Subsidized Child Care Rates Improve Under 2016–17 State Budget Plan

What Happened then?

On January 10 of this year, Governor Brown released his budget proposal for 2016-17 that failed to include any significant new funding for child care. The Legislative Women’s Caucus (Legislative women in both the Senate and the Assembly) rallied together to push for a significant $800 million increase in funding including increased reimbursement rates, updating of eligibility for subsidized child care, funding for improved quality, and funding to increase the number of children served.

In May, the Governor shared his revised budget that reflected a decrease in projected revenue, justifying the need to keep child care funding at the low level in his January proposal.

Meanwhile, the Senate and Assembly both approved child care budgets at levels higher than the Governor, but lower than the Legislative Women’s Caucus request. The Senate presented a child care budget increase of $101 million and the Assembly presented an increase of $619 million.

Where are we now?

On June 9, the joint legislative budget committee approved approximately $140 million of new funding for child care that increases reimbursement rates for subsidized child care providers effective January 2017 to reflect the market rates in 2014, an increase from the 2009 market rates; increases rates for family, friend and neighbor care (license-exempt); and increases the reimbursement rate to contracted Title 5 centers by 10% effective January 2017.

Additionally, the budget plan includes $100 million for full-day State Preschool slots, phased in over 4 years. This accounts for about 8,877 new spaces for 3 & 4 year olds.

On June 15, the Legislature presented a balanced budget to the Governor which included the above funding. The Governor signed the budget bill on June 28th, finalizing it without making any changes to budget language or funding.

Celebrate Dads Everyday!

Fathers are important—children gain so much through relationships with their fathers. “Big body play,” quiet times, reading, everyday chores, and hanging out together are all memories in the making. How do you celebrate dads in your program? Often, dads are primary caregivers of their children—does your program recognize and encourage their participation? Are there other ways to acknowledge and involve dads in your program?

Building your parent involvement creates a stronger program for all! For ideas and resources, call us at (916) 369-0191.

What is missing in the budget plan?

The Legislature rejected the Governor’s plan to combine Transitional Kindergarten and State Preschool Programs into one Early Education Block Grant under the administration of the County Offices of Education and also rejected the plan to convert all contracted center-based programs into a single voucher-based system.

For more information on the budget see: dof.ca.gov/budget
Outdoor Play — Let’s Move!

Playing outside is a healthy part of life. Due to natural elements, outdoor play can be neglected. Adult’s enthusiasm, interest, and engagement in outdoor play impact children’s attitudes and participation. Even with very real concerns about heat related illness, outdoor fun can be safe for children of all ages with a little pre-planning. Research shows that outdoor play builds not only muscles, but brain cells. *

Children learn and use all their senses while they are playing. In fact, physical movement is a key factor in a child’s ability to develop cognitive and social/emotional skills in addition to fine motor and gross motor skills. While children play outdoors they interact with peers and problem solve. “Young children learn best by doing. Active physical play supports preschool children’s brain development and is a primary means for them to explore and discover their world.” (Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 2, Chapter 3)

Child care providers, how do you approach movement and outdoor play? How can you provide an environment that is safe and interesting for an infant, yet stimulating for older children? How are children with disabilities included in outdoor fun? Celebrate each child’s unique abilities and effort to be active and find ways for everyone to be involved.

Parents, how do you encourage your children to play outdoors? Are you going outside with them? Do you limit “screen time” or structured activities, or make sure that children spend equal amounts of time outdoors as they do in? When looking for child care, are you asking, “How much time during the day is spent outdoors?” A quality child care program plans for meaningful and unstructured time outdoors daily, for all age groups regardless of ability.

For resources and ideas on outdoor/physical play, contact the Resource Department at Child Action, Inc., (916) 369–0191. The Child Action, Inc. Lending Library is online at www.childaction.org and has many items for checkout. Let’s get out and play today!

* For research and studies on nature and child development, please visit the Children and Nature Network: www.childrenandnature.org.

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When I play on climbing equipment I learn

- Physical strength, coordination and balance.
- To use my imagination.
- To cooperate with others when involved in group play.
- To solve problems.
- Self-confidence as I develop new skills.


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Knock, Knock! ...Who's There?...

Community Care Licensing! Yes, sometimes when you least expect them! It’s not always convenient, when you’re up to your elbows in mud pies, during mealtimes, or trying to keep things quiet at nap time. Keep in mind that your licensing program analyst is your partner in maintaining quality in your program. While you’d like to tell them to come back at a later date, they are an agent of a regulatory agency and have the right to enter your program anytime it is in operation.

As a licensed child care provider, your first responsibility is to insure the safety of the children in your care. Ask the analyst to share their CCLD issued ID badge. After you have verified the information, invite your Licensing Program Analyst or LPA, in to your program. Failing to allow your LPA access to your program could result in a call to law enforcement for reinforcement and possible citation for refusing access.

Community Care Licensing LPAs can show up for many reasons; following up on a complaint, expanding your licensed capacity, or your random compliance visit. You and your LPA share the same goal- maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the children in your care. Many times LPAs are a helpful resource for providers, providing tips on how to meet requirements and on working with parents. When looking at it that way, shouldn’t we be welcoming LPA’s into our child care?
What’s included in your $25 registration fee?

- Guest Speaker
- 16 Professional Learning Sessions
- Resource Fair & Interactive Gallery Walk
- Limited Sessions in Spanish
- Continental Breakfast & Lunch
- Parking
- 7 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT!

Who should attend?

- Early Educators (those working with children birth – 8 years)
- Family Child Care Providers
- Program Directors
- Administrators
- Higher Education Faculty
- Students
- Coaches/Mentors/Trainers

SPACE IS LIMITED SO REGISTER EARLY!

Registration forms can be found at www.childaction.org, Calendar of Events

Registration Deadline is Friday, September 16, 2016

For more information call: (916) 228–2506

Playing It Safe In The Water

Summer time is a great time to play with water. As child care providers, safety is always first. Do you have a plan for supervising water play? Are children involved in setting up "rules" for water play? Have you shared with parents the importance of water safety? The following are some helpful tips about water safety with children.

1. A CPR trained adult is a must for any water play. Adults must be within reaching distance of children playing in water. A second adult should supervise children not playing in water. Avoid any distractions including cell phones when children are in the water.

2. Always use coast guard approved safety gear when playing in water. Never use water toys or water wings instead of life jackets.

3. Make sure children know water play rules before playing. Enforce all safety rules, all the time.

For more information about safe water play, please visit www.healthchildren.org, or contact Jennine Greenwell, Health Services Coordinator, Child Action, Inc. at (916) 369–3335.
Our Children, Our Community

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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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SUMMER 2016 TRAININGS

7/6, 8/3, 9/7
Family Child Care Licensing Orientation

7/12, 8/10, 9/12
CARES Orientations

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Family Child Care Licensing Orientation

7/12, 8/10, 9/12
CARES Orientations

Las Clases Ofrecidas en Español

7/7
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