

Child Care Health Consultation in North Carolina

Who are Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs)?

CCHCs are trained health professionals with education and experience in both child and community health and early care and education. CCHCs work with programs to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate strategies to achieve high quality, safe, healthy child care environments.

Qualified CCHCs have successfully completed the NC Child Care Health Consultant Course provided by the North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center, a program of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

What do CCHCs do?

- Provide consultation and coaching on health and safety practices to help programs prevent and manage injury and infectious disease
- Develop strategies for inclusion of children with special health care needs
- Support adherence to both child care rules, regulations, and best practices
- Provide health and safety technical assistance and training
- Help facilities develop and review policies and procedures
- Facilitate referrals to community health and social service resources
- Assist programs with quality improvement strategies



CCHCs in North Carolina:

- 42 local CCHCs work in 32 counties



Regional coaching support for local CCHCs:

- Theresa Stenersen, West Region CCHC Coach
828.421.7655 / Theresa_Stenersen@unc.edu
- Amy Petersen, State Child Care Nurse Consultant / East Region CCHC Coach
919.707.5665 / Amy.Petersen@dhhs.nc.gov
- Lisa Shifflett, North/Central Region CCHC Coach
919.215.0157 / Lisa_Shifflett@unc.edu
- Karla Cooper, South/Central Region CCHC Coach
919.295.2135 / Karla_Cooper@unc.edu

CCHCs make a difference:

Studies have confirmed that CCHCs improve the health and safety of children in early care and education programs by:

- Increasing staff knowledge of health issues in child care settings
- Increasing compliance with health and safety best practice standards
- Improving the quality of health and safety policies and practices, including handwashing, sanitation, and safe sleep practices
- Increasing the number of children who receive oral, developmental, vision, and hearing screenings and assessments
- Improving children's access to a medical home, enrollment in health insurance, and up-to-date immunization status
- Strengthening environmental health practices
- Promoting the inclusion of children with special health care needs

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/child-care-health-consultants_0.pdf

