

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Child Development
and Early Education



Raise NC Newsletter – August 14, 2026

Message from the Director

North Carolina to Maintain Current Childhood Vaccine Guidance

As a follow-up to my [message last week on back-to-school vaccination requirements](#), I'm sharing that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has [reaffirmed the importance of vaccines to protect children in a press release](#) this week. There are no plans to change the [state's guidance](#).

State Health Director and NCDHHS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Larry Greenblatt made the following statement:

"Vaccinations play a vital role in protecting children, their families and communities from the preventable spread of infectious diseases. Nothing has changed regarding the strong evidence supporting current vaccine recommendations and vaccines remain widely available and accessible for individuals and families throughout the state. Individuals and families should speak with their provider about which vaccines are recommended and available to them."

More information about [vaccine requirements for child care](#) is available from NCDHHS. Thank you again for all you do to keep children healthy and safe.

Yours in partnership,

Candace Witherspoon

Director, Division of Child Development and Early Education

Disaster Recovery Funding News

Update Your Disaster Impact Reports

DCDEE is requesting that child care programs in [disaster-impacted counties](#) update and complete their Disaster Impact Reports (DIR) for Tropical Storms Debby and Helene. Please include current estimates for any repair needs that resulted directly from these storms.

For help completing your report, visit the DCDEE [disaster recovery webpage](#) where you will find program instructions for each storm and a [demo video](#) which shows how to complete the DIR. You can also access a list of all DIR questions to help you gather needed information in advance. If you need additional assistance, contact DCDEE Customer Support at DCDEE_Support@dhhs.nc.gov or call 919-814-6300 and select option 2.

[View the Introduction to DIRs Video | Access the Disaster Impact Portal](#)

QRIS Corner

Accreditation is Supported in QRIS Pathway 3

We often get asked, "If I'm accredited do I have to also have to choose another pathway to demonstrate my quality?" In this week's QRIS Corner, we want to address this question and provide clarification on how accreditation is supported in QRIS.

If your facility is accredited by one of the [approved accreditations](#) in [Child Care Rule 10A NCAC 09 .3207](#), you can choose the [Accreditation and Head Start Pathway](#). When selecting that pathway option on the application for assessment for a rated license, you only complete and submit the documents associated with it, linked within the application. There are no additional programmatic activities like those outlined in the Program

Assessment and Classroom & Instructional Quality Pathways. If the accreditation you have is aligned with a three-star rating, you may also want to consider completing the staff information and education worksheet. Education at the four- or five-star level will support an increase in stars to those levels.

Any facility actively engaged in the accreditation process is not required to choose another pathway while going through the accreditation. We want you to focus on the accreditation requirements and be successful in that pathway choice! If your facility has committed to one of the approved accreditations, and you are currently due for reassessment, please reach out to your licensing consultant so they can adjust your reassessment timeline. An example of this would be the family child care home operators participating in one of the two **NAFCC** accreditation cohorts.

QRIS Modernization Resources

Check out these resources to help you navigate the Pathways to the Stars.

- [DCDEE QRIS Webpage](#)
- [DCDEE QRIS Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Pathways to the Stars Toolkit](#) from the North Carolina Child Care Resources & Referral System



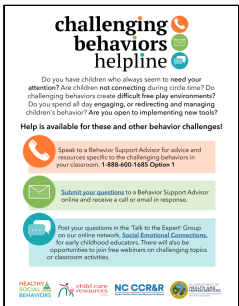
Provider Resources



Early Educators Action Meeting

The **National Domestic Workers Alliance** is holding a virtual **Early Educators Action Meeting** on August 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The meeting will include an overview of the North Carolina State Budget and a discussion of what it means for child care providers and early educators. This is an opportunity to learn, connect, and share experiences with early educators from across North Carolina.

[Register](#)



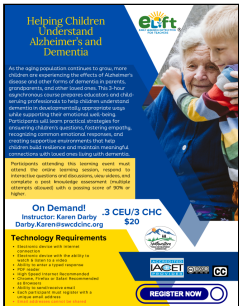
Challenging Behaviors Helpline

The **Healthy Social Behaviors Project** gives child care providers guidance and tools to manage challenging classroom behaviors. Support is available by phone at 888-600-1685, Option 1 and through an **online form**.

