

# PATCH 'Ohana Network



PATCH - Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs

## Supporting Your Child's Early Learning: Keeping it Simple, Affordable and Fun

Helping your child get the "heads up" on his/her education does not have to cost a pretty penny. In fact, it can be affordable.

Here are some low to no cost ways for you to support your child's learning without breaking the bank:

1. Read to your child for 10 – 15 minutes everyday. This simple and affordable activity expands your child's knowledge, increases vocabulary, and introduces the joy of reading by being read to. The more time you spend reading to your keiki, the more you increase his/her potential to learn and succeed in school. The best part is that all this learning takes place in the comfort of your arms and in your own home.
2. Visit the public library with your child at least once a month. When people think of the public library they think about the wall-to-wall collections of books that can be borrowed. While this is true, libraries also have a wide assortment of CDs and DVDs available for check out. Since most libraries allow you to borrow materials for three weeks, make a date to borrow new items with your keiki when materials are due. This will not only make



- visiting the public library once a month easy, but it will make it one of the most affordable ways you can support your child's reading, writing and speaking development. For more information about the services the public libraries provide, to find the location closest to you, and to download a library card application for yourself and/or your child, visit <http://www.librarieshawaii.org>
3. Play a board or card game with your child to help develop his/her school readiness skills. When playing games children learn important social skills such as taking turns, sharing and verbal communication. It also provides an opportunity for children to learn, and master, other school readiness skills such as:
    - number and shape recognition
    - grouping similar items together
    - counting
    - letter recognition and reading
    - color recognition
    - eye-hand coordination

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# Attention: Parents of 4 Year Olds\*

## Announcing Open Enrollment Period for Preschool Open Doors!

### March 1—April 30, 2010

#### What is Preschool Open Doors?

Preschool Open Doors (POD) is a statewide early childhood education and care project funded by the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services, administered by PATCH.

**POD helps children go to preschool by helping families pay preschool costs for one year. Any licensed preschool may accept POD children.**

Preschool Open Doors understands the importance of every child having the opportunity for a positive early learning experience. Preschool prepares children for kindergarten by teaching social skills and recognition of shapes and letters. It allows children to explore and discover their world in a learning environment. Children also learn how to get along with others and how to work as part of a group.

#### How Much of My Child's Pre-school Expenses Will POD Pay?

Preschool Open Doors has sliding fee scales, based upon State of Hawaii child care assistance guidelines. Depending on family size and income, families may be required to pay some of the monthly preschool costs.

#### How Do I Apply?

To request an application or for information, you may contact your local PATCH office or the Preschool Open Doors office in Honolulu:

POD Office Oahu: phone 587-5254

Neighbor Islands toll-free 1-800-746-5620

Email: [POD@PatchHawaii.org](mailto:POD@PatchHawaii.org)

Mail: Preschool Open Doors

677 Queen Street, Room 400A

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

PATCH Offices:

MAUI: 242-9232 KAUAI: 246-0622

HILO: 961-3169 KONA: 325-3800

You will be notified by mail if your child has been accepted for the current school year.

#### How Can My Family Qualify for Preschool Open Doors Funds?

To qualify for POD, your family must meet the following requirements:

##### 1. Special Needs Four-Year Olds

First priority will be given to four-year\* old children from a Special Populations Referral, (e.g. children who are homeless, have limited English or developmental delays and those with physical or mental impairments who are not enrolled by Dept of Education for preschool).

##### 2. Age of Child

Second priority will be children who will be \* four years old by 12/31/2010.

##### 3. Special Needs Three-Year Olds

Some three-year old children from special populations may qualify if funds available.

##### 4. Family Income

Your family's gross monthly income (before taxes and deductions) must be within allowable income limits. If your gross monthly income is less than the amount listed for your family size, you may be eligible for POD funding.

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income Limit (subject to change)
1	\$ 2,431
2	\$ 3,179
3	\$ 3,927
4	\$ 4,675
5	\$ 5,423

For families of six or more, please contact the Preschool Open Doors office.

#### What is the Cut-Off Date for Applications?

POD funds are limited. Applications are accepted only during the open enrollment period, March 1 - April 30, for the school year that starts the following August.

## Supporting Your Child's Early Learning: Keeping it Simple, Affordable, and Fun

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In today's fast paced world, playing games is an easy, affordable and excellent way for children and adults to unwind and hang out together.

