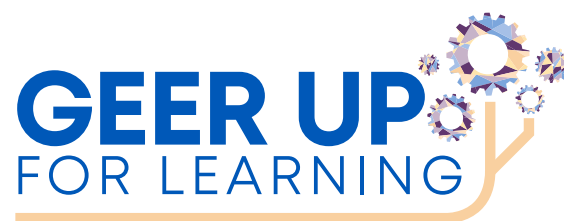


Providers



WELCOME PACKET

Family Child Care



Funded by the OEC through the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund in partnership with NEAT, the RESC Alliance, and All Our Kin.



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood



Governor's Education
Emergency Relief



ALL OUR KIN



INTRODUCTION



Welcome Family Child Care Providers!

During this challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been difficult for many families to maintain connections with their child's early learning program. This challenge has been especially true for families who need to keep their child home for health and safety concerns, and who may have limited access to technology. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is able to provide technology support to families with young children who are in need and deserving of support. It has also helped to support providers with tech support to keep educating and connecting with these families.

These funds come from \$3 billion Congress set aside for the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act. Connecticut received \$27.8 million, of which the Office of the Governor awarded OEC \$4 million.

OEC was awarded
**\$4 million
dollars.**

The OEC is fortunate to have support from the community with this effort. OEC is partnering with the Regional Educational Service Centers Alliance (RESC), New England Assistive Technology (NEAT), and All Our Kin (AOK) to help distribute Hotspots and other tech devices, as well as provide technical support and learning for children and families.



GUIDELINES



We look forward to assisting you during this difficult time, and hope the services and technology provided to you will help the children you work with grow and flourish.

In order to assure the best possible outcomes, there are several guidelines we ask you to follow listed below. If you have any questions, please contact your service coordinator.

1. Getting Started with the Hotspot

- ⚙️ Hotspot Care
- ⚙️ Internet Safety

2. Exiting GEER Up for Learning

- ⚙️ Returning Hotspot

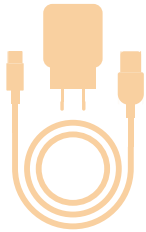
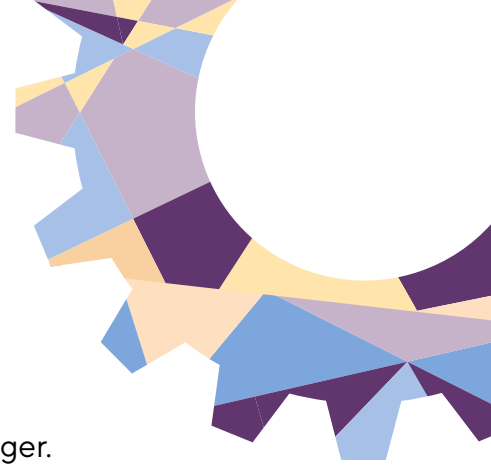
3. Professional Development

4. Resources

- ⚙️ OEC Website
- ⚙️ Sparkler



GETTING STARTED



- ⚙️ You will receive a Kajeet Hotspot and charger.
 - ⚙️ The Kajeet SmartSpot® is a portable Wi-Fi Hotspot that provides children, parents, and educators with the fastest, filtered broadband access anywhere there is cellular coverage.
- ⚙️ All set up instructions can be found on this [website](#) or in this [video](#).
- ⚙️ Connecting a device to the Hotspot can be found on this [website](#).
- ⚙️ Any other questions can be answered on the [Kajeet FAQ page](#), at the top of the page under Smartspot Guide for Students & Parents.
- ⚙️ This Hotspot is supervised and managed by All Our Kin.
- ⚙️ Devices may not be available to replace a broken, lost, or stolen Hotspot.
- ⚙️ If needing technical support, you can call the Help Desk at **860-407-6789** between 9am and 4pm for assistance.


Hotspot Care







- ⚙️ Protect the Hotspot as you would your purse or wallet.
- ⚙️ Don't leave your Hotspot in a car.
- ⚙️ Don't leave the Hotspot unattended in a public space.
- ⚙️ Protect your Hotspot from liquids and extreme temperatures.
- ⚙️ Report a lost or stolen Hotspot immediately.



INTERNET SAFETY



 The devices are filtered with Kajeet Education Broadband™. These cloud-based filters provide your child with safe, education-only Internet access.

