


# Child Care Connection

## QUALITY TEAM NEWS



### FALL 2023



In this newsletter, the Quality Team is pleased to provide activities & ideas in the spirit of celebrating young learners and their families. We hope you will take some time to get to know us and reach out with any questions about the services we provide to Mercer County Child Care Providers and the families they serve.

### ALLI STORM, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & REFERRAL SERVICES

Hi! I'm Alli Storm, Director of Education and Referral Services. I supervise and support our amazing Quality Team. As a team, we offer early care and education-related professional development training, as well as a variety of technical assistance services to child care programs throughout Mercer County. My contact information is: [allisonstorm@ccc-nj.org](mailto:allisonstorm@ccc-nj.org) or 609-989-7770 ext. 139.



### ALISON CHEVRIER, SHARED SERVICES ALLIANCE COORDINATOR



My name is Alison Chevrier and my role at the agency is to facilitate the formation of the Mercer County Shared Services Alliance.

In an Early Childhood Shared Service Alliance, necessities such as marketing, accounting, or recruiting can be shared among several child care centers. This can reduce the cost and time administrators typically spend on such responsibilities. Therefore, leadership focus can be geared more towards educational & pedagogical aspects of their program while also increasing financial stability. This leads to greater business sustainability and overall quality of care for children & families.

I'm excited to connect and offer membership to more centers across the county! You can contact me for more information at [alisonchevrier@ccc-nj.org](mailto:alisonchevrier@ccc-nj.org).

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

The QIS guides Child Care Centers and Family Child Care providers through the first phase of Grow New Jersey Kids, which is New Jersey's Quality Rating Improvement System. Programs enrolled in Grow NJ Kids have made a commitment to continuous quality improvement, meaning they are constantly working hard to make sure their program is an environment for young children to learn, grow, and thrive..

We will soon be hiring for this position! Please contact Alli Storm at [allisonstorm@ccc-nj.org](mailto:allisonstorm@ccc-nj.org) or 609-989-7770 ext. 139 for assistance..

## ARIEL PEREZ, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST



My name is Ariel Perez and I am the Family Engagement Specialist at Child Care Connection. I facilitate Parent Cafés and Books, Balls, and Blocks events to inform families about desired services and positive child development outcomes. The Parent Café is an opportunity to connect with other parents and engage in conversations discussing the joys and challenges surrounding parenting. Books, Balls and Blocks is an interactive event for families with children 0-5 years old to learn about developmental milestones, developmental screenings, and fun ways to encourage learning at home. In addition, I am available to assist with accessing community resources such as housing and food assistance, child care referrals, enrichment programs and a variety of other resources in Mercer County. Feel free to reach out to me at [arielperez@ccc-nj.org](mailto:arielperez@ccc-nj.org) if you would like to receive more information. I look forward to assisting you.

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## GINI HAMPTON, INFANT TODDLER SPECIALIST

As the Infant Toddler Specialist, I support programs serving infants and toddlers. I provide technical assistance and training, and work in partnership with you to develop individualized plans to determine how I can best support your program.

You can reach me at [virginiahampton@ccc-nj.org](mailto:virginiahampton@ccc-nj.org) or 609-989-7770 x123.



# FAMILY ACTIVITIES

## Some fun fall events happening in Mercer County...

### Fall Family Fun Weekends at Terhune Orchards!

330 Cold Soil Road, Princeton

10AM-5PM

Pick your own pumpkins & apples!

### Palmer Square's Music Fest Sundays

October 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

Palmer Square South, Princeton

Showtime at 1pm. Free and for all ages!

### Festival Cultural Latino

Join us to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the Festival Cultural Latino on October 8th, 2023 at the Princeton YMCA.

Experience the richness and diversity of Latin American culture through its music, local artists and artisans, traditional food, and arts and crafts activities including the community piñata!

This event is free and open to the public.

## In the Kitchen...

After visiting the orchard, make some homemade applesauce!

3 pounds apples (about 8-9 medium apples)

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup water

2 teaspoons lemon juice

Optional:

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

- Place all ingredients in a medium sauce pan, cover and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Cook for 15-20 minutes or until apples are soft and easy to mash.
- Allow to cool at least 10 minutes before serving.