4. Do art and craft projects with your child. The creative process is an excellent way for children to develop problem solving skills. Art projects allow children to figure out how to put something together in a fun, creative, non-threatening way. For example, when you make a sock puppet with your child, you are not only making an entertaining toy, you are giving your child an opportunity to use his/her math skills (e.g. measuring out 12 inches of yarn), improve his/her fine motor skills (e.g. using scissors to cut felt to make clothes), hand-eye coordination (e.g. placing wiggly eyes on a dot of glue), and concentration. By doing arts and crafts with your child you help unlock your child's hidden potential to



be a problem solver and creative thinker.

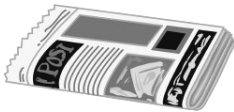
4. Play games with your child when in the car. Traffic is a natural part of

everyday life. Turn your commuting time into learning time by playing games in the

car with your keiki. Toddlers can look for airplanes while on the way to the grocery store. Preschool age children can look for, and count, certain types of vehicles (i.e. garbage trucks) while on the way to grandma's. Older children can look for, and read, number signs (i.e. 25, 45, 50, etc.) on the way to school. By playing car games with your children you make the commute an enjoyable experience that hides a learning experience.

These simple activities help you support your child's learning in an easy, affordable and fun way.

by Celia Chang Takahashi  
Oahu Coordinator, Good Beginnings Alliance



### DHS Child Care Subsidy News DECREASE OF CHILD CARE SUBSIDY RATES

Effective February 1st, 2010, the Department of Human Services (DHS) is modifying the structure and decreasing the rates of child care subsidies. DHS has secured additional sources of funding to temporarily help families who experience a decrease in their subsidy

payment. Child care providers and affected families may call PATCH for the latest information and assistance. You can also go to our website, [www.patchhawaii.org](http://www.patchhawaii.org), or call your local PATCH office for details.

# It's Time to Register for Kindergarten!

## If Your Child Was Born In 2005, Register NOW For Kindergarten In The 2010-2011 School Year!



### How to Start:

To find out which school to register your child at, you can :  
Call or stop by the elementary schools in your area  
and give them your street address. The office staff  
can tell you if your address falls in the school's district.  
Ask if the school has specific registration days or times.

### What You Need to Register:

When you know which school your child should attend,  
take the following documents

#### • Health Records (Form 14)

Have your doctor or health care provider complete a Form 14 for your child  
to bring to school. Your child must have a physical examination,  
written documentation of required immunizations,  
and tuberculosis (TB) clearance to enter school on the first day.  
For more information call the Hawaii Immunization Program at (808) 586-8332  
or visit: <http://www.doe.k12.hi.us/register/schoolhealthreqts.htm>

#### • Birth Certificate

Bring an original or certified copy of your child's birth certificate  
to verify your child's age. Other documents include a passport or student  
visa if from a foreign country. Your child must be age 5 by December 31  
(born in 2005) to start kindergarten in the 2010-2011 school year.  
You can register now; don't wait until your child turns 5.

#### • Legal documents

If there were changes to your child's name, custody arrangement,  
or guardianship, bring the legal documents that verify the changes.

#### • Proof of current local address

Your child must live within the school's geographic district.  
Bring a document such as an utility bill, a rental agreement, or other  
documentation that shows the address of your child's home.  
If you have questions about geographic exceptions, ask the school registrar.

#### Other Information:

If your child has been enrolled in any special needs preschool program  
or has a Special Education Individual Education Plan (IEP), please share this  
information at the time of registration. **If your child is transferring  
from another school, include the release packet and latest report card.**  
Other information, such as allergy procedures, should also be shared.

## Parent-Caregiver Communication

### Making it Work for Your Child

*"It was the worst call I ever had to make."* -

Child Care Director



A director at a child care center had to call the mother of a 2-year-old and tell her that they couldn't find her son. Fortunately for everyone, the 2-year-old was with his mother. The mother was very apologetic. She had forgotten to sign him out when she picked him up. Once you decide on a family child care provider or a child care center, make sure that you and your child care provider understand each other. There are steps you can take to encourage good communication and to minimize problems. It's also a good idea to take time to find out about the program's policies and procedures.

### Promote Good Communication

*The following are steps you can take to maintain positive communication.*

- ▲ Help your child care provider get to know your child. Prepare an "All About My Child" sheet.

