



Delaware Opportunities Inc.
Child Care Resource & Referral
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"Building Excellence in Child Care"

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Provider News

April 2021

• American Rescue Plan Act

On March 10, 2021, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief package with \$39 billion in relief funding. The \$39 billion in dedicated child care funding provides \$15 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and \$24 billion for a child care stabilization fund. Other supports for families and children provided by the relief bill include:

- \$1 billion for Head Start
- An expansion of the Child Care Tax Credit to \$3600 for each child under 6 years old and \$3000 for each child between 6 and 17 years old
- An extension of the 15% increase to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits through September
- \$880 million for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

Find more information on the American Rescue Plan Act by visiting: [Federal Relief Funds: Policy Considerations for States in 2021 \(childcareaware.org\)](#) or [House Passes American Rescue Plan With \\$39 Billion in Child Care Relief \(ffyf.org\)](#)

• Elijah's Law

In 2019 Governor Cuomo signed new legislation called "Elijah's Law". The law is named after 3-year old Elijah Silvera from New York City who was given a grilled cheese sandwich while at day care despite having a known severe dairy allergy. After Elijah went into anaphylaxis, his family was not told what he had eaten and 911 was not called. Elijah died in November 2017. Implementation of Elijah's Law requires changes to your child care program, valuable, potentially life-saving changes, that are intended to prevent further tragedy.

The Anaphylaxis Policy for Child Day Care Programs can be found here: [Child Care Policies | Division of Child Care Services | OCFS \(ny.gov\)](#). The policy sets the guidelines to be followed by child day care programs for both the prevention of anaphylaxis and during an anaphylaxis emergency.

Elijah's Law requires child care programs to be in compliance with the policy six months from the date of distribution. OCFS strongly encourages child care programs to make the required policy updates as soon as possible, and will begin monitoring for compliance on September 15, 2021. If you have questions please reach out to your regulator.

• Music

Sharing music with young children is one more way to share positive interactions and make lasting connections. Music and music experiences also support social emotional skills, physical skills, thinking skills, and language and literacy skills. Check out this article, *Beyond Twinkle, Twinkle: Using Music with Infants and Toddlers* from Zero to Three to learn more about how music supports all areas of young children's development:

[Beyond Twinkle, Twinkle: Using Music with Infants and Toddlers • ZERO TO THREE](#)

• Flower Petal Suncatcher

A fun easy outdoor activity from Messy Little Monster. These look especially cute hanging outside from a tree (weather permitting).

You will need:

Paper plates ▪ Clear sticky contact paper ▪ Flower petals, grass, small sticks, leaves, etc.

Directions: Cut the center out of the paper plates. Cut a circle of contact paper that is slightly bigger than the hole in the plate. Stick the contact paper to the bottom of the plate-sticky side up. Add petals, leaves, grass, etc. Cut out a second circle of contact paper and stick on top of your design. To hang the suncatcher, use a hole punch to make a hole at the top of the plate and add a loop using string or a pipe cleaner. TIP: Prep the plates and contact paper beforehand.

[Beautiful Real Flower Petal Suncatcher - Messy Little Monster](#)

• Healthy Avocado Muffins

[Healthy Avocado Muffins - Twin Mom Refreshed](#)

You will need:

- 1 large ripe avocado or 2 small avocados
- 1 very ripe banana
- 1/2 cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk or milk of choice
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups whole wheat flour or all-purpose flour
- ½ cups chocolate chips



Directions

Mash banana and avocado first in a large mixing bowl. Add all wet ingredients and mix well. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Fold in chocolate chips. Put in greased or lined muffin tin. Bake at 350* F for 10-12 minutes or until the center is fully cooked (so toothpick comes out clean). Makes about 24 muffins.

• The Strawberry Patch

Check out this resource, Grow It, Try It, Like It? The Strawberry Patch from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. It is filled with activities that include games, recipes, gardening, songs as well as activities for families to do at home. Visit: [Grow It, Try It, Like It? The Strawberry Patch \(azureedge.net\)](http://azureedge.net)

• Child Care Resource & Referral: Our Mission

Delaware Opportunities Inc. Child Care Resource & Referral program is committed to promoting quality, affordable child care that results in education and healthy development of children and supports strong families and communities. To read our public policy agenda and learn more about child care issues, find facts about child care in Delaware County and New York State, or to join advocacy campaigns to strengthen the quality of child care visit: [Public Policy | Delaware Opportunities Inc.](#) or contact a day care specialist Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 607-746-1620 locally or toll free at 1-877-746-2279; or by email at Daycare@delop.org.