



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

April 20, 2022

Dear Provider:

As you know, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. To bring awareness to this important topic, the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) supports the Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign. Pinwheels for Prevention® is a nationwide campaign, created by Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) and its state chapters. The goal of Pinwheels of Prevention® is to engage people in taking “extraordinary ordinary” actions that can reduce stress for families and increase resilience for children- anything from writing a letter to the editor in support of family support programs to offering to babysit for a neighbor. Families and children need our support now more than ever!

OCFS has created a calendar of protective factors you can implement in your program and share with parents. The calendar encourages activities that build strong families. Many of the activities are simple and cost free: take a nature walk, plan a meal, or read a book. The calendar of protective factors has been attached to this email, and is also posted on the OCFS website at: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/letters.php>

In 2021, New York State Social Services Law (SSL) was revised to include two important changes, effective April 1, 2022. The first is a new requirement about information on availability of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) services. The law requires OCFS to implement a statewide campaign to educate parents about ACEs, and requires that OCFS provide all licensed, registered and enrolled legally-exempt child care providers with educational materials on adverse childhood experiences. **Child care providers are now required to offer these materials to parents and caregivers at the time of enrollment.** The materials that have been developed include the attached brochure and this website, that contains additional resources for families on where a wide range of services may be available: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/cwcs/aces.php>. Programs are also encouraged to post this information and share it with families as needed. Brochures may be available free of charge depending on availability. If you are interested in ordering hard copies of these brochures for distribution, please contact: OCFS.sm.ACEsBrochureOrders@ocfs.ny.gov



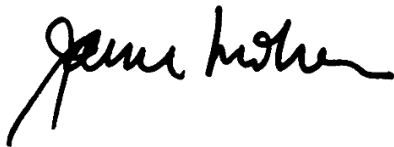
The second revision to the SSL requires OCFS to update our mandated reporter training to include information on implicit bias, ACEs, and how to recognize signs of child abuse or maltreatment virtually and for all mandated reporters to take the revised training, even if they have been previously trained, prior to April 1, 2025. This two-hour online course can be found at: <http://nysmandatedreporter.org/trainingcourses.aspx>.

As you know, all licensed/registered child care providers are mandated reporters of child abuse and maltreatment. **As such, all licensed/registered child care professionals are required to complete OCFS's updated mandated reporter training on or before April 1, 2025.** To receive training credit and provide proof that this statutory requirement has been met, all participants must print or screenshot information that shows they have completed this training and to have proof of completion on file for OCFS review.

Please note: many training organizations offer mandated reporter training. To fulfill this new requirement, all child care professionals must show that they have taken OCFS's revised mandated reporter training on or before April 1, 2025.

Child care providers play such a critical role in the development of children. A caregiver provides safety, security, and consistency. Your recognition and response to child abuse and maltreatment and to adverse childhood experiences is life changing, and in some instances lifesaving for a child. Thank you for embracing this opportunity to re-commit yourself to the protection of children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Molnar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Janice Molnar, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services