▲ Help your provider understand your family. Share information about:

- ♦ Who is in your family;
  - ♦ How you celebrate birthdays and holidays;
  - ♦ Skills you can share;
  - ♦ What's happening at home that might affect your child's behavior (e.g., a new sibling, visits from relatives, illnesses, changes in the family).
- ▲ Follow procedures for signing your child in and out each day.
  - ▲ Keep your emergency contact information up to date.
  - ▲ Include information about everyone who is allowed to pick up your child.
  - ▲ Read information from the program.
  - ▲ Attend parent-provider conferences.
  - ▲ Volunteer to help out when you can.
  - ▲ Find out the best way for you and your child's caregiver to share information (e.g., in person, by phone, by email, or by writing in a shared notebook).

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## HAWAII HEAD START

Hawaii Head Start and Early Head Start programs are available FREE to income eligible families. Comprehensive services are available in the areas of health, nutrition and special needs as well as cognitive and social emotional development. Meals are furnished FREE and programs offer both center based and home based options for your children age 0-5 years old. For additional information for a program in your area please call one of these numbers:

- Kauai: Child and Family Service/Kauai Head Start 808-245-5914
- Maui: Maui Economic Opportunity/Head Start and Infant Toddler Center  
808-240-2988 (including Lanai and Molokai).
- Maui Family Support Services/Early Head Start 808-242-0900
- Oahu: HCAP Head Start 808-447-5415  
PACT Head Start/Early Head Start 808-842-5996
- Hawaii Island (Big Island): CDI Head Start 808-961-0570.  
Family Support Services of West HI Early Head Start 808-334-4179

## Parent-Caregiver Communication

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### Handle Problems Positively

*Common issues are children's behavior, health and safety, concerns about your child's development, following procedures, and fees. The following strategies will help you keep the situation positive:*

- ⤴ Remember:
  - You have a common goal – you both want the best for your child.
  - You are showing your child how adults handle problems.
- ⤴ Ask for a time to talk when you and the provider won't be rushed.
- ⤴ Ask for clarification of the problem.
- ⤴ If you are wrong, apologize.
- ⤴ Restate the problem until you both agree on the description of the problem.
- ⤴ Think about possible solutions and decide on a plan to solve the problem.
- ⤴ Ask about what steps to follow if the plan doesn't work.
- ⤴ Check the plan's success regularly.
- ⤴ Congratulate yourselves, or revise the plan.

### Find Out About The Program's Policies And Procedures

*Following are examples of items that can cause conflict if they are not understood. If this information isn't in your contract or parent handbook, make sure you ask the program about them.*

#### Hours

- ⤴ What are the hours of operation?
- ⤴ Are there days the program will be closed? Do you need to find care for your child, or will the program help you find care?
- ⤴ Does the program open late or close early when there is inclement weather? How will you be notified?
- ⤴ Can you contact the program by phone or email if you are going to be late?
- ⤴ If your family child care provider is sick or away, will your provider have a substitute? Will you need to find your own back up care?

#### Fees

- ⤴ What is the tuition? When are you expected to pay? Are there additional fees?
- ⤴ Are you charged for days your child is absent or you are on vacation?
- ⤴ Are you required to give prior notice in writing when your child leaves the program?

#### Arrival and departure

- ⤴ What are you expected to do when your child arrives or leaves?

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## Parent-Caregiver Communication

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- ⤴ How does the program make sure that only people you have authorized will be permitted to pick up your child.
- ⤴ What are the procedures if you want to visit during the day?

### Health

- ⤴ How will you be notified if your child has an accident or injury or becomes ill?
- ⤴ How will the program notify you if a child or staff has head lice or a communicable disease?
- ⤴ Will the program give your child over-the-counter or prescription medication? What about sunscreen, diaper ointment, or insect repellent?
- ⤴ What is the program's policy about food?

### Emergencies

- ⤴ Does the program do regular fire drills?
- ⤴ How does the program handle emergencies/ disasters? If necessary, where will your child be evacuated? How will you be notified?

### Your child's day

- ⤴ How many adults and how many children are in your child's class?
- ⤴ Is there one caregiver who has the primary responsibility for your child?
- ⤴ How will your child spend the day?



What is the daily schedule? Is there a weekly plan of activities that reflects your child's interests and needs?

