your time and income are essential steps in running a sustainable program. Strong businesses create stability—and stability supports quality care.

Thinking creatively can also strengthen your income. Options such as extended hours, drop-in care, school-break programs or family workshops can help increase revenue while still aligning with your values and capacity.

Quality childcare starts with a supported provider. When your business is financially healthy, you can invest in your program, take time to recharge, and continue offering the high-quality care children and families deserve.

Never forget: childcare is an essential infrastructure. Our world cannot function without it. You are shaping the future, supporting working families, and contributing directly to the economic strength of our community. Your work matters—and so does your success.

On a final note, I wanted to share, as I prepare to step into my next chapter and move down south, I feel incredibly blessed to have worked alongside such an inspiring team at the Sullivan County Child Care Council. And thank you to every single childcare provider in our county – you have made this work meaningful beyond words, and I am endlessly grateful for the passion, dedication, and care you show our children and families every day. I will carry every connection, lesson, and shared moment with me, always.

I wish you all the very best!
Darlene Kehrley

QUALITYstarsNY

QUALITYstarsNY is a voluntary five-star "rating system" for providers much like those used for hotels and restaurants, with the number of stars indicating the quality of an early care and learning program. However, unlike other rating systems, QUALITYstarsNY provides an infrastructure for assessing, improving and communicating the quality of care provided by early learning programs.

Join a ZOOM call with Eileen Flicker, QUALITYstarsNY Hudson Valley Region, Quality Improvement Specialist on March 12, 2026 from 6:00pm—7:00pm.

Call (845) 292-7166 for more information or to sign up!

Average Weekly Cost of Child Care

	Family Child Care	Group Family Child Care	Day Care Center
Infant	\$226	\$268	\$277
Toddler	\$211	\$255	\$260
Pre School	\$208	\$264	\$226
School Age	\$168	\$252	\$199

Prospective Child Care Providers

If you are interested in becoming a childcare provider, go to the link below to find out more information:

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/techreq.asp>

This link will guide you through a free online child care provider orientation and will allow you to request an application.

Feel free to reach out to Darlene Kehrley. She will help guide you through the entire start-up process and support you in creating a successful childcare program.

Contact us today!

Sullivan County needs quality child care!

Call (845) 292-7166 OR

Email: info@scchildcare.com.

**Sullivan County NEEDS child care providers!
Let us help you help the children of the community!**

Child Care Programs in Sullivan County

Township	OCFS Registered/Licensed Child Care Programs				Requests for Care 10/1/2025-12/31/2025
	Day Care Centers (DCC)	Family Day Care Homes (FDC)	Group Family Day Care Homes (GFDC)	School-Age Child Care (SACC)	
Bethel	1	1	0	0	2
Callicoon	0	2	2	0	4
Cochecton	0	1	0	0	2
Delaware	0	1	0	0	0
Fallsburg	2	3	0	0	6
Forestburgh	0	0	0	0	1
Fremont	0	0	0	0	0
Highland	1	1	0	0	3
Liberty	1	5	2	2	5
Lumberland	0	1	1	1	0
Mamakating	1	0	0	1	2
Neversink	0	1	0	1	2
Rockland	1	0	0	0	1
Thompson	8	1	5	3	6
Tusten	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	15	18	10	8	34

Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. 2026 Donation Form

Professional Supporter (Check One)

- \$35 Family Day Care Provider (\$25 if participate in CACFP)
- \$50 Group Family Day Care (\$40 if participate in CACFP)
- \$125 Day Care Center / SACC (\$100 if participate in CACFP)
- \$25 Legally-Exempt Provider (\$15 if participate in CACFP)

Community Supporter (Check One)

- \$50 Advocate \$100 Sponsor* Other*

Name/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Go to our website to make a donation or mail donations to:

PO Box 186 Ferndale, NY 12734

Please submit a business card with your donation of \$100 or more.
Donations are non-refundable.

Thank you! Your financial support helps families gain access to quality, affordable childcare!



Sullivan County
Child Care Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 186
Ferndale, NY 12734

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"The best part about a new garden is the ability to start. The dream of what's possible" by Paul Avellino

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Interested in joining our Board? Send a letter of interest to info@scchildcare.com



Phone: (845) 292-7166

Email: info@scchildcare.com

Toll free: (877) 292-7190

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday 8:00-4:30

We have several openings for Council Committee members. We are seeking members who could fulfill underrepresented areas such as, parents (who have children in child care); those who have expertise in marketing or insurance; those who are familiar with child care subsidy system and those who could represent our Hispanic community. **Support the Council by serving on a committee! Please contact us at info@scchildcare.com!**

Caregiver News is published quarterly by the Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. and is written and edited by Courtney Hanback and Donna Willi.

Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation which offers direct and supportive services to all members of the community. The Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. provides equal program and employment opportunities.

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