

# CHILD CARE SERVICES

August 2023

## 50% COPAYMENTS BEGIN OCTOBER 1

As you know, family copays have been covered by OKDHS since April 2020. Now, as we move out of the pandemic, families will gradually ease back into paying full copayments. To accomplish this, OKDHS will cover 50% of family copayments from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. After that, full copayments will once again resume.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

In September 2023, a systems update will be made assessing the 50% copayment to all child care cases who normally have a copayment. A computer-generated change notice will be mailed to the family and the child care provider in mid-September notifying them of the copayment amount for October 1. The notice will show the correct copayment which will already be calculated at 50% of the regular copayment amount. (There will be no calculation required on the provider's part.) In addition, the provider portal will show the correct October copayment on September 28, after the regular monthly roll runs in the EBT system. You will also be able to see the copayment on the POS machine beginning October 1 when swipes are recorded.

#### Take Note:

Cases that continue to have a \$0 copayment for October will not receive a change notice.

Questions? [Childcarecontracts@okdhs.org](mailto:Childcarecontracts@okdhs.org)



# The Quality & Stabilization Grant

The last cycle of the Quality & Stabilization Grant officially closed on July 31st.

## **Please Take Note About Payments:**

- Payment will be paid out by paper checks.
- Expect payments to take 4-6 weeks from the date of approval.
- Payment will be a doubled payment amount and an additional percentage increase based on the program's new star rating on January 1, 2023.
- Be sure to check your emails (and spam folder) for communication from the Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services Team.
- You may also check the status of your application here: [Child Care Grants Login](#)



Through Covid relief funding Oklahoma has been able to expand access for child care assistance, provide workforce support, improve payment rates and practices, plus much more. In the coming months Child Care Services will be sending a survey to all programs that have received a stabilization grant to share how the funds have impacted their program. Be on the lookout for that communication.

**Questions? Contact our dedicated Grant Support Child Care Services Call Center Monday-Friday, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm  
Phone: (405) 521-6177 [ChildCareGrantsHelp@okdhs.org](mailto:ChildCareGrantsHelp@okdhs.org)**

# QRIS

## LESSON PLANS

Lesson plans are the basic plan for the day and help caregivers select, plan, and organize activities, projects, and equipment appropriate for the ages, development, and interests of children in their care.

Required for 4 and 5-Star Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) and 3, 4, and 5-Star Child Care Programs (CCP):

All lesson plans include the following:

- developmentally appropriate activities aligning with Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) or Oklahoma Academic Standards (OAS)
- ELG and OAS are identified on the lesson plan
- they provide for the children's various ages, abilities, developmental stages, social-emotional development, special needs, and interests
- two teacher-led developmentally-appropriate physical activities daily
- enhancement activities (4 and 5 Star only)

CCP - 3, 4, and 5-Star also include:

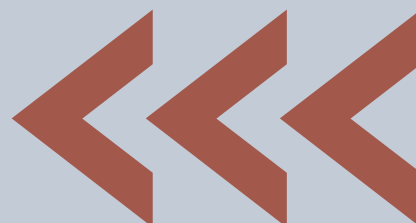
- reflect the program philosophy and goals
- are based on child development and appropriate practice
- provide for children's physical, cognitive, language, literacy, and social-emotional development
- incorporate music and songs into children's activities at multiple times of the day
- goals for children
- reviewed by personnel trained in ELG

CCP - in addition to the above, 4 and 5-Star include:

- individualization for each child's needs, including age, ability, developmental stage, social-emotional development, special needs, and interests
- are evaluated for effectiveness after implementation by master teachers and teaching personnel

Resources:

- <https://bit.ly/CurriculumandLessonPlansCECPD>
- <https://bit.ly/LessonPlanTraining>
- ELG Training can be found at:  
<https://okregistry.org/v7/trainings/search>
- Approved ELG list: <https://bit.ly/CECPDAprovedELGList>





# Subsidy Spotlight

## RECORDING ATTENDANCE FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN WHO ATTEND PART-TIME

As you are aware, OKDHS is currently reimbursing providers at a full-time rate for school-age children even when they only attend part-time (four hours or less per day).

To ensure accurate payment and avoid overpayments, Child Care Providers have the option of either:

1. requiring parents to complete a single “in” swipe, or
2. requiring parents to complete four swipes (to capture each arrival and departure time to and from school) per day on those days that part-time before and after school care is needed.

Children who attend school full-time should never be swiped in all day while they are at school (one “in” swipe and one “out” swipe). Although OKDHS is currently reimbursing part-time attendance with full-time pay as part of our COVID initiatives, these part-time days do not count towards the minimum number of days required for absent day payments. Thus, it is imperative the swiping rules above be followed to ensure you don’t incur an overpayment which must be paid back.

For further clarification,  
please review your child care  
handbook Section C:  
<https://childcarehandbook.oucpm.org/section-c/>



# VISUAL SCHEDULES

**NEED A VISUAL SCHEDULE BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?**

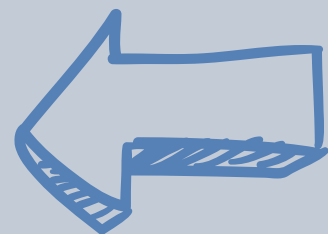


Visual schedules are one piece of high-quality supportive environments. Children use pictures to read. Therefore, the visual schedule is so important to use within your daily routines. Visual schedules let the children know what their day will look like, much like adults use calendars and planners. A child needs to know what and when they will be doing things throughout their day. Visual schedules can also help children prepare for transitions.

To make a visual schedule take pictures of children engaging in their daily activities. Once you have the pictures that correspond with the daily schedule simply print them out and make your visual schedule. Best practice is placing the pictures in a horizontal line. As it begins the left to right reading pattern. Once your visual schedule is made, refer to it often throughout the day. Some examples may include before each transition, as needed to support individual children, and when changes are made to the daily schedule.



**CLICK ON IMAGE TO  
SEE A DAILY SCHEDULE  
IN ACTION!**



## **Resources:**

- <https://bit.ly/NAEYC-TeachingChildrenwithAutism>
- <https://bit.ly/HeadStartInclusion-ClassroomVisuals>
- <https://bit.ly/ChallengingBehavior-RoutineCards>



# Certified Healthy Oklahoma

Applications for 2023 will be accepted  
August 1 through November 1, 2023



Applications are submitted online. CLICK on image to apply!

A few changes have been made for 2023. Please see the following information for application instructions, resources, guidance on the application process and the annual event registration.

- Visit the [CHO website](#) for resources which include eligibility criteria, a copy of the application and scoring.
- [Register](#) for the virtual CHO event held on September 14, 2023 from 10am to 3:30pm. More details to follow regarding speakers and breakout sessions!
- Want to see what your peers have to say about Certified Healthy Oklahoma? Check out these short videos:
  - [CHO School Video](#)
  - [CHO Wellness](#)
  - [CHO Communities](#)
- We look forward to receiving your application! For further assistance please [click here](#) for the HelpDesk.