



March 23, 2020

COVID-19 and Child Care in St. Lawrence County

Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders identify child care as an essential service. Unlike schools, colleges and other entities **child care programs in St. Lawrence County have not been closed by the state**. At this time the state is leaving any decisions to close to each provider or program unless advised to close by the local or state health department. At this time and the majority of home based Family & Group Family Day Care providers and Child Care Centers in St. Lawrence County have chosen to remain open. In fact, many have child care openings as a direct result of the executive orders requiring non-essential workers to remain at or work from home.

The St. Lawrence Child Care Council is a state funded Child Care Resource & Referral Agency serving families, early childhood providers and the greater St. Lawrence County community since 1993. We are also considered an essential service available to help anyone who needs assistance finding child care options at this time. Although most of our staff is working remotely, we will have at least one staff member available in the office each day. We are maintaining direct communication with all licensed/registered child care programs throughout the county on a regular basis to identify who has openings. If you are in need of child care please contact the St. Lawrence Child Care Council at (315) 393-6474. Should you reach our voice message system:

1. Select Extension 12 at any time during that greeting - leave your name and contact information (phone and email, if available) - we will contact you the same day or within one business day.
2. Contact information and a description of child care needs may also be emailed to slccc@nynmail.com - we will contact you the same day or within one business day.

Helping essential workers find child care is and will remain our priority as this situation evolves. Be well, stay safe and stay informed.

Respectfully,

Bruce M. Stewart
Executive Directo

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