

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16 March 2022

Serving Bucks County

Community Services for Children offices are open to the public. We have put preventative measures in place to keep both our staff and visitors safe. Please wear a mask regardless of vaccination status and stay home if you are feeling unwell. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Region 16 Updates

Inspire and Develop Your Future Workforce Today with Career Ready Bucks!

The success of your business and industry depends on having a qualified workforce. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people with the skills, training, and education you need. Career Ready Bucks allows you to promote your industry and business to Bucks County Students. Target the exact positions where you foresee your greatest need and growth while giving students experiences that will help them select their future career path.

Career Ready Bucks lets your organization select from a wide variety of ways to interact with students; allowing them to 'experience' what they like, what inspires them, and what their future could look like. This program is designed to provide businesses and organizations with the skilled workforce they need for their continued growth and development, while preparing students for a successful future.

Need support with registration? Reach out to Kendy Schiffert at:
KSchiffert@BucksIU.org



Professional Development Organization

ECE PDO at PHMC offers support and coordinates credit bearing coursework between the ECE professional and the institute of higher ed. If you believe you have staff who may be interested in furthering their education, please view their newsletter below.

American Rescue Plan Act

The Early Learning Resource Center has been able to award over \$40.1 million in ARPA funding to eligible providers. Payments will continue until all programs have received their six-monthly installments. ARPA payments are taxable income so we recommend programs work with their tax advisor for any questions.

In addition, all providers should have received their IRS form 1099 from Community Services for Children. Amounts WILL include ARPA payments received in 2021 so your amounts will look higher than typical. If you have not received your 1099, please reach out to your Provider Specialist.

Region 16 Provider Supports

Quality Coach Office Days

Are you a Family Child Care Provider? Join our Quality Coach Laurie Stenger the second Wednesday of the month to discuss your coaching needs.

- [Virtual Office Hours FCCH Laurie](#)

Join Quality Coach Allison Hackenberg to discuss the intent, grow your understanding and strategies for implementation of the Keystone STARS quality indicators.

- [Work It Wednesdays](#)

Join us for our monthly Bucks County Director's Alliance meetings! Attendance is strongly recommended as there are important updates to share for all licensed child care providers! Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month from 1:00-2:00 PM

- [BCDA Newsletter Flyer March 2022](#)

Please view our Quality Coach's Calendar for the month.

- [Coaches Calendar March 2022](#)

PQA - Let's Talk Quality Monthly webinar series

- [March topic: Art](#)
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ELRC Updates

Is Your Email Address Up to Date in PSS?

OCDEL uses email to communicate with child care locations about important announcements including additional grant and award opportunities in the coming months. Providers should visit PSS and confirm that their contact information is up to date as soon as possible.

Log into Provider Self Service

- Click on Location Profile.
- Review all location information including the email address.
- Contact the help desk with any issues at 877-491-3818 and select option #2 twice.

CCW Reminders

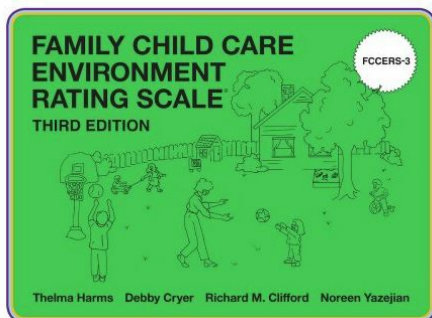
Correctly completing your attendance is essential to receiving an accurate Child Care Works payment.

- Paper Attendance - Mark "CA" for COVID Absence for each child out for COVID related absence
- Online Attendance - Mark the child absent for every scheduled day that they do not attend. Click on the blue hyperlink to access the comment box. Place a comment for the COVID absences

(ex: COVID absence: 2/11-2/15)

Examples of COVID Absences:

- Child must quarantine
- Child or family member is positive for COVID
- Facility needs to close due to positive cases
- Child or family member is waiting for COVID test results



Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale PD

The FCCERS tool assists family providers in assessing program quality. This tool can be used to meet the STARS quality indicator EC2.1. Two live sessions will be offered by the assessor team for \$7 a session and the FCCERS tool is included in the cost of registration.

