



# Child Care Health Consultants Make Early Care and Education Programs Healthier and Safer



## How can a CCHC support early care and education programs?

A child care health consultant (CCHC) combines health expertise with knowledge of early care and education best practices to help programs ensure healthy and safe learning environments. They do this by:

- Helping programs understand children's healthy growth and development and how to address children's health conditions
- Writing or reviewing policies and procedures
- Observing health and safety practices and helping programs prevent illness and injuries
- Providing training for staff and families
- Facilitating referrals to community health and social service resources
- Assisting programs with quality improvement strategies

## Scientific research supports the importance of a CCHC.

Studies<sup>1</sup> have confirmed that CCHCs improve the health and safety of children in early care and education programs by:

- Increasing staff knowledge of health issues in child care settings
- Increasing compliance with health and safety best practice standards
- Improving the quality of health and safety policies and practices, including handwashing, sanitation, and safe sleep practices
- Increasing the number of children who receive oral, developmental, vision, and hearing screenings and assessments
- Improving children's access to a medical home, enrollment in health insurance, and up-to-date immunization status
- Strengthening environmental health practices
- Promoting the inclusion of children with special health care needs

<sup>1</sup> Please see page 25 of the Child Care Health Consultant Competencies <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/child-care-health-consultant-competencies> for a full list of references related to the benefits of using a CCHC.

## What is a CCHC?

A CCHC is a health professional with education and experience in child and community health who also has specific training in early care and education and child care health consultation. In some states, regulations determine who can be a CCHC.

CCHCs collaborate with directors, teachers, and family child care providers to improve the overall quality of care.

**Learn more.** Visit <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/health-services-management/article/child-care-health-consultants> for resources related to child care health consultation, including tips for working with a CCHC, CCHC competencies, interactive skill-building modules, and more. If you are not sure how to find a CCHC, contact your state Child Care Resource and Referral agency or local health department.

