April 10, 2020

Dear Community Members,

Child Care Connections (CCC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit advocating for the well-being and quality care of children in Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, Gallatin, Park and Meagher counties. As a community leader in child care, working with the local Elkhorn Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), we are a member of local emergency response teams and working to provide support to our communities during this uncertain time.

We strongly recommend that children and families stay home whenever possible, and that child care is used only for the care of children with parents considered to be essential workers. By doing this we are reducing the number of people who are exposed to one another and decreasing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Our agency oversees The Guardian Program in the event of a community emergency. This program opens licensed child care facilities that offer temporary child care for local relief workers, such as firefighters, and emergency responders so that they can continue their critical work.

At this time the directive these Guardian Programs will be following recommendations, including:
- Limiting the number of children to 24 in any physical location (ie: school, library, etc.)
- In these settings, keeping groups of children to 8-10 (the smaller the better)
- Prioritizing keeping family units in the same group (i.e. an infant, 2 yr old and 4 yr old from the same family would be in the same group.)
- Following strict health check protocol of staff and children daily, including temperature and symptom check
- Following sanitizing protocol set forth by the CDC
- Each program will be charging their standard fee
- CCC is providing programs with an expedited intake form for children. If the child is in the program for an extended amount of time, immunization records and relevant paperwork will be required according to the Montana Child Care Licensing rules and regulations.
- CCC will be supporting the Guardian Programs through this pandemic

Please contact Child Care Connections at:
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