

AAP CHAPTER CHILD CARE CONTACT JOB DESCRIPTION

Description

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has identified **Chapter Child Care Contacts** in all states (Chapters) to provide a network of pediatric child care experts who can improve the health and safety of children in child care and engage parents in discussions about quality care and their options. Each AAP Chapter Contact is a member of the AAP Provisional Section on Early Education and Child Care and is appointed by their AAP Chapter president to serve as a liaison between the chapter and the AAP regarding early education/child care topics and initiatives. Chapter Contacts may work informally in partnership with others or may serve as chairperson for a formal Chapter Committee. Each Chapter Contact has an assigned Section Executive Committee mentor.

Responsibilities

At a minimum, each Chapter Child Care Contact:

- Keeps current on AAP early education and child care initiatives by reviewing electronic newsletters and the www.healthychildcare.org website on a quarterly basis.
- Promotes information sharing by making a presentation at a chapter meeting, providing a written report at the end of each year for inclusion in their chapter's annual report, and keeping AAP staff apprised about relevant chapter initiatives.
- Initiates at least one chapter activity to emphasize that health is the foundation of quality child care, and that increasing health professional involvement in child care programs helps to maximize opportunities for health promotion in early childhood.

Activities

Chapter Contacts can choose to initiate or support one or more activities, examples include:

- Access resources and professional development opportunities at www.healthychildcare.org.
- Share a key resource with a health professional or child care colleague.
- Make a presentation at a chapter meeting or write an article for their chapter newsletter.
- Connect with key state leaders like the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) coordinator, Child Care Resource and Referral state network office staff, or the contact for the state association for the education of young children (AEYC) office.
- Compare the state's child care licensing regulations with AAP recommended guidelines, and determine how they can work to enhance or improve existing regulations.
- Offer to review/enhance the list of community resources that a Child Care Resource and Referral Agency or child care program uses to connect parents with available services.
- Serve as a medical director, health consultant, or board member for an early childhood/child care, Head Start, or Early Head Start program.
- Provide or help organize educational trainings for parents, child care providers, or child care health consultants about topics such as breastfeeding, early brain development, safe sleep practices, infectious diseases, transportation and outdoor safety, etc.
- Help child care programs to connect with an experienced/trained child care health consultant.
- Learn about training for child care health consultants (CCHCs) and trainers of CCHCs.
- Work with a residency training program or hospital to help residents/students learn about child development, early childhood education, and child care health and safety practices.
- Educate policymakers and other child advocates about quality child care such as the need for low staff to child ratios, use of health and safety practices, promoting a healthy work environment for caregivers, and increased financing for child care programs.