

## Children begin returning to select Early Childhood Education centers

After seven months of serving children virtually, those enrolled at a number of Early Childhood Education (ECE) Child Development Centers are beginning to return for in-person instruction.



The first center to welcome children back was the London Child Development Center. Ten students returned to a warm welcome from staff and a festive fall pumpkin patch. “I’d like to thank the staff for all of the hard work and dedication to this transition of offering on-site care again,” said ECE Administrator Dr. Alex Elliott. “Together, we have taken time to rethink each step of our day – from the kitchen staff needing to find new ways to serve food, to custodians rearranging their cleaning schedule, to teachers learning new strategies to encourage social distancing in the classrooms.”

Dr. Elliott reports that the program will begin reopening one site or classroom at a time in the coming weeks. The slow and methodical process will involve collaboration with school districts where many of the ECE centers are located.

“Parents are excited to hear that we have started to reopen,” said Dr. Elliott. “We have reassured them that they have a choice of whether their child attends in-person or continues virtually, and that we are committed to serving them and their children however they feel most comfortable.”



*Photos above:*

*~ Children at the Early Childhood Education center in London were recently welcomed back by staff with a festive pumpkin patch. The London Child Development Center was the first of the program’s centers to reopen after seven months of virtual instruction.*

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## **Theatre Company posts videos of recent student work**

Videos of the work Theatre Company students did in the program’s virtual summer classes have been edited and posted to TCOE’s YouTube account. Theatre Company Director Bethany Rader reports that the videos feature performances by students in her monologue class, plus the work of students in Nicole Zweifel’s dance class and Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa’s vocal class. The videos can be found at [tcoe.org/TheatreCo/SummerWorkshops](https://tcoe.org/TheatreCo/SummerWorkshops).

A second series of videos feature Theatre Company graduated seniors in the program’s annual “cabaret.” “Our senior cabaret has traditionally been a way we could say goodbye to our recently graduated seniors and give them one last chance to sing or perform,” said Ms. Rader. “This year looks a little different being that the performances were captured on Zoom. Despite the virtual performance environment, our students were amazing! These students will be greatly missed here in the TCOE theater community.” To see the senior cabaret videos, visit [tcoe.org/TheatreCo/SeniorCabaret](https://tcoe.org/TheatreCo/SeniorCabaret).



*Photo above:*

*~ Theatre Company graduate Jaden Church performs as part of the program's annual senior cabaret. Videos of this year's graduate virtual performances are available on TCOE's YouTube channel.*

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## **Early Childhood Education offers professional learning opportunities**

TCOE's Early Childhood Education Program is hosting a variety of professional learning opportunities each month during the school year. Some of the training topics include trauma informed care, working with children with special needs, strengthening families, and community care licensing.

The intended audience for these trainings include family childcare providers, state preschool staff, Head Start staff, private center based staff, home based staff, and tribal childcare staff, as well as current college students who are seeking their degree in early childhood education or child development.

“These trainings are designed to support participants with strategies to work with the children and to expand the knowledge of all early care and education professionals,” said Samantha Terry, manager of the Tulare County Council on Child & Youth Development. In order to register for these trainings, participants must first create a Workforce Registry Profile at [caregistry.org](https://www.caregistry.org). When registering, check the calendar and the Workforce Registry website for training updates, as trainings are subject to change. For additional information on the trainings or the Workforce Registry website, please contact [cwr@tcoe.org](mailto:cwr@tcoe.org).



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## **Distance Learning Resources**

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
- [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
- [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)

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