

PRO Clackamas Chapter

2026–2027 Calendar

The PRO Clackamas Chapter meets on the third Monday of each month, with a few exceptions throughout the year. In January and February, we meet on the second Monday, and our Holiday Social is held on a Thursday in December.

Please join us each month for training, connection, and community with fellow providers! It's a great chance to learn, share ideas, ask questions, and spend time with others who understand the work we do.

Light snacks and drinks will be provided at each provider-home training, and you are always welcome to bring your dinner along if needed.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

Let's Talk Circle Time!

Come join us for an informal, hands-on Circle Time Round Table! Carly, Holly, and Julie will start us off by sharing three different approaches to circle time.

Carly will share ways to explore science concepts through movement and hands-on activities. Holly will share ideas for bringing social-emotional learning, books, visuals, discussion, and problem-solving into a circle routine. Julie will introduce a Waldorf-inspired circle using rhythm, movement, songs, and storytelling.

Then we'll open it up to everyone! Come ready to share your favorite circle time ideas, songs, activities, or routines and learn from each other.

Location: Holly Farm Play School – Lewis

7029 SE 44th Ave., Portland, OR 97206

Training: LEC | Set 1 | 2 Hours

OCTOBER 19, 2026

Plan Your 2027 Garden!

Being around growing things is so beneficial for young children, but planning and planting often take a backseat on the long list of things family child care providers need to think about. Let's set aside time at our October chapter meeting to do our garden planning together!

We'll map out whatever space we have to grow things in our programs, look at resources to help decide what to plant, and create a task calendar or timeline to help us put our plans into action. We can also brainstorm ways to support each other—maybe sharing seeds and plants, strategies that have worked well over the years, or even becoming accountability buddies.

Carly will share ways she has incorporated growing vegetables into her curriculum. Growing food with preschoolers is a fun, hands-on way to help children learn where food comes from, build healthy eating habits, and become more comfortable exploring and trying fruits and vegetables.

Cheryl and Miranda will share about perennials, flowers, and decorative plants, including how to care for them throughout the seasons and create a beautiful outdoor space for your kiddos.

Location: Curious Gardeners Preschool

7877 SE 65th Ave., Portland, OR 97206

Training: HSN | Set 1 | 2 Hours

NOVEMBER 16, 2026

Family Involvement in Your Program

Trainer: Carol McMurdie

Families are an important part of our programs! In this training, we'll explore strategies for involving families and creating strong partnerships throughout the year.

Learn ways to plan, organize, and host special events that educate and involve families, connect them with community services, build cultural awareness, and provide meaningful support.

Come away with new ideas for creating a program where families feel welcomed, connected, and involved.

Location: Carol McMurdie

5563 SE Harney Dr., Portland, OR 97206

Training: FCS | Set 1 | 2 Hours

DECEMBER 10, 2026

Holiday Social

Time: 4:30–7:30 PM

Please note: Our Holiday Social is on a Thursday in December.

Let's come together for a little fun before the chaos of the holiday season fully sets in!

Join us for a relaxed evening at Whisky Barrel Lounge where we'll share some appetizers, have a drink, and enjoy time together outside of our usual training sessions.

 **Gift Exchange:** If you'd like to participate, bring a **\$20 gift** to exchange. Think of something useful, fun, or something you'd actually be excited about taking home!

No training, no agenda—just a chance to relax, laugh, connect, and celebrate the holiday season together. ❤️

Location: Whisky Barrel Lounge

12960 SE 162nd Ave., #100, Happy Valley, OR 97086

Time: 4:30–7:30 PM

Join us early at 4:30 for the end of Happy Hour! Happy Hour runs from 4:00–5:00 PM.

JANUARY 11, 2027

Connection to Curriculum: Bringing the Pyramid Model to Life Through Play

Trainer: Shannon Aden

The Pyramid Model isn't another thing we do—it's how we connect, teach, and support children in everyday moments.

In this training, you'll learn how to build strong relationships that support every child and weave Pyramid Model practices naturally into a play-based curriculum.

We'll explore ways to support social-emotional skills through everyday play and routines and how to respond with intention and connection before behaviors escalate.

When we connect, children thrive!

Location: Shannon's Childcare and Preschool

12900 SE Powell Blvd., Portland, OR 97236

Parking: Parking is limited. Carpooling is recommended.

Training: LEC | Set 1 | 2 Hours

FEBRUARY 8, 2027

Accounting 101

Let's talk about the business side of child care!

In this training, Meridith will share tools and tricks for managing income and expenses as a small business, with information specifically geared toward child care providers.

We'll also explore the magical world of **pivot tables!**

Feel free to bring your own system, questions, and best practices to share with the group. This is a great opportunity to learn from one another and pick up some new ideas for making the financial side of our businesses a little easier to manage.

Location: Sunflower Preschool

5705 SE Knapp St., Portland, OR 97206

Training: PM | Set 1 | 2 Hours

MARCH 2027

PRO Annual Conference

No Chapter Meeting This Month

Join **Rachel Larimore** for *Teaching Beyond the Walls*, a training focused on taking learning outdoors and making nature a meaningful part of your early childhood program. Rachel Get children outside more!” It sounds easy, but high-quality nature-based early childhood education doesn’t happen overnight. Rather, using the outdoors as an extension of the classroom requires a shift in both administrative and teaching practices. The role of leadership is to help teachers overcome the real and perceived challenges of nature-based learning

Save the date for March 6th

Conference Details: More information coming soon

APRIL 20th 2027

Introduction to Compassionate Communication for Educators

Trainer: Charleen Kepner

In this training, participants will be introduced to the four parts of compassionate communication and explore empathetic communication strategies that can help us remain compassionate—even during high-stress situations.

Participants will leave with practical strategies they can use when communicating in both their professional practice and everyday life.

Potential Location: TBD

Training: Set 1 | 2 Hours

MAY 17, 2027

Mud, Mud, Marvelous Mud!

Trainer: Carol McMurdie

Are you open to allowing your children to get really, really messy?

Kids rarely need encouragement to play with water and dirt, but did you know there are real benefits to letting them dig in and get muddy?

We'll examine how playing in the mud can help children be happier, healthier, and smarter—and the research that backs it up!

We'll explore ways to bring mud play into your program, talk about creating a mud kitchen, and celebrate the joy and learning that happens when children are allowed to get messy!

Location: Carol McMurdie 5563 SE Harney Dr. Portland, OR 97206

Training: UGB | Set 1 | 2 Hours

JUNE 21, 2027

End-of-Year Social + Help Us Plan Next Year!

Time: 6:00–8:00 PM

Let's wrap up a great PRO Clackamas Chapter year with food, drinks, and time together!

We'll meet at Valley Public House and spend some time talking about next year. Putting together a full year of chapter training takes a lot of planning, and we want to hear from you!

What did you enjoy this year? What training topics would you like to see next year? Is there something you'd like to teach or share with the group?

Come eat, visit, and help us start building our **2027–2028 PRO Clackamas Chapter Calendar!**

After our June social, we'll take **July and August off** and come back together in September for another great year.

Location: Valley Public House

12960 SE 162nd Ave., Happy Valley, OR 97086

Time: 6:00–8:00 PM