



## March Newsletter



### DSS Family Day Care Transition Grant

The South Dakota (SD) Department of Social Services (DSS) is now accepting applications from state unregulated and city licensed family day care providers that are currently working to become state registered.

**This opportunity allows eligible day care providers to apply for up to \$15,000** in grant funding to purchase compliance-related items and enhancements for their program. Providers awarded this grant will also receive technical assistance, free marketing, free health and safety training, access to the SD Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) Start Provider Portal to advertise, professional growth and credential opportunities, social emotional training, and more.

Please click the button below to learn more and to apply.

[Learn More](#)

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# South Dakota Early Childhood Education Conference



Presented by  
-SDAEYC/SDHSA-

## 2023 South Dakota Early Childhood Education Conference

### "Revitalizing the Early Childhood Profession"

Dates: April 13th-15th, 2023

Location: 100 4th St. SW, Huron, SD 57350

Click the button below to visit the conference website, which includes a list of breakout sessions, keynote presenters and to register for the event.

[Register Here](#)

### Key Note Speakers



**Thursday Keynote**  
Audrey Rider  
SDSU Extension



**Friday Keynote**  
SDPB Education Team  
Dr. Marcy Drew  
Steve Rokusek  
Kevin Nelson  
Danielle Flom



**Saturday Keynote**  
Stephanie Staples  
[Website](#)



SAVE THE DATE

STATEWIDE

CHILD CARE

**BUSINESS  
COLLABORATIVE**

**ZOOM MEETING**

MARCH 15TH 2 P.M. MT / 3 P.M. CT

## Statewide Child Care Business Collaborative

**March 15th from 2:00 - 3:30 PM MT / 3:00 - 4:30 PM CT.  
Via Zoom**

Please join our discussion on current solutions and future, sustainable solutions to childcare issues relative to South Dakota businesses.

Click the link below to RSVP for the event, and receive the Zoom Link. We look forward to you joining us!

[RSVP For Zoom Meeting](#)

## ELSD Leadership Spotlight



## Marcy Drew

Marcy Drew is the Director of Education at South Dakota Public Broadcasting. She lives in Sioux Falls with her husband Glen, their two middle-school-aged children, and two spoiled dogs. She spends a lot of time getting the kids and their friends where they want to go and occasionally helping out with the family food truck business. Through her work at SDPB, you can often find her driving around SD with giant cutouts of PBS Kids characters in the back of her vehicle on her way to share fun, educational resources and professional development with families, childcare providers, and teachers.

Marcy grew up in central South Dakota and got her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from SDSU. After a few years working in Los Angeles as a childcare teacher and home visitor, she came home to attend graduate school at USD, where she earned an Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction. Her career also included teaching early childhood special education, a variety of roles with Head Start and Early Head Start, and lecturer of early childhood and elementary education in the School of Education at USD.

In addition to her role as the co-chair of the ELSD Collaboration Committee, Marcy is involved in the SD Association for the Education of Young Children, SD Association of Child Care Directors, South Dakota's Learn the Signs Act Early Team, and the Sioux Falls Junior Roller Derby Board of Directors.

## National Partner Feature



## BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

### **The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)**

Early Learner South Dakota is proud to partner with the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), to address one of South Dakota's most pressing needs – child care. As a partner in our South Dakota Child Care Business Collaborative, BPC helps us identify critical child care challenges in our state and develop comprehensive plans to tackle them. Through its Early Childhood Initiative, BPC leads the way in innovative bipartisan solutions for child care.

Last year, BPC partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to create the Early Childhood and Business Advisory Council. This Council aims to expand high-quality, affordable child care in communities and states across the country, including South Dakota. By providing technical assistance, developing resources, and facilitating networking

opportunities, BPC strengthens connections between businesses and early childhood communities.

BPC's Early Childhood Initiative is widely recognized as our nation's leading think tank addressing both the supply and demand for child care and the economic impact of the lack of care on states and communities. BPC has conducted nine national surveys of parents to better understand parent needs and preferences for child care.

[Learn More](#)



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