



Orange County Association for the
Education of Young Children



Fall 2025 Newsletter

The Orange County Association for the Education of Young Children (OCAEYC) is a direct affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the foremost professional association for the early childhood field. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our mission and work.

Make a Circle Networking and Film Screening Event November 7th, 6:30-8:30

Join Us for an Inspiring Evening at the ENC Nature Preschool!

You're invited to connect with the OCAEYC Board for an evening of networking, community, and meaningful conversation. We are excited to be screening the powerful film *Make a Circle*, which celebrates the importance of connection, belonging, and shared experiences in early childhood education.

This event is free to attend for members, and \$5 for non members, registration is required. Don't miss this opportunity to meet fellow professionals, expand your network, and engage with the OCAEYC community.

Please feel free to bring yourself a picnic dinner. Must abide by the zero waste policy: <https://encenter.org/zero-waste-policy/>



FILM SCREENING

Friday November 7th
6:30-8:30 PM
ENC Nature Preschool

Bring Your Own
Popcorn Bowl!

[Register Here](#)

Must follow Zero Waste Policy

ocaeyc

Orange County Association for the
Education of Young Children

MAKE A CIRCLE

FREE for Members
\$5 Non-Members



[Register for Make A Circle](#)

Join An OCAEYC Committee

Email a Committee Chair to Get Involved!
Meet The Committee Chairs



Email Marilee

Marilee Cosgrove
Board Development Chair



Email Hannah

Hannah Maloney Lee
Professional Development Chair



Email Vanessa

Vanessa Sener
Social Media Chair



Email Keisa

Keissa Jones
Diversity Equity and Inclusion



Email Poly

Poly Pantelidou
Member Services Chair



Email Willi

Willi Burghard
Public Policy Chair





Email Anabell

Anabell Garcia Chalk
Family Childcare Chair



Email Monique

Monique Rico
Fund Development Chair

Join us for Coffee and Conversations!

We are so excited to welcome you on the morning of October 11th at 10:00 -11:00 for a warm and inspiring gathering. This is more than just coffee, it's an opportunity to reconnect, share experiences, and strengthen our community of early childhood education professionals.

In our field, connection is essential. Coming together provides space to reflect, exchange ideas, and support one another in the meaningful work we do every day. Whether you're looking for encouragement, new perspectives, or simply a chance to build relationships, Coffee and Conversations is the perfect place to foster belonging and professional growth.

We look forward to seeing you there and starting the day with good company, thoughtful dialogue, and community spirit!



[Zoom Link](#)

Thank you to our Members!

We are thrilled to share that OCAEYC has received the 2025 Award from NAEYC for the highest increase in membership!

This incredible achievement is thanks to our dedicated OCAEYC members! Your commitment, passion, and advocacy make our community shine. Together, we are building an inspiring network of changemakers and early childhood education professionals right here in Orange County, CA.

If you are not yet a member, now is the perfect time to join us and be part of something truly impactful. Click the link below to become a member today!

[Join OCAEYC](#)

CONGRATULATIONS OCAEYC 2025 MEMBERSHIP AWARD

LEADERS IN BUILDING THE ECE
COMMUNITY WITH 27% INCREASE

HIGHEST INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

THANK YOU LOYAL MEMBERS!

Be a part of the movement and join
OCAEYC today!

An Affiliate of **naeyc**

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

September

September 29th Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee
September 30th Public Policy

October

October 7th All Board Meeting
October 11th Coffee and Conversations

November

November 4th Finance Committee
November 6th Fund Development
November 6th Social Media Committee
November 7th Make a Circle Film Screening
November 18th FCC Committee
November 19th Public Policy
November 24th Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee



SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

OCAEYC Social Media Committee

The OCAEYC Social Media Committee is making a powerful impact by connecting and uplifting the early childhood education community across Orange County!

Through engaging content and outreach, the committee promotes developmentally appropriate practices (DAP), shares local events for educators and families, features inspiring educators, and highlights professional learning, advocacy opportunities, and important DEI initiatives.

A key part of their work includes generating excitement around our amazing Annual OCAEYC Conference, a must-attend event that brings our community together for meaningful learning, networking, and inspiration.