- ⤴ What should your child wear? Is a change of clothes required?
- ⤴ What are the discipline methods used in the program?
- ⤴ Is there a homework policy for school-age children?

### Special events

- ⤴ How does the program handle birthdays and holidays?
- ⤴ What is the program's transportation policy for field trips?

### Transitions

- ⤴ How does the program plan to move your child from one age group to another? How will you be notified?
- ⤴ How does the program help you and your child prepare to move to a new program or school?
- ⤴ Is there a dismissal policy?

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## Child Care for Military Families

*On Active Duty? Deployed?*

*We can help you with special child care referral services and subsidy information for quality child care programs.*

**Contact your local PATCH office today!**

## Parent-Caregiver Communication

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### Communication

- ^ When are regular conferences scheduled?
- ^ What is the best way for you to share information or ask questions?



### Parent Participation

- ^ Are you expected to volunteer?

### Confidentiality policies

- ^ How does the program protect your family's right to privacy and confidentiality regarding all health, behavioral and developmental records, and information concerning your child?

### Additional Issues to Consider

Cultural and language differences can sometimes get in the way of communication. Think about whether you need to ask someone else to join the conversation.

If you are divorced or separated, work with your provider to decide how both parents can have the same developmental and behavioral information and program guidelines.

### For More Information

NACCRRA, *Is this the Right Place for My Child? 38 Indicators of High-Quality Child Care*, [www.naccrra.org/docs/parent/38\\_ QueBrochure-highqual.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/docs/parent/38_ QueBrochure-highqual.pdf), is a user friendly booklet that contains a checklist of 38 questions that parents can ask to

evaluate the quality of child care programs. The booklet explains why each question is important and how it relates to the quality of care.

Your Child Care Resource and Referral agency (CCR&R) has resources for parents about how to recognize high-quality child care. PATCH is Hawaii's local CCR&R. To find a CCR&R for other states, go to [www.childcareaware.org](http://www.childcareaware.org) or call Child Care Aware at 1-800-424-2246.

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**Attention:**  
**OceanicTimeWarner Cable Subscribers:**  
**VOTE FOR PATCH!**

Voting will begin in January, but you can view our PhotoShow now! Tune in to Channel 920 or visit our website, [www.patchhawaii.org](http://www.patchhawaii.org).

*Vote for PATCH in the January 18 - February 18, 2010 voting period (view on Channel 920, vote on Channel 921). The winner of the 2009 PhotoShow TV Contest gets \$10,000 extra towards their Aloha United Way Annual Fundraising Campaign.*



**Keiki Steps is a program of the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE).**

**It is a FREE parent participation preschool for families and children 0-5 years of age.**

**Applications for the 2009-2010 school are currently being accepted.**

**To reserve a space for your child or for more information please call 620-9043 or visit [www.inpeace-hawaii.org](http://www.inpeace-hawaii.org).**

#### O'ahu Sites

**Please Contact: Lisa Pakele at (808) 620-9043**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Days of the week</b>	<b>Times</b>
Barbers Point Elementary School Cafeteria Kapolei	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00–11:00a.m.
Leihoku Elementary School P-10 Wai'anae	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00–11:00a.m.
Makaha Elementary School P- 23 Wai'anae	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00–11:00a.m.
Wai'anae Elementary School P- 6 Wai'anae	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00–11:00a.m.
Ma'ili Elementary School Cafeteria Wai'anae	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30–11:30a.m.
Ulu Ke Kukui Room 3 Wai'anae	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00–11:00a.m.
Nānākuli Elementary School P-10 Wai'anae	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00–11:00a.m.
Kamaile Elementary School Cafeteria Wai'anae	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:00–11:00a.m.

#### Hawai'i Island Sites

**Please Contact: Geoli Ng at (808) 933-2933**

Keaukaha Elementary School Cafeteria Hilo	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30–11:30a.m.
Kapi'olani Elementary School Cafeteria Hilo	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Hilo Union Elementary School A-31 Hilo	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Kahikolu Church Honaunau	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

#### Moloka'i Site

**Please Contact: Lisa Pakele at (808) 620-9043**

Kilohana Community Center	Monday, Tuesday,	8:00–11:00a.m.
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## Early Childhood Community Resources

### Local

**Arbor Child Care Connections** is a federal subsidy program helping families pay for child care. For contact information, see page 2.

**The Parent Line:** Oahu: 526-1222

Neighbor Islands: 1-800-816-1222.

