



Community Services for Children

Family Connection Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 May 2022

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia & Montour counties

Region 11 News

Si desea ver este boletín en español, haga clic [aquí](#)

Need Help Finding a Child Care Provider?

The Early Learning Resource Center staff are happy to help you locate quality child care for your children.

If you need to transfer to a new provider or you are having a hard time finding a provider with openings, please call our ELRC office for a list of referrals. Region 11 also welcomed seven new providers to our area!

- Amy Daycare, Hazleton
- Cheder Menachem, Wilkes-Barre
- Illumination School Age at Good Shepherd Academy, Kingston
- Little Bear Group Child Care, West Hazleton
- Little Creative Hands, Hazleton
- The Little Children Development Center, Berwick
- W&L ABC LLC, Hazle Twp.



COMING SOON!

Free Preschool Program in Wilkes Barre

The Wilkes Barre Area School District is partnering with Building Blocks Learning Center to provide a FREE program for children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2022.

The program will work with your child to get them academically ready for kindergarten. The program



will start in September 2022. Located at 80 Jones Street in Wilkes Barre, the program will operate Monday-Friday from 9:00am-3:00pm.

For more information on this program, call 570-574-8110. If you choose to enroll your child in this program and you need child care before and/or after the program hours, please reach out to your family specialist at the ELRC for further assistance with these additional hours of care.

Parenting Corner



Creating Calm Moments at Home

Everyone experiences stress and can feel overwhelmed.... Children Too!

Some signs of stress or anxiety in children are:

- Complaints of stomach aches/headaches
- Trouble sleeping
- Short temper or moodiness
- Trouble concentrating
- Aggressive or defiant behavior
- Unstable emotions

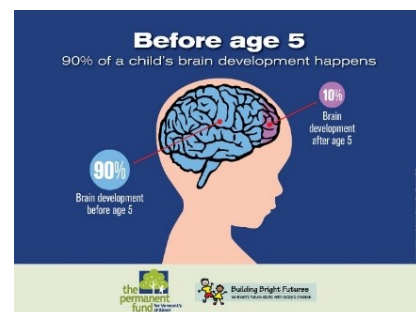
What can you do to reduce the stress and anxiety for your children and create a home that provides a calming environment?

Click on this resource, [“Creating Calm Moments at Home”](#), by Child Care Aware and take some time to destress; not only for your children’s well-being, but for yourself too!

Child Development

Brain Development Before 5

Did you know that children are born ready to learn and have many skills to develop over their lifetime? They depend on parents, family members and other caregivers as their first teachers to guide them to be independent and lead a healthy and successful life.



How the brain grows is strongly affected by the child’s experiences with other people and the world. Nurturing care for the mind is critical for brain growth.

Speaking with children and exposing them to books, stories, and songs helps strengthen children's language and communication, which puts them on a path towards learning and succeeding in school.

For more information on early brain development, please click on the links below.

[Child Development: Brain Building](#)

[Supporting Children's Early Brain Development](#)

Quality Child Care

Beginning Your Search for a Child Care Program

When deciding which childcare providers to visit, it's important to recognize that all providers have different options. Narrow down your choices by looking at the hours of operation, locations and other services that are important to your family.

Some programs provide meals or transportation. Other providers offer faith based programs, bilingual options, family engagement opportunities and other services. It is very important to take your time making this decision and plan to visit the facility with your child.

As with any large purchase or commitment, you will want to be absolutely sure you understand all of the policies, expectations and practices of the provider before signing an agreement. Watch this video, "[Choosing Quality Child Care](#)", for more information.

Visit www.compass.state.pa.us to assist you in your search! You can also view a video [here](#) to assist you in navigating the Compass website.

Resource & Referral

Keep The Water On

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

Access to clean drinking water and wastewater services are necessary to keep our homes clean and safe.

The Department of Human Services and Public Utility Commission announced the launch of the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, which helps Pennsylvanians with low incomes, maintain access to drinking and wastewater services. Families who are approved will have their past due water bills paid on their behalf. This is a grant that will not have to be repaid.

Applications are open now and you can [click here](#) for more information.

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has numerous programs to help families in need.

The Pennsylvania [KinConnector](#) is here to assist caretakers caring for a child that is not their own. This is referred to as Kinship care.

Kinship care is when a grandparent, aunt/uncle, adult brother/sister, or anyone who shares a bond with that child, is caring for them in place of their biological parents. [KinConnector](#) can help you understand the resources available to you and can help refer you to the services your family needs.

Health & Safety

School Vaccination Requirements

A vaccine (or immunization) is a way to build your body's natural immunity to a disease before you get sick. Vaccines keep you from getting and spreading the disease onto others. Some illnesses, like strains of cold viruses, are fairly mild. But some, like smallpox or polio, can cause life-altering changes and can even result in death. That's why preventing you and your child from contracting these illnesses is very important.

A flyer listing school vaccination requirements for attendance in PA schools can be found [here](#).

Oral Health - Choosing Healthy Drinks for Your Young Child

Choose drinks that will help keep your child healthy. Many drinks have natural or added sugar. Children who are often given sugary drinks are more likely to have tooth decay (cavities). You might not even know you are giving your child drinks with sugar! Water or milk are the best drinks for your child.



Tips for Choosing Healthy Drinks:

- Breast milk is best. Breastfeed your child for 6 months or longer.
- Give your child plain water with fluoride. Water from the tap (faucet) is safe and cheap.
- Give your child milk at scheduled meal and snack times.
- It is best not to put your child to bed with a bottle or sippy cup. If you do, the bottle or sippy cup should contain only water, nothing else.
- Give your child cut-up or whole fruit instead of fruit juice.
- If you give your child juice, wait until he is 6 months old. Offer your child no more than 4 to 6 ounces of 100-percent fruit juice each day. Serve juice in a cup.

- If your child drinks from a sippy cup, it should contain only water or milk, nothing else. By age 12 to 14 months, most children can drink from a cup.
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For more information click [here](#).

PA Lead Free Promise Project

The PA [Lead-Free Promise Project](#) has created an easy-to-use Parent Toolkit to assist parents in finding services for a child who tests positive for lead. The guide also provides detailed contact information for:

- Care managers at health insurance plans
- Companies that test homes for lead paint (for FREE if the child has Medicaid)
- Companies that remove lead paint
- And services like Early Intervention, WIC and Head Start.

Click [the Parent Resource Toolkit](#) on the Lead-Free Promise Project website.

Arts & Crafts

Tin Can Planter

Create this beautiful Tin Can Planter with your child.

You will need:

- Markers
- Paint Brushes
- Recycled Tin Can (like a coffee can or soup can)
- Acrylic Paint
- Topsoil
- Flower seeds
- Masking Tape

Instructions

1. Check the can for any sharp edges and cover with a few layers of masking tape if you find any!
2. Begin by painting the tin can. You may need to do two coats of paint to completely cover the can. Allow 1-2 hours to dry.
3. Give your child some markers or additional paint colors to paint over the base paint. Depending on their age, they may want to paint something they can see like a butterfly or flowers, or they may just decorate the can.
4. Help your child fill the can with topsoil. Create a small hole in the dirt to add seeds, cover with dirt and water daily.
5. Check on the plant every few days. Talk about how flowers need soil, water and sun to grow. Note the changes your child sees happening!



Visit ELRC Region 11

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