

THE CHILD CARE EXTENSION

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Crafts &
Recipes

Parenting
Connection

Program
Highlights



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Guiding Children Successfully Available Online and/or In Paper Form

Guiding Children Successfully offers 30 hours of PDR verified trainings online or in paper form. For more information go to uaex.edu/guidingchildren

Best Care Connected Available Online until December

Best Care Connected offers five hours of PDR verified trainings online. For more information go to uaex.edu/bestcareconnected.

Best Care: Out of School Time Now Online

Best Care: Out of school time offers five hours of online PDR verified trainings to participants working with after school youth. For more information go to uaex.edu/bestcareschool

Best Care Available Face to Face

Best Care offers ten hours of face to face PDR verified trainings across the state. For more information go to uaex.edu/bestcare.

CREATIVE HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

This year has been a new frontier for everyone, and child care professionals have had to be even more creative than usual. Addressing new challenges like increased sanitation requirements, new rules for keeping classes separated, wearing masks, and still keeping children safe and engaged, early childhood educators have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to developmentally appropriate practice and health and safety, family engagement is one of the most important parts of any child care operation. As if things weren't difficult and different enough, many common family engagement opportunities of the pre-pandemic era are not available. Parties, parent events, and meet-the-teacher have likely been canceled or changed to limit how many people are in a facility or room at a time.

We're coming to the time of year teachers, administrators, kids, and parents look forward to: fall party season. Most years, you likely finished up fall parties and went right into planning a Thanksgiving feast and then to Christmas or holiday parties. Fall may not feel as festive this year as COVID-19 minimum licensing rules continue to limit interactions with outside individuals and enrollments at facilities are down.

If you are struggling to get excited about upcoming holidays at school, here are ideas that might help you find creative ways to engage families and celebrate during this fun time of year:

- If you have outdoor space, consider a **Thanksgiving picnic**. Tape off 6 ft by 6 ft areas to let families sit together while distanced from other families, and pack picnic bags for families to share or ask families to bring their own lunch.
- Have a **drive-thru trunk-or-treat** or fall fest in the early evening (close to pick up time).
- Have a **trick-or-treat scavenger hunt** around your classroom or facility. To limit the number of pieces each child gets, have them look for one of each kind or stop when they reach a certain number. You could also turn this into a counting, matching, or sorting activity!
- Have a **holiday singing program** or pageant inviting just the child's grown-ups allowing for social distance and required masks, and live-stream the event on a secure site or record it to share privately. You can follow guidelines, protect yourself and your families, and still get excited about fall holidays!



RECIPE

THANKSGIVING TURKEY SNACK

Ingredients/Supplies:

- Clear plastic gloves
- Popcorn
- Colored Goldfish crackers
- Red & Orange Felt (optional)
- Googly eyes (optional)

Instructions:

- Fill the four fingers of the glove with the colored goldfish. You could also separate colors if you want to spend more time on the snack bag.
- After that fill the palm and the thumb with popcorn!
- Finally, tie the glove at the bottom! Voila!
- For added detail you can add googly eyes to the thumb portion of the hand and glue two pieces of small triangular cut felt to resemble the beak (to the thumb portion as well). Pictured is an example of how this could look.



Adapted from: <https://www.thatswhatchesaid.net/thanksgiving-turkey-snack-bags/>

CRAFT CORNER

EASY FALL HAND PRINT WREATH

Supplies:

- Construction paper (Orange, Brown, Red, Green)
- Paper plate
- Ribbon
- Raffia & Acorn (optional)



Instructions:

1. Trace your kids' handprints. If you have more than one child that you want to do this craft with you can either make separate wreaths or you can mix and match handprints.
2. Cut out the handprints.
3. Cut out the inside of the paper plate.
4. Glue the handprints overlapping around the bottom of the paper plate.



After you finished gluing all the handprints on allow them to dry. Once they have dried you can attach your ribbon for hanging. The raffia bow is optional but I think it gives the wreath a little more texture.

BEST CARE

If you are an early childhood professional and want to learn more about caring for young children, you may be interested in the Best Care.

The University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture, in partnership with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Association, is offering training for early childhood professionals. Best Care offers up to ten hours of early childhood professional development during the months of January and May of each year.



Best Care TOPICS for 2021

Be Wise About Portion Size
Farm to Classroom
Owning Your Feelings
Helping Children Deal with Strong Feelings
Importance of Physical Activity
Mindfulness
Professionalism
Time Management

Changes to Best Care 2021

PLEASE NOTE: With the participants' safety in mind, Best Care 2021 may look different than in past years. Due to COVID-19, county agents may choose to provide a virtual or online training instead of the traditional face-to-face training. Please contact your local County Cooperative Extension Service in early 2021 for more details about when, where and whether the trainings will be offered face-to-face, online or virtually.

Best Care classes are free and are verified through the Arkansas Professional Development Registry (PDR) and supports the Better Beginnings Program.

PARENTING CONNECTION

Put your walking shoes on and go outside for some fall air with your family, then come home and create with what you picked up along the way! Here are a couple of ideas!

Pine Cone Spider

Materials you will need:

- Pine Cone
- Wiggly eyes
- Brown pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun



Directions:

1. Wrap 4 full-length pipe cleaners around the pine cone to make a total of 8 legs. Shape the pipe cleaners into spider legs, adjusting the length with scissors if necessary.
2. Next, attach the wiggly eyes with hot glue to the bottom of the pine cone. BAM! Done!

Craft from: <https://www.firefliesandmudpies.com/pinecone-spiders/>

Leaf Rub Craft

Materials you will need:

- Leaves
- Paper
- Crayons



Directions:

1. Remove paper wrapping from crayons.
2. Lay leaf down, cover with paper
3. While holding the paper in place, rub over the leaf with a crayon
4. Continue for all leaves

Craft from: <https://www.lauraradniecki.com/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Best Care: www.uaex.edu/bestcare

Best Care Connected: www.uaex.edu/bestcareconnected

Guiding Children Successfully: www.uaex.edu/guidingchildren

Best Care Out of School Time: www.uaex.edu/bestcareschool

Personal and Family Life Resources: www.arfamilies.org

Childcare Resources page: www.uaex.edu/childcareresources

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

@UAEXFamilyLife
@UAEXBestCare
@UAEXBCCConnected
@GCSUAEX
@Navigatinglife

Pinterest

@BestCareConnected
@UAEXFamilyLife

Youtube

@UAEXFamilyLife

The Child Care Extension Newsletter is provided by the
University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension Service
Family Life Team:

Dr. Brittney Schrick, Rebecca Simon, Ashley Foster, Ashley
Henderson, & Sophie Spann

Newsletter Designed by:
Sophie Spann



UofA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

2301 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204