



Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13 April 2022

Serving Berks & Schuylkill counties

We express our greatest appreciation and gratitude to Early Childhood Educators for the relentless support and courageous service through the pandemic to the young children and their families.

Region 13 Updates

Family Connection Newsletter

Community Services for Children has begun to send a monthly ELRC Family Connection Newsletter. This newsletter is distributed to all families enrolled in Child Care Works and includes information regarding local events & resources, child development topics, health & safety news and much more. The newsletter is available in both English and Spanish and can be found on CSC's website under [Family Communication](#).

Beginning in April 2022, we will add all child care providers to our distribution list of this family newsletter. Would you consider forwarding the email to your enrolled families or printing a copy and posting it in your parent information area? We appreciate your partnership in reaching more families with this important information.



**Reading School District 2022-2023
Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten**

Registration

Please share this important information with families who reside in the Reading School District:



- Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for the Reading School District began on March 15th.
- Students must be 4 years old by September 1, 2022 to start Pre-Kindergarten and 5 years old by September 1, 2022 to start Kindergarten.
- Visit [Reading School District](#) for more information and to begin the registration process

Berks Early Care and Education Council (BECEC) Spring Training Opportunities

BECEC EI Provider Conference - Save the Date

- A save the date flyer for the BECEC EI Provider Conference on May 12th 9:30am - 1:00pm via Zoom can be found [here](#). Registration details will be released at a later date. Child care providers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

BECEC Training - Co-Creating Healing Communities

- When: 5/20/22 from 9:00am - 11:00am
- Participants will gain an understanding of the impact of cultural bias, historical trauma, and marginalization on diverse families and communities. Early Childhood educators have a unique opportunity to form safe, healthy relationships with children during foundational development, which can create safe, valued, and heard experiences. Participants will learn the keys to healing for children, families and community groups and develop strategies to navigate stressors.
- Register by using this [link](#)
- Registration will remain open until 5/18/2022



Free PPE Supplies

If you are in need of PPE supplies (disinfecting wipes, gloves, sanitizer, etc), please reach out to your Quality Coach or Provider Manager to arrange pick up at the ELRC office.

Region 13 Provider Supports

Director's Network Group

The March Director's Network meeting was held on Wednesday, 3/9. Lindsay Van Dyke from the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) program shared valuable resources available to all STAR programs and what one can expect when working with an IECMH consultant. In the county break-out rooms, participants shared current program practices that directors find difficult to manage such as baby-sitting, social media and smart phone/watch policies.



- Please join us for the next Director's Network meeting on April 13th at 1:00pm. Guest speaker Erica Armbruster, Certification Supervisor, will be joining the group to help support programs through all of the recent changes.
- [Director's Network Group invite](#)

Work It Wednesday

The Work It Wednesday series is a monthly session that takes a deeper dive into a specific Keystone STARS standard or topic to provide an increased understanding of the value and scope of the indicator. Join the webinar on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

- [Work It Wednesday](#)

Regional Calendar

Check out our April calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities and professional development opportunities

- [Calendar - April 2022](#)

PQA - Let's Talk Quality monthly webinar series

- [April Topic: Sparking Interactions](#)

ELRC Updates

STAR Movement Tip of the Month - Family Workshops

Conducting an educational workshop at your facility builds parental knowledge, strengthens the family unit and builds engagement in the program. Topics may include curriculum, positive interactions, health and safety or other child development topics.

To meet the indicator FC3.4.5, the program must do more than just provide educational resources. **A Workshop is defined as a meeting in which a group of people engage in intensive discussion and activity.**

For example, you may invite your local librarian to present on the importance of early literacy and then facilitate a discussion on how to read a story to elicit vocabulary building, encourage creative imagination and a love of reading. Or perhaps, a local pediatrician teaches families about healthy eating habits and ways to include children in grocery shopping, meal preparation and making healthy food choices.

Improving Business Practices for Family Child Care Providers

Tom Copeland, business advocate for family providers, will be holding three upcoming webinars on improving business practice for family child care.

1. FCC Marketing

April 6, 2022, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) for session details and to preregister

2. Legal and Insurance Issues

April 20, 2022, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) for session details and to preregister

3. Money Management/Retirement

May 4, 2022, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) for session details and to preregister

PD in PA

A commitment to Professional Development of staff is an important part of any quality child care program. Pennsylvania has a variety of options to meet the staff needs, interests and goals.

1. Needs-based PD - When a topic is identified that would improve a practitioner's understanding of ECE practices, they can find a module to meet this need. These are non-credit earning and generally run from 1-3 hours. There is usually a small fee to pay for these trainings and can be found on the PD Registry, Better Kid Care or other independent trainers. Modules can be completed online or face to face but must be PQAS approved or issue CEUs.
 2. Specialty topics - Fire Safety, First Aid/CPR, and Water Safety are some example of these specialty topics. Providers seek out local trainers who are certified to instruct on this content.
 3. Credit Bearing Course Work - Staff who wish to pursue CDA, Associates or Bachelor's degree or other credential can enroll through the PDO (Professional Development Organization). There are opportunities for this coursework to be funded as well. Visit the PDO information page on the [PA Keys website.](#)
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Healthy Minds

Directors and staff are invited to attend a Community of Practice called Healthy Minds at Work. This time for guided meditation will be held every Monday at 1:00 pm beginning on April 4th.

At the ELRC, we are invested in providing support for your well-being. Even if you've never tried meditation, we believe everyone can gain something through taking time to learn how to slow down, focus and improve connections across our teams.

See the [Healthy Minds flyer](#) for the registration link.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Providers who qualified and applied for the ARPA funding are currently receiving their installment payments. Each provider will receive 6 equal monthly installments and some providers received their last payment in March.

Providers are using these funds for both sustainability (rent, utilities, salaries) as

well as program quality improvements (curriculum, classroom materials, air purifiers). Some programs have shared ways they are using this funding to make lasting impacts on their program:

- Workforce supports - bonuses for staff retention, sign on bonuses, investment in staff training
- Technology upgrades - updating computers, software and purchasing tablets for teacher and child use
- Mental Health Supports - paying for counseling services for staff or families, hiring a yoga instructor for after work yoga sessions.
- Playground updates - investing in high quality playground surfacing or new, embedded equipment

Next Steps

After a provider receives their 6th monthly installment, they will receive an email asking them to report on how the grant funds were used. All reporting will be completed on the PD Registry. Providers can begin to prepare for this reporting by tracking expenses, logging on spreadsheets and keeping copies of receipts organized.



School Age Staff Professional Development

Are you looking for professional development designed especially for school age staff? Or are you planning your summer programming for your school age children? Check out this series of PD opportunities that will provide your school age staff new ideas for your summer program. Register now for these PQAS approved, online, evening workshops! Click [here](#) for more details.

Health & Safety

Safe Sleep Resources

Deaths related to unsafe sleeping environments are the third leading cause of infant mortality and *the* leading cause in the post-neonatal period (months 2-12). Programs can bring awareness to families by reminding them to put babies to sleep on their backs, the dangers of co-sleeping, and importance of keeping pillows and blankets out of cribs. Visit this [Safe Sleep website](#) for free printable materials, posters and other resources to share.



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. Through this collaboration, prevention services and supports help protect children and produce thriving families.

1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year, and this is likely an underestimate! Please see the flyer on [Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect](#) and consider posting in your center or send home a copy with your families.

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.

Visit ELRC Region 13

Community Services for Children | elrc13@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



Community Services for Children | 1520 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA 18109

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