Thanks to great advocacy efforts, as detailed in the article on page 10, the California State Legislature recently approved 12-Month Eligibility for the families we serve in our State-Funded Subsidized Child Care Programs. These changes do not apply to our Stage 1 (CDSS) program.

This is a summary of how 12-Month Eligibility works:

- ★ Once a family is Certified as eligible, they will remain eligible for at least 12 months, in most cases;
- ★ Enrolled parents only need to Recertify their Need/Eligibility every 12 months;
- ★ Enrolled parents shall not be required to report changes for at least 12 months (except as noted in the following bullets):
  - Change in Address or Phone Number;
  - Change in Provider must be reported immediately;
  - Enrolled parents must report an Increase in Income when the family income exceeds the ceiling for their family size, according to the chart on page 2.

- Enrolled parents may at any time voluntarily report other changes, but that information will only be used by us if it:
  - Reduces their Family Fee;
  - Increases their family’s services; OR
  - Extends the period of the family’s eligibility before their next scheduled Recertification.

This is a new way of conducting business for us. We see it as very beneficial to the families & children enrolled in our program, because it provides more stability for the children in their child care setting.

If a parent reports a change to us that is not mandatory, and one that does NOT benefit their family, we will document the change, but we will not act on it at that time. Their services will continue as previously approved, for the full 12 months from the time they last signed their application with us.

We look forward to working with parents and providers by focusing more on the quality of child care and early education, instead of constantly requesting paperwork and requiring parents to report every little change that takes place in their already busy, demanding lives.

We encourage parents to call their Family Services Specialist, if they have any questions or concerns about this change.
Subsidized Child Care Program Income Eligibility Ceilings

Subsidy Parents,

As of July 1, 2017, you no longer need to report increases in your income in between your Certification Periods (which is every 12 months), unless your income exceeds the following limits for your family size (See Chart Below).

Keep the following in mind:

☑ We count Gross Income, before any deductions, including payroll taxes.
☑ The income of TANF Cash Aid recipients & SSI recipients is calculated differently, so be sure to let your SFCS worker know when you Start or Stop receiving these types of income.
☑ In Guardian/Foster Care Cases, we only count the children & their income, not the guardians.
☑ The Income Ceilings DO NOT apply to At-Risk, or CPS, Seeking Housing Cases.

As always, if you have any questions about this process, please call your Family Services Specialist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Family Monthly Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>$4,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$5,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$5,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>$8,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>$8,883</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Have you heard about QRIS or Quality Counts?
What is it & how does it work?
Who benefits from QRIS?

QRIS stands for Quality Rating & Improvement System. A QRIS is a systematic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. Similar to rating systems for restaurants and hotels, QRIS awards quality ratings to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards. “Quality Counts” is Solano County’s version of QRIS.

Why is quality important in early care & education? Quality produces better outcomes for all of Solano County’s earliest learners;

★ better math & language skills
★ better cognition & social skills
★ better interpersonal relationships
★ greater success in school
★ improved emotional & physical health.

It is a fact too, that when teachers receive quality training & education, our children benefit & have better outcomes.

QRIS or Quality Counts provides support & resources for teachers, administrators & programs. This includes training & technical assistance, coaching, financial incentives and so much more.

Who is eligible to participate in QRIS? Any provider serving children 0-5 years old, including State Preschools, Head Start/Early Head Start, Private & State-funded Centers, Family Child Care Providers, and Migrant Child Development Programs.

Would you like to learn more about QRIS?
Contact: Solano County Office of Education
Lisa Eckhoff
Director of Early Learning Quality Counts Manager
707-399-4407 ~ Leckhoff@solanocoe.net
or
Michelle Burhorn
Early Learning Program Manager
Quality Counts Coordinator
707-399-4470 ~ Mburhorn@solanocoe.net

Child Care Center Directors and Staff
You’re Invited to Participate in the

Healthy Children & Environments Study

With UCSF California Childcare Health Program & UC Berkeley
Center for Environmental Research and Children’s Health

Now recruiting centers in Solano County for a 7-month physical activity program!

- Receive an on-site, interactive workshop about physical activity in child care.
- Work with a nurse to improve the health and safety of your program.
- Receive helpful resources, tips, and personalized consultations.
- Contribute to important research about children’s health and child care settings

Centers will receive $250 in gift certificates for participation.

