



NeighborImpact

Critical Needs. Diverse Services. Empowering Change.

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**May 9 is Child Care Provider Appreciation Day**  
**Governor urges recognition of providers' role in young children's development**

Central Oregon — Child care organizations and parents across the nation are joining together the Friday before Mothers' Day to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day. Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski has proclaimed May 9 Child Care Provider Day, calling for the recognition of the key role of providers in the social, emotional and cognitive development of more than 165,000 children in child care settings statewide.

Locally, NeighborImpact, Child Care Resources (CCR) is leading this effort. On Saturday, May 3 NeighborImpact, Child Care Resources is offering a free class in honor of Central Oregon's child care providers. The class, "Grant Writing: Getting Your Ideas Funded" will be held in Bend at Small Wonder's Learning Center from 9:00-3:00. Each participant will leave the class with a rough draft of a grant proposal. This will help child care providers move beyond family fees to assure quality care. Please call CCR to register for this workshop at 541-548-2380 x118. The staff point out that parents do not have to spend a fortune to say thanks to their child care provider. For example, parents can help children make thank-you cards for their providers or bring cut flowers from their garden. Another idea is to ask local restaurants, movie theaters and video stores to donate gift certificates. Parents can also organize a potluck or bring cookies or a snack.

"Every day, child care providers care for 10,598 children under the age of 13 in Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties," says Lisa Vasquez, Program Manager of Child Care Resources at NeighborImpact. "The children and parents of Central Oregon depend on our child care providers. May 9 is the day to recognize the hard work, dedication and professionalism of providers and to acknowledge their contributions to high-quality care."



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“By applauding the dedication of child care providers on May 9, we remind our communities of the importance of high-quality child care, and let providers throughout the state know that we recognize and value their important work,” said Mary Nemmers, Executive Director of the Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network. “It is important that the care a child receives during the first five years of life be of high-quality because of the critical development which occurs during these years.”

Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers, Provider Appreciation Day is celebrated each year to recognize child care providers, teachers and educators of young children everywhere. The founding organizers saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working parents.

“It takes a special person to work in the child care field, and these individuals are often unrecognized,” says Vasquez. “This day offers an opportunity for parents and others to show child care providers their appreciation.”

To learn more about Provider Appreciation Day or for ideas on how to thank a child care provider, visit [www.oregonchildcare.org](http://www.oregonchildcare.org).

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NeighborImpact is dedicated to empowering individuals and families to succeed and become engaged citizens in the community.

The Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network is a membership organization of 17 child care resource and referral programs (CCR&Rs) serving every county. CCR&Rs offer training and professional development for child care providers, and information, resources and referrals to families and employers. Families may search for child care online at [www.oregonchildcare.org](http://www.oregonchildcare.org).