

Subject: Every Child Belongs — New Support for Child Care Providers Launching in Select Counties of the State Starting this Summer

Dear Child Care Provider.

We're excited to share that Every Child Belongs, Oregon's early childhood suspension and expulsion prevention initiative, is launching in a phased rollout starting this summer! Phase One of Every Child Belongs will begin with these counties: Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, and Washington, and will expand statewide by next year.

Why This Matters

Oregon is committed to ensuring every child receives coordinated, culturally responsive, and family-centered support. We want to reduce the number of children and families impacted by suspension and expulsion in the early years and ensure that providers have the support they need to keep children in care. Every Child Belongs helps realize that vision by offering proactive services focused on inclusion, infant and early childhood mental health consultation, and behavior support.

What is Every Child Belongs?

Every Child Belongs (ECB) is a new, no-cost support system designed for early learning professionals like you. The initiative promotes consistent care for children and equips educators with tools and ongoing support when children have challenging behaviors.

How do I Connect to Supports?

Every Child Belongs Connect (ECB Connect) is the way for providers to get access to Every Child Belongs resources and services. Providers don't have to know which service fits their needs or call around to different places to find the right support. ECB Connect makes it quick and easy to request support.

What's Next?

Starting this summer, DELC will be launching ECB Connect Early Access in these counties: Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, and Washington and expand coverage statewide by the next year. If you have concerns about a child's behavior—or feel unsure about continuing to provide care for a child—you'll be able to request help quickly and easily:

- 1. Visit everychildbelongs.org
- 2. Click on the "Start Here" button in your preferred language
- 3. Complete a short form describing your concerns
- 4. Submit the form
- 5. A trained ECB specialist from your region will follow up with support, generally within 1-2 business days

What Support Is Available?

Through Every Child Belongs, you'll have access to:

- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation from trained professionals
- Professional development and consultation focused on inclusion and behavior support
- Family engagement strategies to strengthen collaboration with families



A new service designed to support educators to keep young children in care.

- Tools and resources to reduce suspensions and expulsions in early learning settings
- Training in anti-bias and inclusive practices
- Guidance for supporting children's social-emotional development
- Responsive support for navigating challenging behaviors

If ECB Connect is not available in your county yet, as part of the ECB Connect Early Access, you can still connect with your local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agency for available supports.



Want to Learn More? Visit <u>everychildbelongs.org</u> to learn more and view answers to frequently asked questions.

Thank you for the essential role you play in supporting Oregon's children and families. We look forward to partnering with you through Every Child Belongs.