-  Always supervise children while they browse the Internet.
-  Always keep your passwords secure.
-  Only allow family members to use the Hotspot.
-  Only communicate online with people you can identify.
-  Never open attachments without trusting the sender.
-  Always remain careful about sharing your personal information. Learn how to recognize and protect yourself from phishing (the tricks that are used to steal information and more) [here](#).

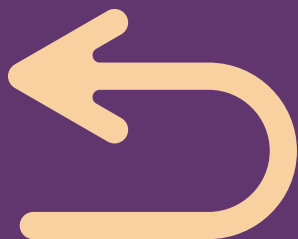


RETURNING HOTSPOT

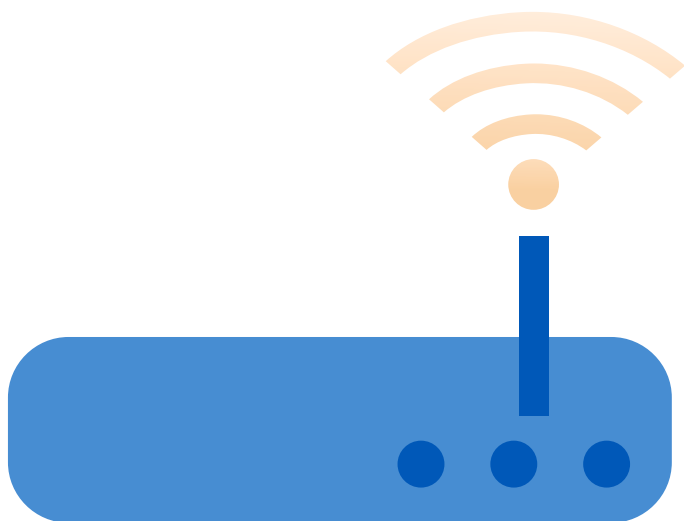
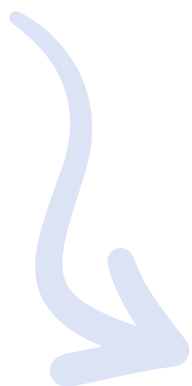


Exiting Geer Up For Learning

If you no longer need the Hotspot and wish to return it, you can return it to All Our Kin at:



Molly Stevens (GEER)
(203) 800-7654
414A Chapel St., Ste. 100
New Haven, CT 06511



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and Erikson Institute's Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center are excited to provide an opportunity to watch a technology-focused video series exclusively for Connecticut family child care providers. These video clips discuss topics such as Developing a Tech-Savvy Mindset, Relationships with Families and Educators, and so much more!

*Webinars are not offered in Spanish at this time, but we hope to offer this in the future.



To access this video series:

⚙️ [Click this link](#) to open the Vimeo showcase of videos (Password: ctfcc)

To access the workbook:

⚙️ [Click this link](#) to make your own copy of the workbook in Google Drive; or [click this link](#) to download it as a PDF

For further support:

⚙️ [Click this link](#) to access and share downloadable tip sheets



These professional learning opportunities were funded by OEC with funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund.



RESOURCES

Funded by the OEC through the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund in partnership with NEAT, the RESC Alliance, and All Our Kin.



