



Training Calendar February, 2026

To register for trainings contact:

Shelli Blair

srblair@eiu.edu

217 581-5790

February



STRENGTHENING BUSINESS PRACTICES FOR CENTERS

February 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

RSVP by January 23rd

2-5 pm

Zoom

Strengthening Business Practices for Centers is a four week series which delves into fundamental principles of financial and operational management within childcare programs. This training aims to bolster childcare providers' essential understanding of fiscal terminology, concepts, and practices. It inspires providers to acknowledge the critical role of financial planning in ensuring the longevity of their operations. Additionally, it offers valuable insights and best practices concerning financial, organizational, and human resource objectives, simplifying fiscal processes into achievable steps for greater success.

Trainer: Melissa Coleman, Childcare Resource Specialist

13 hours/ CDA:5

COMMUNITY CHAT, (AKA: Provider Networking Meeting)

February 4, 2026

No RSVP needed

1-2:30 pm

Zoom

Community Chats are all about you, the provider! These chats offer a fantastic opportunity to connect with other providers, dive into meaningful discussions, and ask questions to fellow professionals and resource specialists who can shed light on the challenges you face in early childhood. Our team at EIU Child Care Resource and Referral is here to share resources, updates, important dates, chances for professional growth, funding, grant info, and so much more. We invite everyone to come ready with ideas and resources to make our networking experience even better. Remember, these meetings happen every month!

Trainer: Shelli Blair, Provider Services

1.5 hours/CDA:6

RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE: TRAINING FOR MANDATED REPORTERS

February 18, 2026
RSVP by February 4, 2026

1-2 pm
Ninth Street Hall

This in-person training aims to empower all Illinois Mandated Reporters with the knowledge to fulfill their vital responsibility in safeguarding children by identifying signs of abuse. Anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect is encouraged to contact the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline to report it, but Mandated Reporters are legally obligated to take action.

Trainer: Melissa Coleman, Childcare Resource Specialist **1 Hour/CDA 1**

BIG BEHAVIORS, BIG EMOTIONS! BRAINS AND BEHAVIORS

February 18, 2026: Brains and Behaviors
March 18, 2026: From Feelings to Words
April 15, 2026: Safety Before Skills
May 20, 2026: Filling Your Cups

6-7:30 pm
Mattoon Public Library

BIG behaviors come from BIG emotions! Join this free hands on workshop series for parents, educators and caregivers to better understand the "explosive" child, so you can respond calmly and with confidence.

Session one: Brains and Behaviors
The science of developing brains and age appropriate behaviors and milestones.

All Sessions are not required to earn credits. These Sessions are also aligned to Second Step and Leader in Me Curriculums. Light refreshments will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own food and drink.

Trainer: Bea Sawyer, Mental Health Consultant **1.5 Hours/CDA: 3**

PROGRAM FOR INFANT TODDLER CARE (PITC)

MODULE 2: Group Care

February 21, 2026
RSVP BY: February 9, 2026

8-2:30pm (lunch break included)
Ninth Street Hall

Group Care emphasizes unique considerations for nurturing infants and toddlers, alongside six essential program policies designed to foster emotionally secure connections and promote mental well-being within a group environment. Module 2 offers a comprehensive overview that delves into the principles of primary care, thoughtfully crafted learning spaces, and the positive influence of responsive caregiving routines. It highlights the significance of personalized care in enhancing the overall well-being and development of children from birth to age three. Furthermore, it addresses how policies surrounding primary care, small group interactions, continuity, culturally sensitive approaches, and inclusive practices for children with special needs lay the groundwork for exceptional care for infants and toddlers. By the conclusion of this module, participants will be equipped with the skills to implement primary care in their homes or classrooms, create stimulating environments, support children through daily routines, and tailor care to meet the unique needs of every child.

Trainer: Vicky Foster, Infant Toddler Specialist

6 hours+2 for online assessment /CDA: 1

CAREER PATHWAYS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

February 26, 2026

RSVP by February 12, 2026

1-2 pm

Zoom

This training introduces the field of early childhood education and care as a career. It focuses on the personal and professional development necessary to impact the lives of young children and families. Identifying effective resources, finding pathways for learning and financial support are included. Learners will be able to describe career opportunities available in the field of early childhood in Illinois and ways a Higher Education and Workforce Development Navigator can support them from the start of their journey.

Trainer: Melissa Coleman, Child Care Resource Specialist

1 Hour/CDA: 5

Register Today!

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CPR AND FIRST AID COURSES

EIU CCR&R Reimbursement Procedure:

- Schedule training
- Keep your payment receipt
- Attend the training
- Receive your CPR/First Aid certificate/card
- Complete our reimbursement application. The application can be found on our website at www.eiu.edu/ccrr
- Return completed application and documents to 600 W Lincoln Ave Charleston, IL 61920 or srblair@eiu.edu



Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center :

CPR: \$50

February 3, 2026

April 7, 2026

CPR/FIRST AID COMBO \$100

March 3, 2026

May 5, 2026

All classes begin at 5:30 pm at 104 Professional Plaza Mattoon, IL

To register call 217 258-2403 or emsgroup@sblhs.org

Online Course Option:

American Heart Association: <https://www.onlineaha.org/courses>

- Complete the Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED \$23.00
- Contact SBLHC EMS office at 217 258-2403 to request a test out
\$50 for CPR Test Out
\$90 for CPR/First Aid Combo Test Out

***Please note that we are unable to reimburse for any trainings taken in the month of June**