Governor Releases his Budget Proposal

On Thursday, January 7, 2016 Governor Brown released his budget proposal for 2016–17. Of most significance, though not surprisingly the Governor’s budget does not include an increase in overall funding to expand much needed child care services during a time when the anticipated revenues are the highest they have been in recent years. Nor does his proposal in any way reflect the changes required by the Federal Government in the Child Development Block Grant. His proposal does, however, include two significant proposed changes to the child care and preschool delivery system:

The Early Education Block Grant:
The budget combines State Preschool and Transitional kindergarten (TK) funding essentially eliminating the current TK programs and prioritizes the funding for lowest-income families. State Preschool programs serve low-income families, but there is no income requirement for the current TK program.

The intent of the Governor’s block grant proposal is to redirect all State Preschool funding to local school districts (Local Educational Agencies or LEA’s), streamline the administration of programs, expand local flexibility to serve the lowest-income four and five-year-old children along with local priorities, and distribute new funding based on local need while not reducing existing funding.

Conversion of Contracted Centers to Vouchers:
The budget proposes that the Department of Education develop a plan to transition contracted centers into vouchers over a 5 year time period to provide increased flexibility of subsidy services. This would essentially result in the elimination of contracted center-based programs and could result in those programs operating as private center- based programs with the ability to accept child care subsidy vouchers.

Over the next few months, the Legislature will hold hearings to discuss the Governor’s budget proposal and their own ideas for funding the needs of California. In May, the Governor will issue his annual budget revision that will incorporate information and ideas reviewed over the next few months and by June 15, the Legislature will submit their version of the budget to the Governor for his action.

For more information on the budget see:  dof.ca.gov/budget

New Laws

Several new laws impacting child care were signed by the Governor and became effective on January 1, 2016 (though some may be implemented at later dates).

AB762(Mullin): Day care center-toddler programs

Requires a day care center that offers a toddler program to extend the age of children served from the current 18 mos. – 30 mos. to 18 mos. – 3 years of age.

AB982 (Eggman): Child care subsidies for homeless children

Expands the list of entities that can identify a homeless child for child care subsidies.

AB1207(Lopez): Mandated child abuse reporting training

Effective January 2018 requires training of child care providers on mandated child abuse reporting with risk of penalties.

AB1387(Chu): Care facilities- civil penalties appeal procedures

Revises the civil penalty appeal procedures for violations that result in the death, serious bodily injury or physical abuse in community care facilities including child care.

SB277 (Pan): Vaccinations

Effective July 1, 2016, the personal belief exception for required vaccinations will no longer be allowed. Children with letters on file or affidavit prior to January 1, 2016 have until the next “grade span” to obtain vaccinations.

SB792 (Mendoza): Immunization exemptions in child care facilities

Effective September 1, 2016, adults in child care programs must be immunized against measles, pertussis and optionally influenza and a TB clearance. Exemptions allowed with a written statement from a physician declaring the immunization is not safe for specified reasons. Employees may decline the influenza vaccination.

To find the full text of these laws, please visit:  http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-bilinfo.html.
Our reason for opening a preschool of our own was very simple—we wanted to be part of a program we were proud of. In our work with children, we felt many were missing the opportunity to have exposure to nature and to explore their environment on their own terms. It gave us chills to think of a program tailored around play and the unique development of each child.

The first step in our journey was to find the perfect site. After searching and searching, we found a former veterinarian clinic on a large sized lot. The owner was very receptive to our ideas about changing the building to fit our needs and with the large outdoor space; our opportunities for a natural play space were endless.

As preschool teachers, the hardest part of this process was accepting the true costs of opening a child care center. We did not know much about the costs of construction and the permitting process so this was a learning experience for us. Luckily, we had a village of husbands, fathers, in-laws, family friends and community to help our vision come to life.

We are very proud of the program we are implementing at Creative Spirit Learning Center. After months of researching different theories and philosophies, we have molded this unique play based program to be the best of all worlds!