**`EkoLu `Eha `Ike Pono Early Screening Program** FREE Vision, hearing and developmental screenings for Waianae area 3 and 4 year olds. FREE one hour parent workshops in Waianae every Wednesday morning. For more information, contact the Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii at (Oahu) 696-5361.

**Aloha United Way - 211:** . Available Monday-Friday, 6am-9pm, it's fast, free and confidential. Call 211 now to GET or GIVE HELP. Or visit [www.auw.org/211/](http://www.auw.org/211/).

### Online News

**Daily Parent:** Visit [www.childcareaware.org/dailyparent](http://www.childcareaware.org/dailyparent).

**KidSource OnLine:** [www.kidsource.com](http://www.kidsource.com)

### National

**National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA):** Visit [www.naccrra.org/parent/index.php](http://www.naccrra.org/parent/index.php).

**Born Learning:** Visit [www.bornlearning.org](http://www.bornlearning.org).

**Healthy Habits for Healthy Kids - A Nutrition and Activity Guide for Parents:** an interactive resource with activities, recipes, mealtime tips, guides and much more! Visit : [www.wellpoint.com/healthy\\_parenting/index.html](http://www.wellpoint.com/healthy_parenting/index.html).



**Classes for Parents:** PATCH offers over 100 Free Child Care Workshops, many of which are great for parents! The training catalog is online at: [www.PatchHawaii.org](http://www.PatchHawaii.org). Look in the Training Tracks Newsletter

for classes with the parent symbol and register now for a class in your area.

## Healthy Child Care Hawaii

Healthy Child Care Hawaii promotes the health and safety of young children in child care settings. HCCH is a collaborative project of Hawaii Department of Health's Children with Special Health Needs Branch, the American Academy of Pediatrics Hawaii Chapter and the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics and is funded by Hawaii Department of Human Services.

**Watch for "Ask the Child Care Health Consultant" column starting in the next issue of Training Tracks. Experts Dr. Mae Kyono and Dr. Mari Uehara from Healthy Child Care Hawaii will respond to your questions on the health and safety of young children in child care settings.**

**Submit your questions no later than February 1, 2010 to [Patch@PatchHawaii.org](mailto:Patch@PatchHawaii.org).**

Dr. Mae Kyono, MD, FAAP is a graduate of the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants, a pediatrician in private practice, and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Executive Committee for Early Education and Child Care Section.

Dr. Mari Uehara, MD, FAAP is a graduate of the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants, and a developmental-behavioral pediatrician with University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

## PATCH Offices Statewide

Let PATCH assist you in finding licensed child care services across the state. Call one of our offices or visit our website for information on how to choose a quality child care provider, child care financial aid and much more!

In addition, PATCH can connect you to other early childhood resources that are available in your community.

### PATCH –Oahu

650 Iwilei Road  
Suite 205  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: 808-833-6866

### PATCH— Kauai

4485 Pahe'e Street  
Suite 124  
Lihue, HI 96766  
Phone: 808-246-0622

### PATCH—West Hawaii

73-4354 Mamalahoa Hwy  
Suite 208  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: 808-325-3864

### Preschool Open Doors

677 Queen Street  
#400A  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 808-587-5254  
Toll-Free: 1-800-746-5620

### PATCH—Maui County

95 Mahalani Street  
Suite 28-2A  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: 808-242-9232  
Lanai & Molokai: 1-800-498-4145

### PATCH—East Hawaii

305 Wailuku Drive  
Suite 4  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: 808-961-3169

Mahalo to the State Department of Human Services,  
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division.

PATCH is a local 501(c)(3) resource and referral agency created in 1976. Our mission is to support and improve the quality and availability of care for the young people of Hawaii. PATCH has not investigated the



Visit our website at [www.PatchHawaii.org](http://www.PatchHawaii.org)

- Online child care referrals
- Sign up to receive email news & updates
- Early childhood development resources
- Child care subsidy information
- Much more!

## Become a PATCH Member!

Only \$25 per year!

*Please join us in our mission to support and improve the quality and availability of care for the young people of Hawaii.*

Contact your local PATCH office for details.



**650 PATCH**

Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs  
Suite 205

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

[PATCH@PatchHawaii.org](mailto:PATCH@PatchHawaii.org)

[www.PatchHawaii.org](http://www.PatchHawaii.org)

**Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs**