



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D.
Commissioner

August 2014

Dear Care 4 Kids Family:

As of July 1, 2014, Care 4 Kids is now part of the new Office of Early Childhood and is no longer administered by the Department of Social Services. The Office of Early Childhood was created so all programs serving young children and their families could work together in one system. This makes it easier for families, providers and communities to get the services and support they need.

The Office of Early Childhood and Department of Social Services have been working closely together to make the move as smooth as possible. The United Way of Connecticut will continue to operate the Care 4 Kids program. The United Way of Connecticut's Care 4 Kids staff will stay the same. The Office of Early Childhood knows that it is important to you to have choices in your selection of child care providers. We work to provide safe, healthy, and high quality learning environments for your children.

Things to know about Care 4 Kids:

- Care 4 Kids contact information will stay the same:
 - Website: www.ctcare4kids.com
 - Telephone : 1-888-214-KIDS (5437); Fax Number: 1-877-868-0871
 - Address: 1344 Silas Deane Highway, 3rd floor, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
- **Rate Increase:** Care 4 Kids providers will get a rate increase for their services. This means that they will be paid more for caring for your children. The increase in rates for licensed Family Day Care Homes and Unlicensed Family, Friends and Neighbors, are effective starting January 1, 2014. Increases for Licensed Child Care Centers, Group Day Care Homes and Recreational Programs (like summer camps) are effective starting July 1, 2014. Your Care 4 Kids provider will start to get the retroactive rate increase payments in the fall. Talk to your provider to see how the rate increase might affect you and any of your out-of-pocket costs. The Care 4 Kids website will be updated with information about the rate increase. For information, visit the Care 4 Kids website at www.ctcare4kids.com.
- **Provider Orientation:** Licensed Family Day Care Homes and Unlicensed Family, Friends and Neighbors who get Care 4 Kids will now have to go to a Care 4 Kids orientation. This orientation is mandatory and will focus on how to keep children healthy and safe. On or after October 1, 2014, new Care 4 Kids providers will have to take the three and a half hour orientation before they can start providing services. Existing home-based providers caring for your children must attend the orientation by December 2015 to remain a Care 4 Kids provider. Providers should visit the Care 4 Kids website (www.ctcare4kids.com) later this summer for dates and registration information.

If you have questions, please call Care 4 Kids at 1-888-214-5437 or visit the Care 4 Kids website at www.ctcare4kids.com. For more information about the Office of Early Childhood, please visit our website at www.ct.gov/oec.

Sincerely,

Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D.
Commissioner

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.ct.gov/oec
Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer