

Policy Roundtable for Child Care & Development Commission

A graphic of three overlapping silhouettes of human heads in profile, facing right, rendered in various shades of blue. They are positioned on the right side of the slide, partially overlapping the main title text.

March 11, 2026

Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners, Alternates, and Guests

Comments from the Chair

Approval of Minutes

February 11, 2026

Presentation on Child Care Planning Committee Activities for FY 25-26 Update

Local Funding Priorities

Mandated Role of Child Care Planning Committee:

- Prioritize LA County zip codes, also known as “Local Funding Priorities,” based on several factors
- Provide this prioritized list of zip codes to CA Department of Education and CA Department of Social Services
 - These departments use the prioritized zip codes to determine the departments’ distribution of new state child care and development and preschool funding

Public Hearing Regarding Revising Local Funding Priorities

- Wed., April 1, 2026, 10:00 AM- 1:15 AM at The California Endowment
- List of zip codes with priorities will be available at childcare.lacounty.gov by **March 27, 2026**
- Oral comments will be accepted during the hearing. Written comments must be submitted by **April 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM** to Simone Taylor at staylor@ph.lacounty.gov
- For questions, contact the OAECE at OAECE@PH.lacounty.gov or call (213) 639-6202

Presentation on
Service Coordination Strategy:
Highlights of
Early Care and Education
Supports Provided by
Various LA County Departments

Highlighting the following LA County Departments

- Department of Recreation and Parks
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Department of Public Social Services
- Department of Mental Health

Each Department will spotlight a program/activity that supports early care and education





**LA County Department of Parks and Recreation &
Department of Public Health, Office of Advancement of
Early Care and Education**

Child Development Program Improvement Project

**Policy Roundtable for Child Care and
Development Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 am**

Presenter: Mercedes Santoro, Ed.D.

- **Creating thematic activities that uplift careers through play**
- **Situated within communities for young children to explore at parks via repurposed drop-in indoor and outdoor spaces and Tiny Tot Programs**
- **Co-lead by youth@work to explore ECE careers**





Fostering Resilience through Play and Career Exploration

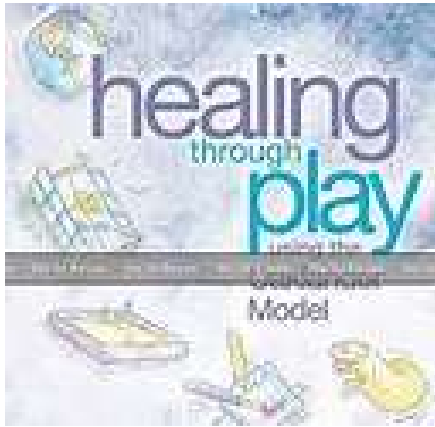
- Pilot will take place at 3-4 park locations
- Early Career Exploration for Teens and Youth
- Repurposing Outdoor and Indoor Park Amenities

- Project-Based Activities
- Inter-Generational
- Multi-Age
- Center-Based
- Offer Child-Care Choices



- Encourage Partnerships with Colleges, County Departments, Local Schools and ECE Organizations





Key principles of the Reggio Emilia approach

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Image of the child | • Project based curriculum |
| Community commitment | • Collaboration |
| Supportive relationships | • Documentation - links to the co-construction of curriculum |
| A unique philosophy | • Aesthetics is privileged |
| Preparation of the environment/space | • The many languages of children - Atelierista |

Components of Pilot Child Development Project

- Tiny Tots: Ages 3-5
- Professional Development
- Curriculum Development
- Drop-In Indoor and Outdoor Play Centers
 - Focusing on Early Career Exploration in County of Los Angeles Jobs
 - Encourage County Professionals to Read Stories and Talk About their Career

Components of Trauma-Informed Care



.Substance Abuse for Mental Health Services Adm

REGISTER
reservations.lac



Tiny Tots PROGRAM

Parks are the
for children ages
ore, make friends,
p essential skills
ay, creativity, and
tivity! Tiny Tots is
n-based program
o foster growth,
, and joyful
a safe and
nvironment.

SEPTEMBER 2 - NOVEMBER
MONDAY-THURSDAY

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Free
Applicant must register
for two-week session

Participants must be potty trained
before the program starts.

Loma Alta Park
3330 N. Lincoln Ave.
Altadena, CA 91001
(626) 398-5451



Tiny Tot Program (Loma Alta Park Fire Recovery) Program Description

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is offering one **FREE** 8-week Tiny Tot Program at Loma Alta Park for children impacted by the Eaton Fire. Pasadena USD staff recently reported there is a gap in programs for the 3- to 5-year-olds and has been taking inquires from families on services for this population. Children's Programs are safe havens for helping children with trauma histories recover and build resilience. Currently DPR has the capacity offer one free session of program in the morning from 9 am to noon Monday thru Thursday serving up to 20 children. The custodial program connects children to the outdoors, encourages them to explore early career pathways, builds self-confidence and construct knowledge through play. Children will learn and discover through group games, arts and culture experiences and center-based play that includes, blocks, dramatic play, reading, music and movement and arts and culture.

Focus: The Loma Alta Park Tiny Tot equipment and supplies were contaminated during the Eaton Fire and need to be replaced to offer a safe and stimulating environment for our youngest park goers.

The pilot will fully offset an outdoor dramatic play center in an unused courtyard.

Serves 24 Children Daily



LACO Parks partners with the Department of Economic opportunity and community volunteers to support park programming.

We are committed to training youth@ work, ages 18-24 years, and our volunteers in customer service, programing principles and engaging our park patrons in play.

This program will provide valuable exposure to youth and community members to career pathways in ECE.



We Are HIRING
YOUTH@WORK

Job Description

- Support the afterschool program, including activities like sports, fitness, arts, ESTEAM, and more. Assist with event setup, breakdown, operations, and support performances and interactive experiences.

Program Information

- **Every Body Plays (EBP):**
 - Afterschool program at 60 LA County parks.
 - Activities include sports, fitness, arts and crafts, ESTEAM, and group games.
- **Community Events:**
 - Support activities, performances, and interactive experiences.
 - Assist with setup, breakdown, and event operations.

<https://yaw.opportunity.lacounty.gov/yaw-participant>
OR <https://tinyurl.com/YouthLACounty>

Hourly Rate
\$17.28 - July 1st

REQUIREMENTS

- Youth ages 14-24
- Work permit required for those 17 or younger
- Must provide right-to-work documents
- Los Angeles County resident
- Must meet additional eligibility requirements

APPLY NOW!
PRIORITY PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE BASED ON ELIGIBILITY RECRUITMENTS

For more information visit:
parks.lacounty.gov/youth-at-work

 **Scan Me!**

  **department of economic opportunity**
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Building Our
Future
through Play:
Block Centers





Fostering Childhood Resilience through Play

According to anecdotal feedback, LA County Parks Care Camps fostered resilience in children impacted by the devastating fires by empowering them with self-care and mindful techniques to cope with trauma.

Parks staff go through extensive training and program curriculum designed to foster creativity, collaboration, communication and constructing new knowledge among children. Sports, play and movement activities are known to promote healing among children with trauma histories and is a developmentally-informed and biologically-respectful approach to helping children process trauma through play ([Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D. – Trauma and Development](#)) and are a cornerstone of our children's programming curriculum.

Additionally, DPR will continue to train staff and partners overseeing programs and services in trauma-informed programming, as well as supporting staffs' self-care and compassion fatigue.

Department of Children and Family Services

- Program: DCFS Child Care – Alternative Payment Program/Bridge Child Care Program
- Purpose
- Outcomes
- Looking forward...

DCFS programs provide immediate access and certification for child care to children who are in the child care foster care system



Department of Public Social Services

- Program: CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care
- Purpose
- Outcomes
- Looking forward...

Stage 1 Child Care supports cash-aided families with access to child care



Department of Mental Health

- Program: Early Childhood Fellowship and Friends of the Children
- Purpose
- Outcomes
- Looking forward...