- Foundations of FCCERS - 3/23 @ 6:00 pm - This session will give you an overview of the scale and will help you to learn how to use the 7 point scoring system.

Event ID: 335260

- FCCERS-R - 4/20 @ 6:00 pm - This session goes into detail about specific items and indicators in the FCCERS-R.

Event ID: 335264

Family Child Care providers should reach out to their Quality Coach for support in registering for these events.

Certification News

[Announcement C-22-02](#) includes information related to pre-service training for all child care staff. In summary of this announcement:

- All child care staff must complete 12 hours of annual training

As of 4/29/22:

- All staff must complete the required CCDBG health and safety training which is found on the Better Kid Care website, before caring for children unsupervised. Click [here](#) to access this page
- Shaken Baby Syndrome, Abusive Head Trauma and Child Maltreatment is also a required training. This training **IS** embedded as part of the CCDBG training listed above.
 - If you took this training after 9/2016, you are in compliance
 - If you had taken CCDBG prior to 9/2016, it is recommended that you take the updated 10-hour module
- Certification requires all staff to take 12 hours of ongoing professional development. Health & Safety topics should be prioritized but other topics may be included in those 12 hours.

Updated Policies

Child care providers must have a policy and procedure to help staff identify shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment. The policy must include, but is not limited to:

- Recognition of potential signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma
- Strategies for coping with a crying, fussing, or distraught child
- Address the prevention and identification of child maltreatment

Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child is a fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families and communities. This year's WOYC is April 2-8.

NAEYC has developed resources and ideas so your program can celebrate and raise awareness on the needs of young children and their families. Visit [NAEYC](#) for daily activity idea.



Keystone STARS Updates

Providers with STAR expirations through September 30, 2022 may accept the one-year extension offered by OCDEL. Providers are using this time to work with their Quality Coach to prepare for an evidence review next year and many are working on moving to the next STAR level!

Quality Coaches provide supports including individual meetings, Movement Cohorts, Learning Communities, Director Networks and other assistance to walk you through every step of the designation process. Check out all the Regional Groups above and join in!

Tax Assistance

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program offers free tax help to people who make \$57,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their tax returns. Families can usually find VITA sites in community and



neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. To locate an open site near you, use the [VITA Locator Tool](#) or call (toll-free) 888-227-7669.

Health & Safety

Face Coverings in Child Care

As of 12/10/21, masks were no longer required to be worn by children or staff in a child care setting. However, CDC continues to recommend masking as a critical public health tool for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

- Masks are effective at reducing transmission of the Coronavirus when worn consistently and correctly.
- Choose a well-fitting and comfortable mask that your child can wear properly. A poorly fitting or uncomfortable mask might be worn incorrectly or removed often, and that would reduce its intended benefits.
- Choose a size that fits over the child's nose and under the chin but does not impair vision.
- Clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel are an alternative type of mask that may be helpful when interacting with certain groups of people.

Visit [PA Key](#) for up-to-date guidance.

Reporting COVID cases

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has provided two options for Department of Human Services (DHS) certified child care facilities to report positive COVID-19 cases, either by email or phone. This resource has updated counties and provides an [outline of the process](#) that should be followed when reporting cases to DOH. Click [here](#) for more information.



PQAS First Aid Instructors

Instructors delivering First Aid/CPR modules must be PQAS approved and use an OCDEL approved Pediatric curriculum. The approved curriculum list can be found on the [PA Key website](#).

Any questions regarding PQAS status of trainers can be directed to Amanda Janeshefski amajan@pakeys.org.

Want to add staff or other members of your team to this newsletter? Email estair@cscinc.org and specify which Regional Newsletter you would like and requests will be added to next month's distribution.

Connect with us



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