[View Flyer](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

Note: DCDEE shares professional development opportunities that may be of interest to newsletter subscribers. Your participation is not required or expected.



On-demand Course: Helping Children Understand Alzheimer's and Dementia

The **Southwestern Child Development Commission** is offering a 3-hour course to help early educators support children in understanding dementia in developmentally appropriate ways while supporting their emotional well-being.

[View Flyer | Register](#)

NC Quality
B3 Initiative

Professional Development Best
August 2026

Virtual Trainings

More Than Drop-Off and Pick-Up: The Real Work of Family Engagement

Early childhood professionals will explore the QCEP Family & Community Engagement standards, identify key strategies and practices for family engagement, and explore the importance of family engagement in early childhood settings. Participants will learn how to build family engagement in their practice. 2 webinars, \$20.00

Date	Time	Registration
Monday, August 17	9:30-10:30 am	Early Registration

Nurturing Little Minds: Interactions and Language Development

Early childhood professionals will explore the QCEP Early Language & Communication standards, identify key strategies and practices for language development, and explore the importance of language development in early childhood settings. Participants will learn how to build language development in their practice. 2 webinars, \$20.00

Date	Time	Registration
Monday, August 17	10:30-11:30 am	Early Registration

Quality on Purpose: A Guide to Continuous Improvement in Child Care Programs

This course will explore the importance of continuous improvement in early childhood settings, and how to implement a continuous improvement process in your program. 2 webinars, \$20.00

Date	Time	Registration
Thursday, August 13	9:30-10:30 am	Early Registration

August Trainings from Birth-Three Quality Initiative

Explore the many live and on-demand trainings from **Birth-Three Quality Initiative**. Courses include Family Engagement, Continuous Improvement, and Building Relationships with Infants and Toddlers.

[View Offerings](#)

A free, talk-to-the-experts webinar, presented by the Healthy Social Behaviors Initiative.

Transitions

Tuesday, August 18 | 7-8 pm



Transitions can be confusing and difficult for some children. We will discuss strategies that can help children predict what to expect to make transitions smoother and engaging.

[Click to join the webinar!](#) Meeting ID: 882 1349 6313

HEALTHY SOCIAL BEHAVIORS

child care RESOURCES

HEALTHY SOCIAL BEHAVIORS

Transitions Webinar

Join the **Healthy Social Behaviors Project** for a webinar on August 18 from 7-8 p.m. designed to help children know what to expect to make transitions smoother and engaging.

[View Flyer](#)

Summer 2026

Healthy Social Behaviors Project

TRAINING CATALOG

Summer 2026 – July, August, and September



Now you can browse and register for every HSB class across the state – all in one place!

Scan the QR code or click here to check out the catalog!

HEALTHY SOCIAL BEHAVIORS

Healthy Social Behaviors Summer Training Catalog

The **Healthy Social Behaviors Project** offers training for early care and education professionals in North Carolina. Now you can browse and register for every HSB class across the state — all in one place! The **summer catalog** includes offerings in August, and September.

Note that all **September virtual trainings** are being offered at no cost to NC early childhood educators.

[View Summer Catalog](#) | [Explore Free September Courses](#)

NCIMHA

North Carolina Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association

Join Us for our 2026 Annual Conference

Hand in Hand: Promoting Early Relational Health

October 8-9, 2026

Registration Now Open!



CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wilmington, NC

North Carolina Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association Conference

Registration is now open for the **2026 NCIMHA Annual Conference**, which will be held October 8–9 in Wilmington, North Carolina. This year's theme is Hand in Hand: Promoting Early Relational Health.

[Learn More](#)

Raise NC Newsletter Sign-Up

If you have contacts or colleagues who might want to receive this newsletter, please invite them to **subscribe by completing this form**. Past editions of this newsletter are available in this **archive listing**.