- The Fellowship provides training and education to the child care workforce
- Friends of the Children supports children with meeting educational goals



Commission Discussion

What additional service coordination opportunities can be elevated to connect to these programs or activities?

Presentation on Status of Local, State, and Federal Public Policies and Joint Committee on Legislation and Proposed Pursuit of Position

State Budget 2026-2027

- Trailer Bill language starting to be posted at trailerbill.dof.ca.gov
- May Revise must be submitted by 5/14/26

State Legislation

- Deadline for introducing new bills was February 20, 2026
- Legislation Introduced:
 - **AB 1981 – Subsidized childcare: reimbursement rates: reporting**
 - **AB 2379 - Childcare workers: immigration rights**

State Legislation Introduced (continued)

- AB 1914 General plan elements: childcare
- AB 1937 Discrimination: business establishments
- AB 1996 California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council
- AB 2092 Early Childhood Integrated Data System
- AB 2429 Child care: mental health consultation services
- AB 2673 Personal Income / Corporation Tax: credit: childcare
- SB 902 Child care: electronic signatures
- SB 980 Access to medical records
- SB 1051 Foster care: childcare
- SB 1110 Early learning and care: rates
- SB 1200 Family daycare homes
- Spot bills: AB 2258 AB 2314 SB 954

Implementation of AB 495

- Model Policies for Child Daycare and California State Preschool Programs (CSPP)
- Guidance due by April 1, 2026 and will be posted on CA Dept. of Justice website
 - Expect robust guidance with pull-out tools for use
- CSPP programs must adopt by July 1, 2026
- Board of Supervisors passed resolution to ensure families have materials and information

Federal: 2027 Funding

- President's budget was due first Monday in February, expected late March or April
- “Dear Colleague” letters circulating for 2027 funding

Focus on Fraud in Child Care and Nutrition Programs

- Focus remains on fraud, oversight, and protecting taxpayer dollars
- Senate HELP Committee hearing on fraud in child care assistance on 2/12/26
- House Committee on Education & Workforce passed 8 bills on 3/5/26
 - H.R. 7720–26 & 7677

Policy Priorities

Process for Developing Pursuit of Position

- **Joint Committee on Legislation (JCL)** reviews state and federal public policies: *budget, legislation, and administrative policies*. **JCL** identifies and recommends priority policy issues to Policy Roundtable to consider for Pursuit of Position.
- **JCL** presents recommended policy priorities to **Child Care Planning Committee** for input
- **JCL** presents recommended policy priorities to **Policy Roundtable** and shares Child Care Planning Committee input
- **Policy Roundtable** reviews and finalizes policy priorities to include in Pursuit of Position (**Feb. 2026**)
- **OAECE** staff prepares Pursuit of Position
- **Policy Roundtable approves** Pursuit of Position (**March 2026**) 
- **Joint ECE Delegation** consisting of Policy Roundtable Commissioners and Child Care Planning Committee Board appointees meet with Children's Deputies and shares pursuit of position (**starting March 2026**)

Pursuit of Position

Request the County to take an official position on state and/or federal public policy issues



Policy Priorities for Pursuit of Positions

1. Support implementation of reimbursement rate alternative methodology
2. Support immigration protections for ECE providers and the children they serve
3. Support wildfire recovery and rebuild

Commission Discussion

- **Are there any clarifying questions?**
- **Is there any other critical legislation or budget items that need to be elevated in this discussion?**

Approval of Pursuit of Positions

Pursuit of Positions

- 7a. Support AB 1981 and similar measures that require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to provide a definitive timeline and annual updates regarding CDSS's transition to new reimbursement rates based on the alternative methodology**
- 7b. Support AB 2379 and similar measures that strengthen protections for immigrant child care providers and the children they serve by notifying child care providers of their constitutional rights when confronted by immigration enforcement**
- 7c. Support proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget item and similar measures that strengthen child care infrastructure, specifically targeted toward communities impacted by recent fires**

Announcements and General Public Comment

Call to Adjourn Meeting



Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission