

**For Immediate Release
February 17, 2022**

**Child Development Council
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(Ithaca, NY, February 17, 2022) The Child Development Council has received funding to implement *Ensuring Equity and Inclusion in Child Care*, a new initiative designed to enhance inclusivity of local child care programs.

As the ***Child Development Council***, working to promote the healthy development of children and families at home, in child care, and in the community, it is our responsibility to address inequalities in child care, for the wellbeing of children, families, and providers.

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion in Child Care will partner with Tompkins County child care providers to create more inclusive environments and practices that recognize and celebrate the unique strengths of each family they serve, ensuring children have early care and learning experiences intentionally designed to promote their wellbeing.

How it works:

In partnership with the Council's ***Ensuring Equity and Inclusion Child Care Specialist***, engaged child care providers will complete a comprehensive overview of activities, materials, toys, books, celebrations, etc to examine the equity and inclusion practices of their programs. Providers will have the opportunity to receive ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training and participate in the Intercultural Development Inventory, using this information as a road map to creating more inclusive early care and learning environments.

Participating providers will be eligible to receive funds to enhance program inclusivity.

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion in Child Care aims to enhance the quality of child care in Tompkins County to ensure early care and learning experiences are inclusive and unbiased, resulting in healthier, safer, more culturally responsive environments for children, families, and child care employees.

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion in Child Care is funded by a two-year grant awarded to the Child Development Council from the Park Foundation. We are seeking a dynamic individual to champion this important effort. Please visit our website for more information.

For additional information about ***Ensuring Equity and Inclusion in Child Care***, please contact Melissa@childdevelopmentcouncil.org.

For updates of all services, please visit www.childdevelopmentcouncil.org or visit our facebook page.

The mission of the Child Development Council is to promote the healthy development of children and families at home, in child care and in the community.

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