For more information or to enroll, please email Bobbie.Rose@ucsf.edu
Or call (415) 502-2825
Head’s up
About Lice . . .

You’ve just received a call from a family member or one of your child’s friends. Perhaps it was the school nurse. The news is unexpected. Your child has head lice.

Rest assured, however, that lice is a common occurrence with no connection to poor hygiene or bad parenting. It is transmitted mainly via head-to-head contact through hugs and selfies but also by sharing hairbrushes, hats, bedding, and clothing. Once in the hair, the critters feed on blood from the scalp and begin to lay eggs, up to 10 per day, by gluing them to the hair shaft. The only proven way to kill the eggs is to comb them out or dehydrate them. Contrary to popular belief, over-the-counter pesticide-based treatments do not kill the eggs. They only kill the live bugs and even then at an ever-Diminishing rate due to resistance.

For our family, the nightmare began just after Thanksgiving 2015 with a call from the school nurse. All three of our daughters had lice along with my wife. At the advice of a local pharmacist, we used an over-the-counter pesticide-based product which had almost no effect. We did our own research, trying a host of recommended methods and remedies all without success. We finally gave up and got a doctor’s prescription for a pesticide strong enough to kill the bugs but my wife still had to spend the next two weeks combing and picking out the nits. Had we known about Lice Clinics of America in advance, our journey to lice-free would have been so much easier.

Lice Clinics of America uses the patented, clinically-proven, FDA-cleared AirAlle device to direct the right amount of controlled heat to the right place for the right amount of time to effectively dehydrate both lice and eggs, 88.2% and 99.2% respectively. Following this, the dead lice and eggs are combed from the hair. A special rinse finishes the treatment. The entire process can take up to an hour and a half depending on hair length, type, and severity. It is amazingly simple yet extremely effective. The best part of all is that it is completely non-toxic and pesticide-free.

My wife and I opened Lice Clinics of America-Vacaville with the goal of helping as many people as possible. Therefore, in honor of National Lice Prevention month, Lice Clinics of America-Vacaville is offering free head checks all September long and beyond when this article is mentioned. We are located at 322 Cernon St Vacaville, CA 95688 by appointment only.

Written by Michael Coleman, Owner
Lice Clinics of America, Vacaville, CA

Facts of Lice

1. Head lice are parasitic insects that only attack humans. You won’t catch lice from the family pet, nor will you give lice to them.
2. The most common way they spread is through direct head-to-head contact with an infested person. They can’t fly or jump.
3. Head lice are very small — about the size of a sesame seed. They can be tan, brown, or gray in color.
4. Head lice stay alive by feeding on blood from the human scalp. They will die within 2 to 3 days after being off their host because they no longer have a food source.
5. This parasite prefers a dark, warm environment and is often discovered behind the ears, under a ponytail and at the nape of the neck.
6. A female louse can lay up to 10 eggs daily; they prefer to lay their eggs ¼” from the scalp.
7. At first glance, head lice eggs (or nits) might be mistaken for dandruff. But they are firmly attached to the hair shaft with a waterproof glue-like substance and won’t brush off.
8. Anyone can get head lice. They know no socioeconomic or ethnic boundaries, and are equal opportunity parasites.
9. Males are less likely to get head lice than females because they typically have shorter hair.
Updated Nutrition Standards for Child Care Meals and Snacks

Centers and child care homes offering meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) play a critical role in supporting the wellness, health, and development of children, older adults, and chronically impaired disabled persons through the provision of nutritious foods. Child care providers, in particular, have a powerful opportunity to instill healthy habits in young children that serve as a foundation for healthy choices in life.

Through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, the USDA made the first major changes in the CACFP meals and snacks since the Program’s inception in 1968, which will help ensure children and adults have access to healthy, balanced meals and snacks throughout the day. The updated CACFP nutrition standards will help safeguard the health of children early in their lives and improve the wellness of adults. These changes go into effect October 1, 2017.

Under the updated CACFP nutrition standards, meals and snacks served will include a greater variety of vegetables and fruit, more whole grains, more protein options, and less added sugar and saturated fat. In addition, the standards encourage breastfeeding and better align the CACFP with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and with other Child Nutrition Programs.