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood



Governor's Education
Emergency Relief



ALL OUR KIN

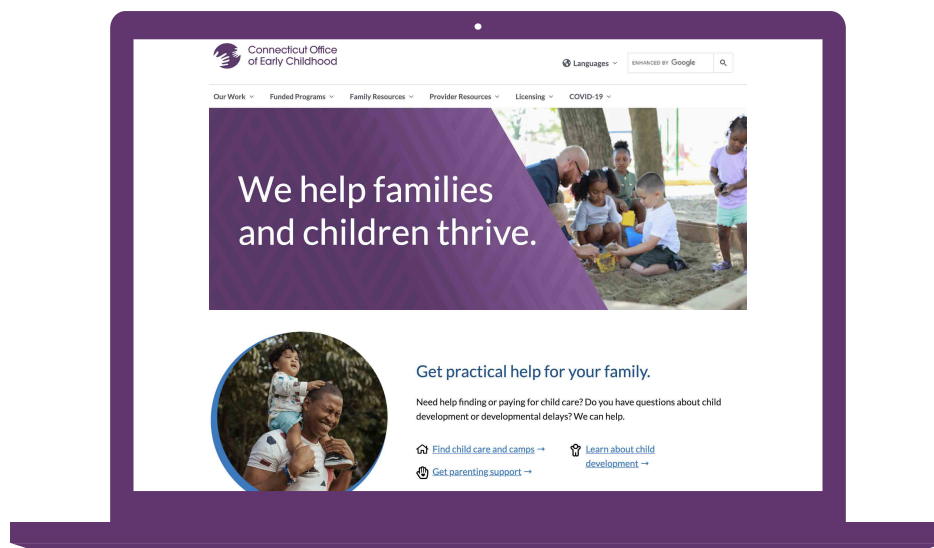


OEC WEBSITE

OEC Resources for Providers

We know this is a challenging time for providers. Here are some resources that might help:

- ⚙️ **Program Operations During COVID-19** — Find resources and guides for running your program
- ⚙️ **Supporting Children and Families During COVID-19** — Includes tips for supporting children and families, and learning from home
- ⚙️ **CTCARES Programs** — A series of short-term programs to help families and child care providers during COVID-19
- ⚙️ **Women's Business Development Council** — Find business support for child care programs related to business and finance training, and long-term planning.
- ⚙️ **Staffed Family Child Care Networks (SFCCN)** — Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (ctoec.org)
- ⚙️ **Child Care Business Support** — Women's Business Development Council | The leader in providing entrepreneurial training and financial education for women in Connecticut (ctwbdc.org)





Learn through play with sparkler

Sparkler sparks healthy early development for children (0-5) and families in Connecticut. Check in on your child's development and get a library of 1000+ play activities just right for your child's age. Get regular coaching and advice. Sparkler is in English and Spanish, for iOS or Android.

How to Get Started with Sparkler:

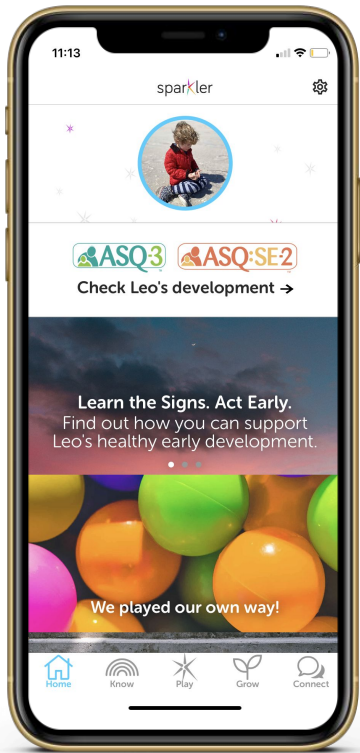
1. **Download Sparkler** from the [Google Play Store](#) or the [Apple App Store](#). Scan this QR Code with your mobile device to go straight to the right place for downloading.
2. Open app and tap **Create a New Account**.



3. Enter **Your Sparkler Access Code** (formerly "provider key") to connect with your program/provider.

AOKNewHaven

4. **Set Up** (enter your email, password)
5. **Create Your Account** (your name is required; your address, ZIP, and mobile are optional)
6. **Add a Child** (name, pronoun, birthday, prematurity if under 2 are required; photo optional). Your program will be displayed on this screen. If you don't see it, you might not have entered your code in Step 1; enter it here under Cohort/Provider Key.
7. **Profile Questions** (optional)
8. Review **Sponsoring Partners** and **Privacy**





How to Use sparkler With Your Child

Know



- **Screening:** Tap ASQ (Ages & Stages Questionnaires®) to answer questions about your child's development. Explore what your child knows and can do.
- **Submit and Get Results:** Get results, and support if you need it, from 211 Child Development (CDI). Celebrate the milestones your child achieves!

Play



- **Play to Learn:** Young children learn through play with YOU! Sparkler has a 1,000+ playful, standards-based activities to help you and your child learn together.
- **Develop Skills:** Build heart, mind, body, and words.

Grow



- **Track Accomplishments:** Keep track what you and your child read, learn, and play in Grow, Sparkler's scrapbook.
- **Share:** Share with other caregivers (like a babysitter or grandparent) to keep track of progress together.

Connect



- **Coaching:** Get tips and advice from people at your school/program and experts in early childhood development.
- **Q&A:** Sparkler offers two-way communication that links parents and the systems that support them.

Questions? Please email support@playsparkler.org