



Learning Through Exploration & Discovery

"A child, more than anyone else, is a spontaneous observer of nature." Maria Montessori

Young children experience learning through play and exploration in a variety of settings including, the outdoors, home, neighborhood, and child care programs.



Encouraging Early Learners Today

2018—Quarter 4

Playing in Nature

Research suggests that play, exploration and discovery are an important process in promoting children's development in all areas; cognitive, social, emotional and physical.

The outdoors is a natural setting that promotes multiple areas of development by promoting exploration, curiosity and interactions with others. As children explore their surroundings, they become curious about how things work and begin to ask questions. In their search for answers they learn new concepts, build friendships, and develop communication skills.

These experiences give meaning to what the child has learned. Experiences that are meaningful to children are remembered longer and serve as a foundation for future learning.



Support Exploration

- ★ Allow your child to make mud pies and plant a garden.
- ★ Sit with your child quietly and listen to birds sing.
- ★ Make time to listen to your child's questions and ideas.
- ★ Read stories with your child that encourage curiosity and questions.
- ★ Design projects with your child by allowing your child to lead the way.

Parent Policies - Protect Your Child Care Services

If you receive Child Care Subsidies, you are **REQUIRED** to report any household changes that might effect your eligibility within **14 calendar days**.

Changes to Report—A few examples:

1. Updated contact information including physical or mailing address, phone number, or emergency contact.
2. Change in household composition or size (increase or decrease).
3. Loss of job, new job, or other job change,

To Report a Change, Call:

(979) 595-2801
ext. 2105

Or Email:

CCMS@bvcog.org

es, temporary or permanent, including a pay raise, bonus, and an increase or decrease in hours.

4. Any other change in your life which could affect your eligibility.

Remember! If you do not notify us of changes that make you ineligible for services, you will be responsible for paying back all child care payments made during that time.

It is always better to call and ask if it affects your eligibility than to find out later.

Equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired customers may contact: Relay Texas (800) 735-2989 (TTY) or 711 (Voice).

Texas Rising Star Program

Quality Child Care Matters



Research tells us that a child's healthy development depends on safe and positive relationships and experiences during the first few years of life. Choosing quality child care is one of the most important decisions you make for your child as they spend a good portion of their first few years in the care of someone other than their parents or family members. It is important to find a program that is convenient, open when you need it, and will have a long lasting positive impact on your child's development. Most importantly, you and your child need a child care program that makes sure your child is in a physically and emotionally safe environment where he/she can learn new things.

The Texas Rising Star program is voluntary and assists providers who strive to provide a higher level of quality care for the children they serve by giving them access to mentoring and professional development resources designed to assist them in improving the quality of early childhood environments. For a list of local Texas Rising Star Providers, visit our website: bvjobs.org/programs/childcare/

Discovery and Exploration Play

Active participation in the exploration of their environments helps children develop life long skills. Skills such as problem-solving, communication, and collaboration are supported when children are able to direct their play. Working together, children learn to solve problems, to cooperate and to communicate with others.

Discovery and exploration play is well suited for both indoor and outdoor activities. These environments provide opportunities for stimulating curiosity and wonder. How does a flower grow? What makes ice melt? Why are lemons sour and bananas sweet?



Curriculum Enrichment

- ★ Spend some time with your child in your local park.
- ★ Ask your child how and why questions. Questions encourage curiosity.
- ★ Take your child to a children's museum .
- ★ Read stories to your child about people who discover new things.
- ★ Allow your child's questions and curiosity lead the way .

Provider Policies - Parent Share of Cost & Difference in Cost of Care

When a Child Care Services Specialist calls to inform you of any new referrals, they will mail out a 2450 Authorization Form. This form confirms the child's name, the approved referral dates, and Parent Share of Cost—amount paid to you by the parent.

In addition to the Parent Share of Cost, there are two types of fees that you may be able to charge CCS parents. They are:

1. Difference in Cost of Care—This is the amount you are allowed to charge that is the difference between your published rate and the rate that CCS pays—**IF** a difference exists.

CCS Provider
Specialist

(979) 595-2801
ext. 2243

CCMS@bvcog.org

2. Additional Fees—Any fees that are not included in your daily rate, such as meals, transportation, and special activities or field trips.

There are fees that you are NOT allowed to charge the parent. Those fees include:

1. Registration Fees
2. Supply Fees
3. Curriculum Fees

For more information on what you should and should not be charging CCS parents, please read the [Provider Handbook!](#)