



EARLY CHILDHOOD UPDATE



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

As winter fades and spring begins to bloom, we're reminded of the little sprouts growing each day in centers across our community. Every baby, toddler, and preschooler gives us another chance to brighten the world. Thank you for caring for our little flowers and helping them grow strong and thrive.

If you have ideas, questions or feedback, we'd love to hear from you! We would love to partner with you!

PROVIDERS MEETING

Mark your calendars for our next Providers Meeting. Join fellow providers to share ideas to support a strong early learning community!

What: ECE Providers Meeting

When: May 14th, at Noon

Where: UW of Central Missouri

We learn, share, and grow together.
All providers are welcome.

COMING SOON

April

- April 7 - Harlem Wizards at California High School - 6:30 pm*
- April 8 - Registration for "Make A Circle" Open on United Way Website
- April 11 - ECE Training - 9:30 am*
- April 11-17 - Week of the Young Child
- April 15 - "Make A Circle" Screening - 6:00 & 8:00 pm - More Info Page 3
- April 15 - South Central Community Leaders Zoom - 9:00 am
- April 18 - ECE Training - 9:30 am*

May

- May 2 - ECE Training - 9:30 am*
- May 6 - UW Unmet Needs Meeting - 8:30 am - UW Office
- May 8 - Provider Day!
- May 9 - ECE Training - 9:30 am*
- May 14 - ECE Provider Meeting - Noon
- May 20 - South Central Community Leaders Zoom - 9:00 am
- May 23 - **SAVE THE DATE!** - ECE Picnic - Memorial Park - More info coming soon!

*Additional information on page 2

"Where flowers bloom,
so does hope."

-Lady Bird Johnson

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



The Community Partnership

As mentioned on page one, there are free training opportunities available in April and May. **Rosemary Feraldi** is a wonderful trainer and a helpful resource who works closely with local centers to meet their needs. Look through the details below and contact Rosemary for a full list of training options she can offer.

PROGRAM SUPPORT NETWORK

The Program Support Network (PSN) is a statewide effort that helps early learning educators grow their knowledge and strengthen their skills through free training and follow-up support.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any early learning educator in licensed or license-exempt programs, including those caring for six or fewer children and contracted to receive subsidy.

SERVICES & BENEFITS

- Training that counts toward clock hours
- Follow-up onsite support after trainings
- Focused support for program admin.
- Referrals to other DESE programs and supports

CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE HARLEM WIZARDS



The world-famous Harlem Wizards are coming to Moniteau County for a high-energy, family-friendly event to support childcare initiatives in our community.

The event will take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6:30 PM at California High School.

CMCA is hosting this fun community event, and all proceeds will directly support childcare providers and help address childcare shortages across Moniteau County—helping ensure local families have access to safe, quality care. It will be a great night of entertainment for families, especially those with children, and a wonderful way for the community to come together for a great cause.

Get your tickets below:

Harlem Wizards Tickets



WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

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Week
of the Young
Child®
APRIL 11-17, 2026!

The Week of the Young Child (WOYC) celebrates 55 years of honoring early learners, while its parent group, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), marks its 100th year.

WOYC Daily Themes

April 11 – Kick-off Saturday

April 13 – Music Monday

April 14 – Tasty Tuesday

April 15 – Work Together Wednesday

April 16 – Artsy Thursday

April 17 – Family Friday

Use the link or QR code below to explore fun ways to join in and celebrate our youngest learners.

WOYC Activities & Resources



"MAKE A CIRCLE"

YOU ARE INVITED!

Work Together Wednesday

"Parents can't afford to pay and teachers can't afford to stay."

"MAKE A CIRCLE" follows the lives of early childhood educators and highlights real solution to repair our broken early learning system.

- What: Free "Make A Circle" Screening
- When: April 15, 2026 – 6:00 & 8:00 pm
- Where: Capitol City Cinema – 126 E. High Street, Jefferson City, MO
- **MOPD: 1.5 FREE Clock Hours Will Be Available for Participants**
- Check Your Email – Sign Up Starts 4/8/2026!



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