This process was stressful at times. From the licensing paperwork, local and state regulations, fire clearance, and permitting, there was a lot to do prior to opening. Child Action, Inc. was an invaluable resource during this process. Every call or email was received so well, we never felt like a bother or that we weren’t knowledgeable enough to open a school of our own. We will forever be grateful for their helping hand.

–Aubrey Taylor Green & Nicole Brann
Creative Spirit Learning Center, Fair Oaks

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Child Action, Inc.’s Facility Development Program assists clients with understanding what it takes to open a child care center or expand their current program. Staff provide feasibility studies, conduct initial site visits, review licensing applications, and provide helpful resources for opening a child care facility. For more information, please contact Pamela Van Parys at (916) 369-3301 or pamela.vanparys@childaction.org.

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**Featured Resource Library Item**

"Snacktivities"

Ways to eat healthy

- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables
- Make half the grains you eat whole grains
- Choose fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk, yogurt, or cheese
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks
- Choose lean sources of protein

For more healthy ideas and recipes check out “Snacktivities!”
**"Banana Tree"**

**Ingredients:**
- Lettuce leaf
- Pineapple ring
- Banana
- Sliced fruit, such as grapes, cut up pears, cherries, cut up peaches, strawberries or other berries
- Apple slices or chunks
- Cheese, cut in cubes

**Utensils:**
- Knife and cutting board
- Toothpicks
- Salad plate

**Process:**
1. Place a lettuce leaf on salad plate.
2. Place a pineapple ring on the lettuce leaf.
3. Peel the banana and cut it in half.
4. Stand the cut end of the banana half in the center of the pineapple to resemble a tree trunk.
5. Place a toothpick through a selected piece of fruit.
6. Stick the other end of the toothpick into the top area of the banana. Each toothpick with a piece of fruit will represent a branch on the banana tree.
7. Fill the tree with as many fruit branches as desired. It may be necessary to hold the banana with one hand so it does not tip over when first beginning the work.
8. The banana trees can be served as a fruit salad to be eaten with the fingers.

**Spring 2016 Trainings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/2, 4/6, 5/4</td>
<td>Family Child Care Licensing Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19, 5/10</td>
<td>Play and Learn Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>Smile Keeper Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Motor Skills and Movement: Promoting Young Children's Physical Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>Special Education for Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>Healthy Habits: Nutrition and Well-Being for Young Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/12</td>
<td>Baby Behaviors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/19</td>
<td>Understanding Temperament</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Классы на русском языке**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Ориентация для получения лицензии на открытие домашнего детского сада</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2, 4/6, 5/4</td>
<td>Стили и философии обучения маленьких детей</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16, 4/13, 5/18</td>
<td>Беседы за круглым столом. Бюджет детского сада</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Las Clases Ofrecidas en Español**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>Cómo Aprenden los Niños</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Síndrome del Bebé Sacudido</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>Entrenamiento de Educación Especial (IEP) para Padres–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>Orientación Para La Licencia del Cuidado Infantil Hogareño</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/19</td>
<td>Apoyo para Proveedores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>El Reporte del Abuso de Niños</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Please check the calendar of events at www.childaction.org, for times, locations and additional trainings.
Provider Health & Safety Training

A core service of Child Action, Inc.’s Resource and Referral Department is to distribute reimbursements of up to $50 for providers taking mandated health and safety training. The reimbursements are contingent on available funds, so it’s recommended that providers contact Child Action, Inc. to find out if funding remains and what is needed to qualify. Please contact Carolyn at (916) 369--3317 or Carolyn.elder@childaction.org for more information.

Child Action, Inc. is your resource for finding training centers that work for your situation. Recently, trainings were arranged for a group of Farsi speaking providers, in partnership with Opening Doors, Inc. For general information about Health and Safety trainings and the latest regulations for providers, please contact us at (916) 369--0191 or email at info@childaction.org.

Our Children, Our Community

Is a free publication of Child Action, Inc., serving Sacramento since 1976. Child Action, Inc. is primarily funded by the California Department of Education.

Our Services

Child Action, Inc. provides information and consumer guidelines to assist families in making choices regarding child care. We offer resources and services to assist current and new child care providers in providing quality care for children and we provide subsidies to help low-income families pay for child care services.

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