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

raise north carolina

Raise NC Newsletter – June 12, 2026

Message from the Director

Share Your Feedback: Take the DCDEE Satisfaction Survey

What's working well in your experience with DCDEE? What could be improved? We are eager to hear from early childhood professionals across the state!

Please share your thoughts by completing this **DCDEE Satisfaction Survey** by Friday, June 26. It takes about 10 minutes and is a simple, confidential way to help us understand your perspective and improve our work.

Take the DCDEE Satisfaction Survey

Child care providers visit with Gov. Stein in Raleigh on Provider Appreciation Day.

DCDEE Director Witherspoon at Sounds and Colors with their leadership team.

Yours in partnership,

Candace Witherspoon
Director, Division of Child Development and Early Education

Disaster Recovery Funding Update

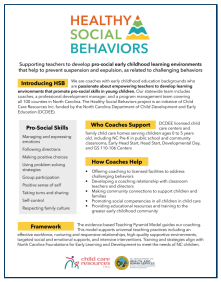
Update Your Disaster Impact Reports

With the **announcement** of $75.8 million in funding from the Office of Child Care, 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.

Access Disaster Impact Portal

Provider Resources



Healthy Social Behaviors Hub

Healthy Social Behaviors coaches empower teachers to develop learning environments that promote pro-social skills in young children. The statewide team covers all 100 counties in North Carolina. The **Healthy Social Behaviors Project** is an initiative of **Child Care Resources Inc.**

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eLift Membership Now Includes Job Hub

Early Learning Instruction for Teachers (eLift) group members can now post weekly job openings to the eLift Job Hub. The Job Hub can help child care facilities recruit candidates for open positions.

eLift is an online professional development and training platform for early childhood educators managed by the **Southwestern Child Development Commission**.

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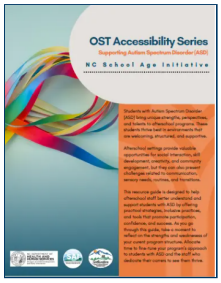


Supporting School-Age Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

NC School Age Initiative has released a new guide for supporting students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This resource is designed to help afterschool staff better understand and support students with ASD by offering practical strategies, inclusive practices, and tools that promote participation, confidence, and success.

Access Guide

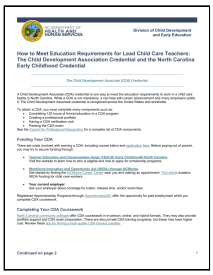
Professional Development Opportunities

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

Registration Now Open for Cultivate Conference

Cultivate is a reimagined child development conference hosted by the **Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Education** at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC.
The free two-day learning experience will be held on August 6-7 and is limited to 125 registrants.

Register



How to Meet Education Requirements for Lead Child Care Teachers: The Child Development Associate Credential and the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential

Meeting Education Requirements for Lead Child Care Teachers After August

Complimentary **Professional Development Teacher Memberships** (PDTM) from Teaching Strategies will expire on August 20, 2026. Please be sure to finish any CDA or other coursework currently in progress, or that you plan to begin, before August 20. Download or print your course **completion certificates** and **transcripts** for your records.

There are other ways meet the education requirements for lead child care teachers. DCDEE has created a **summary of these options**, including avenues to earn a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential or the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential.

View Flyer

Health and Safety News

State of North Carolina
JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

June is Whole Child Health and Well-Being Month

The **National Prevention Science Coalition** is pleased to share an exciting milestone for their **Decade of the Child Initiative**. Governor Josh Stein has officially proclaimed June 2026 as Whole Child Health and Well-Being Month in North Carolina, recognizing that the health, development, and wellbeing of children must be a top priority in public policy and community action.

On June 24 they will host a webinar Join this **June 24 webinar** to learn more about the latest science, innovative strategies, and policy solutions to advance whole child health and wellbeing.

Register for the June 24 "Federal Research Investments in Whole Child Health and Wellbeing" Webinar

Prepare for Hurricane Season

The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1, and all North Carolinians are urged to review and update their plans to keep safe in case of a storm. Refer to this **list of steps to prepare** and visit **ReadyNC.gov** for more resources.

Emergency preparedness and response rules are designed to assist licensed child care programs to adequately respond to the needs of children and others in the event of disasters and emergencies.

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**.