The updated standards for meals and snacks served in the CACFP are based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, science-based recommendations made by the National Academy of Medicine, cost and practical considerations, and stakeholder’s input. These improvements are expected to enhance the quality of meals served in CACFP to help young children learn healthy eating habits early on in their lives and improve the wellness of adult participants.

The USDA is providing guidance, resources, best practices, and training for CACFP centers and child care homes to support them in providing healthy, balanced meals and snacks to the children and adults they serve.

For more information about the changes or to enroll in Solano Family & Children’s Services Child Care Food Program, please contact our Food Program Specialist, Debbie Ramirez at (707) 864-4631.

Silly Pumpkin Putty Recipe

- ¾ tsp of Borax
- 1 ½ cups of very warm water

Combine the water and borax in a small bowl

- In a second bowl combine
- 2 cups of white school glue
- 1 1/2 cups very warm water
- 5-10 drops of orange food coloring or watercolors
- 1-2 tsp of pumpkin pie spice
- Mix the contents of both bowls well.
- Then combine both bowls.
- As the ingredients of both bowls are mixed the pumpkin putty will begin to form.
- Once all the ingredients are mixed well enough, remove the slime substance from the bowl and finish working it by hand. This whole process is really fun for kids.
- Continue to work the ingredients with your hands until you have an amazing silly pumpkin putty. You will have residual water ingredients left in the bowl. This is normal and can be thrown away.
- This pumpkin putty is so FUN and smells just like pumpkin pie! Kids can stretch it and pull it and use it in all sorts of fun ways! It is a blast for kids and is sure to produce lots of giggles!

Adapted from growingajeweledrose.com
You must pre-register for workshops online by visiting our website and clicking on the RSVP link. See a complete description at www.solanofamily.org. Workshops are FREE, unless otherwise noted. You must arrive on time to workshops. If you arrive and the door is locked, the workshop is in progress and the instructor will not open the door. Child care is not available unless specified in the description.

**Provider Snack & Chat (network and mingling)**
Come “Snack & Chat” with fellow child care providers to exchange information and share common issues. This monthly Open Forum is provided to give you support in your efforts to provide the highest quality of care in our county, and have fun doing it! Potluck. Please RSVP, (See above).

**The Ages and Stages of Children - Supporting Developmental Milestones**
In this hands-on training you will learn how to utilize the ASQ questionnaires. Parents and Providers will be able to look at how children are doing in important areas, such as speech, physical ability, social skills, and problem solving skills. You will also learn how to identify children’s strengths as well as any area where support may be needed. Please RSVP, (See above).

**Baby Signs**
Learn about the benefits of using baby signs with the babies and toddlers in your care. You will learn some of the basic signs you can use with babies and toddlers to make communication easier. Please RSVP, (See above).

**The Business of Family Child Care**
Sound business practices are key to successful child care programs. This workshop will help you whether you are new or a seasoned child care provider. We will discuss the feasibility of operating a family child care business, creating a business plan, marketing in this fast-paced internet world, creating a contract, interviewing families, communicating with families, setting policies & procedures, rates, and much more. **This is a two-part series.** Please RSVP, (See above).

**Responding to Physical / Verbal Aggression**
Participants will learn appropriate and safe ways to respond to physical and verbal aggression. You will learn to be alert and responsive in all settings, and you will learn to effectively communicate with students and staff in a crisis situation. Presented by: Dr. Zoee Bartholomew, Ed.D. Please RSVP, (See above).

**Investigación científica para niños pequeños**
Este taller anima a los participantes a examinar formas de proporcionar un entorno científico para los niños. Explorará cada día la ciencia y practicará principios de investigación y documentación para mejorar el descubrimiento y el aprendizaje científico. Los temas también incluyen para un salón afuera al aire libre. Favor de Reservar, (mire hacia arriba).

**Financial Management for Family Child Care Providers**
Learn the importance of record keeping, tax requirements, saving for retirement and other financial tools to keep your records up to date. Receive plenty of resources to take home. Don’t be surprised when tax time comes. Come learn about the business side of child care! Please RSVP, (See above).

**Parent Voices**
Join Parent Voices to help identify the issues, create solutions, and decide courses of action to improve California’s child care system. We are a growing chapter looking for parents and child care providers in Solano County. Child supervision and dinner will be provided. Please call (707) 863-3950 to RSVP.

