

## In The News



New Year (2025)!  
New Space (3700 N Classen Blvd. Suite 110 Oklahoma City, OK 73118)!  
New Faces (Scroll to meet them)!

Rainbow Fleet Child Care Resource and Referral is thrilled to usher in 2025 with a vibrant spirit of innovation and creativity aimed at enriching the experiences of our child care providers and families. We are delighted to announce an array of exciting new resources, engaging training sessions, and opportunities for meaningful connections. Our commitment to supporting the growth and success of both educators and families remains steadfast, and we can't wait to embark on this journey together, fostering a nurturing environment where every child can flourish!



Help us welcome our newest Child Care Consultant to the Rainbow Fleet Child Care Resource and Referral Team, Kathlena "Kat" Padilla!

With 9 years in early childhood, she holds a B.S. in Human Development and Family Science and a Trauma Informed Family Support Provider certificate. Currently completing her M.Ed in Educational Leadership, she aspires to pursue an Ed.D. Kathlena has advanced to leadership roles, including Curriculum Director and Assistant Director in prior positions, all while enjoying outdoor activities and spending time with her goldendoodle, Lucy. In the evenings, she relaxes by watching "New Girl" (for the millionth time)!



Help us welcome our newest Family Support Specialist to the Rainbow Fleet Child Care Resource and Referral Team, Alexis Turner!

Alexis has 7 years of experience in social services, focusing on child welfare, foster care, and substance use disorders. She is pursuing a master's in social work at the University of Oklahoma and enjoys connecting families with resources.

In her free time, she loves spending time with family and reading.

## Quality Education

We are thrilled to announce that Rainbow Fleet is now offering FREE\* training sessions for child care providers! This exciting opportunity reflects our unwavering commitment to supporting the growth and development of early childhood care professionals in our community. We invite you to visit our website to discover a range of upcoming classes designed to enhance your skills and knowledge, ultimately benefiting both you and the families you serve. By participating in these training programs, you'll not only elevate the quality of care you provide but also contribute to a stronger, more vibrant child care community in our region. Don't miss out on this invaluable chance to engage, learn, and grow—Also, make sure to check out the registry today for other learning opportunities and take the next step toward enriching your child care services!

\*sponsored events are subject to price.

**Regional Reconnect**  
Discover the Beauty of Environmental Education

When: March 1, 2025  
Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Registration Begins: 8:30 AM  
Location: Camp Trivera  
Address: 2508 NE 50th St, OKC 73111

Visit [www.rainbowfleet.org](http://www.rainbowfleet.org) to enroll!

Register [HERE!](#)

**Thrive Summit**  
**Kindness in Action**  
Building Stronger Futures

April 4, 2025  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Join us for the screening of "Make a Circle."  
See how FCC Providers in CA joined together to make a difference!  
Two hour training plus movie snacks.

April 5, 2025  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Kindness in Action, Building Stronger Futures  
Keynote speakers:  
Cindy Rowe and Chris Culver  
Also enjoy networking opportunities and a breakout session.

Friday Night: Free (Registration required)  
Hotel room: \$100 (includes evening snack and breakfast)  
Saturday: \$25 for summit (Lunch and snack included)

Embassy Suites  
2501 Conference Drive  
Norman, OK 73069

Register [Here](#)

Autism Foundation of Oklahoma is hosting a virtual Navigating Autism training session on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 3:00 for childcare providers who could not attend last year.

Here is a little about the course: This six-hour training course for childcare professionals offers

comprehensive knowledge and practical strategies to support autistic children. Covering essential topics like understanding autism characteristics and implementing evidence-based interventions, participants gain insights into effective communication, behavior management, and fostering positive social interactions.

Participants will receive a certificate of completion for 6.0 hours of continuing education and an AFO sensory bag.

Click [Registration Link](#) for those who would like to sign up:

### Child Care Standards

#### Proposed Emergency Rules

Oklahoma Human Services Deputy Director, Deborah Smith, recently presented an overview of the proposed emergency rules to the Child Care Advisory Committee.

Rule Changes Dropped:

- Requirement for at least a three-star rating for subsidy contracts
- 12-month waiting period before moving to next star level
- ERS pathway for four-star and five-star rating
- Accreditation pathway for four-star rating
- Immediate implementation of four-star and five-star additional requirements
- Income eligibility for subsidy SMI from 85% to 70%
- Change of ownership implications for stars

Highlights of Proposed Changes:

- Reducing licensing review period for non-compliance from 24 months to 12 months
- Designated CCS staff to monitor QRIS criteria
- Pre-certification visits prior to QRIS approval
- Clearly defined reduction processes
- Reducing the number of QRIS visits per year
- Accreditation required for all five-star programs

### Update your information - Free marketing tool

#### Attention Licensed Family Child Care Homes and Centers:

We would like to remind you of the critical importance of updating your information in our system, as you have recently received a significant email regarding this matter. As you may know, we conduct updates to our programs twice a year, and we are pleased to offer the convenience of completing this process via email. If you have not yet taken the time to update your information, we strongly encourage you to do so promptly. This update not only ensures that we can provide the most current and relevant information to families utilizing our referral program but also enhances our ability to deliver tailored resources that meet the diverse needs of those seeking quality child care options. We greatly appreciate your ongoing commitment and contributions to early childhood education, and we value the collaborative effort we share in supporting child care providers. Please remember, do not hesitate to reach out if you need any assistance.

Thank you once again for all that you do!

Still need to update? [Click Here!](#)

### Training Programs with Dedicated Staff



The flyer features the logos for Rainbow Fleet and Thrive Network Home Child Care Collective. The main text reads: 'THRIVE NETWORK OKC METRO MEETINGS'. Below this, it states 'FREE monthly training and networking for family child care providers'. The schedule is 'THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT RAINBOW FLEET'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'See "Trainings" section at [rainbowfleet.org](http://rainbowfleet.org) for monthly event details, or call (405) 525-3111.'

#### WHY JOIN THE THRIVE NETWORK?

The Thrive Network provides free resources, professional development and peer connection for Oklahoma home child care providers and prospective providers. While you take care of working Oklahomans' families, we take care of you, supplying the support and guidance you need to be successful.

#### BENEFITS

- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Executive Level Membership
- NAFCC Accreditation Self-Study Kit with trained mentor support
- Free Telehealth and Teletherapy for you, your family and your assistants
- Access to specialized trainings like the Pyramid Model Community of Practice
- Subscription to shared services
- Subscription to Brightwheel (child management software)
- Monthly newsletter
- Monthly trainings tailored towards family child care home providers

[Click Here for More Information!](#)



### Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness

OPSR Foundation is accepting proposals from community organizations and/or non-profits to implement a community public awareness and engagement campaign that supports the activities of Oklahoma's Preschool Development B-5 Grant (PDG B-5), including the existing state-level campaign, Before the Bell.

[Click for Details](#)

### Quality in Oklahoma Early Childhood

The Clearinghouse is committed to continually advancing the definition of quality in early child care and education. This is accomplished by accelerating innovation, integrating research-based practices and conducting practice-informed research. The knowledge gained through our efforts is shared with parents, policymakers and childcare providers all in pursuit of improving early childhood systems and maximizing public/private partnerships.

[Explore More. Click Here](#)

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