Reach out to join our team and follow OCAEYC on social media to stay connected, stay informed, and stay inspired!

[Email to Join the Social Media Committee](#)



FAMILY CHILD CARE COMMITTEE

OCAEYC Family Child Care Committee

The Family Child Care (FCC) Committee is dedicated to representing and supporting the needs of Family Child Care providers. FCC programs are a vital part of the early education system, offering children and families nurturing, high-quality care in home-based settings.

Yet, providers often face unique challenges, including limited resources, professional isolation, and the need for stronger recognition within the field of early childhood education.

We warmly invite you to attend our upcoming FCC Committee Zoom meeting, where you can participate in discussions, share your insights, and network with your colleagues across Orange County.

Whether you're an FCC provider yourself, an advocate for family child care, or simply interested in learning more about this vital part of our ECE community, your voice and participation are valued. Together, we can build a stronger, more equitable early education system that truly supports all children, families, and providers.

[Email to Join the Family Child Care Committee](#)

Annual ECE Conference: Save the Date

**MARCH
28TH
2026**

**ANNUAL ECE
CONFERENCE**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Pre-Conference: Friday March 27th
Annual ECE Conference: Saturday March 28th
Location: Knotts Berry Farm Hotel, Anaheim



First 5 OC releases Request for Information for child care operators

First 5 Orange County is seeking responses to a Request for Information (RFI) to gain a better understanding of the capacity and interest of child care operators interested in working with affordable housing developers.

This RFI is an information gathering tool to help us better facilitate relationships with affordable housing developers for consideration of providing child care services at current and future affordable housing projects.

In order to see if your agency may be suitable for this opportunity, two information sessions have been arranged that will:

1. Provide insight into the need for child care services at affordable housing projects;
2. Guide potential child care providers/applicants through the process;
3. Review the necessary submittal forms; and
4. Answer questions regarding the RFI.

Please see the dates and times below as well as [the Zoom link](#).

Note: You do not need to attend one of the sessions to apply.

- September 19, 2025 at 2 p.m.
- September 22, 2025 at 6 p.m.



















[View the RFI](#)

[Get the Zoom link](#)

View the RFI

Get the Zoom Link

O C T 2 0 2 5

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Si Sabo Kids Fiesta* 
5	6 CLOSED	7 CLOSED  Baby Steps	8 Sukkot Celebration*	9  Kings Hawaiian Opening 	10 Way to Play Day 	11  STEMUP to the challenge
12 Baby Steps 	13 CLOSED	14 CLOSED  Neurodivergent Family Night	15  White Cane Safety Day 	16	17 FREE Kid Builder's Day 	18
19	20 CLOSED	21 CLOSED	22 Diwali Celebration with Neeta Merchant* 	23  Neurodivergent Family Night	24 Read for the Record	25 Meet the instrument with Philharmonic Society 
26 Costume Week  Favorite Character Day	27 CLOSED	28 CLOSED	29 Pajama Day 	30 Animal Day 	31 Halloween 	

*Cultural Celebration

COME PLAY!



Pretend City Website

Below is a Paid Advertisement



Free Toolkit for Early Childhood Educators!

Kid Builders is an easy way to help children grow their mind, words, body, relationships, safety and health. These key areas are important for children to be healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life! The toolkit includes a free Emotions Poster to help children identify their feelings.

[Sign up to receive the toolkit](#)



Below is a Paid Advertisement

Empowering Childcare Businesses to Thrive!

PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS AND FAMILY WITH CUSTOMIZED LIFE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

- ✓ **Retirement Plans**
 - For you and your staff
- ✓ **Employee Benefits**
 - Attract and keep quality talent
- ✓ **Income Strategies**
 - Build long-term financial growth
- ✓ **Business Protection**
 - Be prepared for the unexpected



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Hablo
español

OCAEYC Board Meetings

OCAEYC holds General Board Meetings on a bi-monthly basis. Current members of OCAEYC receive email invitations to attend as they are open to all members.

Our next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday October 7th 6:30-7:30

If you would like to request an item be added to the agenda, or are not a member of OCAEYC but are interested in attending, please [email us](#).

OCAEYC

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director@ocaeyc.com

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