**Solano Family & Children’s Services - Schedule of Events September - December 2017**
Finding Certified Health and Safety Training:
Training organizations often market their businesses online, in the phonebook, newspaper, and/or by word of mouth. When you contact a training organization, make sure that their course covers the required components for licensed child care providers, and offers official cards of completion and training manuals. For more information contact:

Name | Contact | American Heart Association | American Red Cross | EMSA Approved Training
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Contact: | www.heart.org or 1-877-242-4277 | www.redcrossbayarea.org or 1-800-733-2767 | www.emsa.ca.gov or 1-916-322-4336

Courses Accepted:
- Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED
- Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid
- Heartsaver CPR AED
- Note: CPR course must include Infant, Child & Adult CPR.

- California Child Care: Pediatric First Aid and CPR
- California Child Care: Pediatric CPR
- Note: CPR course must include Infant, Child & Adult CPR.

- Approved First Aid & CPR Training
- Approved Preventive Health & Safety Training
- Note: Course Title may vary based on individual business.

Snack & Chat with CCIP
Each month, our very own Joy Gamble holds an open Forum with both, “seasoned” and brand-new family child care providers.

This opportunity is offered to give this growing group of dedicated individuals desired support in their efforts to furnish the highest quality of child care to the families they serve. Bring a plate of finger foods and join in!

Our next Snack & Chat will be held on October 25, from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm, and will feature our region’s Family Child Care Advocate, Natalie Dunaway from Community Care Licensing. She will be presenting the latest Child Care Licensing updates and answering any questions you may have.

Please RSVP to Joy Gamble, (707) 864-4615.
We know one reason you became a child care professional was to make a difference in children’s lives. Here at Solano Family & Children’s Services, our Resource & Referral (R&R) Program staff members often receive calls from parents who are having difficulty finding child care for their child who has special needs. We understand the idea of caring for a child with special needs may be a little scary.

"Special needs" are commonly defined by what a child can't do—milestones unmet, foods banned, activities avoided, or experiences denied. Terms and labels are necessary for the child to receive needed services, but can be misleading and seem intimidating and hard to deal with.
What support can Resource & Referral (R&R) offer? We know you want to provide the highest quality care to all children in your setting. R&R staff can assist you in the following areas:

- Technical Assistance with your setting, room arrangement.
- Offer ideas to make the transition into your care smooth and efficient.
- Work with you and the family with connections to the school, North Bay Regional Center, and other services the child is connected to that might be a good support to you.
- Provide off-site training on various topics regarding special needs, as well as some hands on training at your program with you and your staff.
- Connect you with resources that you can use for information about the child’s special needs, activities, etc.

You may think: “I don’t have experience or any training caring for children with special needs.” For the most part, you don’t need special training. There’s no difference in children with special needs and non-disabled children in that they all have their own personality, strengths and challenges. It does however, take time in getting to know the child, and figuring out what works for him or her.

If you have concerns about a child’s development, we encourage you to refer the parent to the Help Me Grow (HMG) program. The parent can refer a child to HMG by calling 844-501-5437, or by visiting www.helpmegrowsolano.org and completing the Contact Form. You may also refer a child, as long as you have the parent’s permission.

There may be circumstances where you may need training (such as G-tube Feeding). We can help communicate with you and the parent to decide who would be best to do such training.

If you have experience caring for children with special needs, make sure this is one of the areas checked under your Provider Profile when you update your status with us. If you have not yet had the opportunity, but are interested in learning more, please contact us at (707) 863-3950, extension #752
Parents across the state are celebrating the changes in subsidized child care that became effective July 1st. Solano Family & Children’s Services, and agencies across the state, have been serving families who qualify for subsidized child care services using outdated criteria set by the State of California. The decade-old State Median Income (SMI) used to determine income eligibility for child care services has made accessing and keeping services increasingly more difficult each year it remained unchanged. New laws increasing minimum wage made an already bad situation even worse.

This year, Governor Brown signed the 2017-18 Budget Bill that included $25 million to update the SMI and authorized 12 months of continuous eligibility for families, which means greater stability for the children we serve.

Parent Voices, a statewide parent advocacy group, led the campaign to fight for these changes. Over the last four years, parents across the state testified at budget and legislative hearings and contacted their legislators to share their personal stories. We heard from parents who had to turn down raises and promotions, and others who had to request shorter work hours. Some parents spoke out about the overwhelming and continuous reporting and documentation requirements, and some testified about losing their child care subsidies. Parents marched at rallies, wrote letters, and made phone calls to their legislators. They engaged in multiple meetings with the Department of Education, Department of Finance, and the Governor’s office to garner support. Parents shared their worries, hardships, and how necessary child care is in providing stability and security for their families.

Parent Voices relentlessly pursued legislative action in collaboration with the Child Care Law Center and the California Budget and Policy Center to write legislation including bills AB 60 and AB 2150, authored and co-authored by Leadership of Assembly Member Miguel Santiago and Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher respectively. The California Legislative Women’s Caucus, and the Stronger CA Advocates Network were also invaluable policy supporters.

The benefits of these policies expand across the entire system:

☑ Parents can continue to progress in their careers by confidently taking the raises, promotions, better job opportunities and working extra hours without fear of losing affordable child care, in most cases.

☑ Children will benefit from continuity of care for a minimum of 12 months, which allows them to build strong relationships with their caregivers and remain in essential early learning environments.

☑ Child care providers and owners can better plan for their businesses knowing children will likely be in those slots for a minimum of 12 months.

☑ Employers will benefit from a more stable workforce because their employees will have continuous child care, and they will only have to sign off on documentation once a year, in most cases.

With the governor’s signature on this fiscal year’s budget, parents can celebrate the victory of all their hard work and rest easier with a more secure child care program.

For more information about the Parent Voices Solano chapter, contact Jennifer Ostrowski at (707) 864-4652 or jostrowski@solanofamily.org, or attend an upcoming meeting.
Join PARENT VOICES to help identify the issues, create solutions, and decide courses of action to improve California’s child care system.

We are a growing chapter looking for parents & child care providers in Solano County.

Please share this information with all parents and child care providers who have child care concerns.

JOIN US THE 4th FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
6:00 PM — 7:30 PM
Solano Family & Children’s Services
421 Executive Ct North, Fairfield, CA  94534

Child Supervision & Dinner Provided

2017-2018 MEETING DATES
♦ August 25
♦ October 27
♦ December Holiday Break
♦ January 26
♦ March 23
♦ Stand For Children Day at the Capitol - To be Announced

Let us know you’re coming!
Call Jennifer at (707) 864-4652

Parents are leaders in their homes. Join Parent Voices - be a leader and child care advocate in your community.

* Expand your parent leadership skills
* Gain experience in community organizing
* Learn about the budget process and how you can make a difference
* Support and advocate for quality child care access for all children
* Meet other parents and make new friends

For more information contact Parent Voices Solano Organizer, Jennifer Ostrowski, at (707) 864-4652 or jostrowski@solanofamily.org
You can also visit www.parentvoices.org
Follow us on Facebook at Parent Voices Solano

Parent Voices is a parent-led, parent-run grassroots organization fighting to make quality child care accessible and affordable to all families.
Solano Family & Children’s Services (SFCS) is a non-profit agency funded by the State Department of Education, Solano County Health & Social Services Department and private donations.

The “Children’s Corner” Newsletter is published three times per year.

This newsletter is funded by the State Department of Education/Child Development Division and Solano County Health & Social Services Department. SFCS is solely responsible for content.

SFCS provides FREE child care referrals and information to Solano County residents. The goal of our agency is to assist all families with their child care needs and to promote the healthy growth, care, development and education of all children and families. We administer the Child Care Food Program for Family Child Care Providers. This program reimburses providers for meals served to enrolled children (birth — age 12). We administer several subsidized child care programs for the State and Federal government, including the CalWORKs and WIB child care programs. We maintain a Lending Library of educational books and videos. We serve as a clearinghouse for legislation affecting children’s services and publish information through this newsletter. We maintain information of county and state resources.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410
Fax: (202) 690-7442
Email: program.intake@usda.gov

If you would like to see an article about a specific subject, please email us at info@solanofamily.org

If you would like more information about Solano Family & Children’s Services, or would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit our website at www.solanofamily.org.

SFCS is a non-profit, 501 (c) 3 organization