



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

Serving Berks & Schuylkill counties

Region 13 Updates

New Staff

Deliana Diaz recently joined our staff as an Administrative Specialist. Deliana has an Associate's degree in general studies, as well as experience in administration and customer service. Additionally, she spent 8 years working in a child care setting.

Deliana is a mom who loves cooking and trying out new recipes. She is also a big fan of traveling the world, both near and far, looking for new experiences.



Welcome Deliana!

Raise Your STAR!

The following programs demonstrated their commitment to quality by moving to a higher STAR level since January 1, 2022.

Congratulations to the following providers for moving to STAR 2:

- Jardin De Dios
- Hereford Elementary
- Michelle's Little Explorers

Congratulations to the following providers for moving to a STAR 4:

- Wilson School District Child Care - Berkshire Height
- Cope Child Care & Learning Center
- Little Mates Child Development Center (Elverson)

RAISE YOUR STAR ★★★★★

Well Water Study

Researchers at Temple University are looking for families who drink water from a private well for a paid study. To be part of this study, families must have a child three years old or younger and live in Berks, Bucks or Lehigh County. At the end of the trial, families will get to keep a UV device that is installed in their residence.

Families will also be given a replacement UV blub and quartz sleeve so the device will require no additional costs for the first two years! For more information, visit their [website](#) or contact the researchers at (215)204-5124 or wettrial@temple.edu.

[Well Water flyer](#)

Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Award

PA's Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Award recognizes efforts made to embrace diversity and full inclusion, uphold fundamental principles of fairness and justice, and work to eliminate inequities that limit equitable learning opportunities.

To learn more about this award, visit the [Champion Awards](#) on the PA Keys website.

Congratulations to:



Gold Level

YMCA Tri-County Area - Pottstown



Silver Level

Opportunity House - The Second Street Learning Center - Reading



Bronze Level

Woodlands Academy of Early Learning - Leesport



Honorable Mentions

Babies N Motion Day Care Center - Reading

Region 13 Provider Supports

Director's Network Group

- Last month's Director's Network meeting was held on Wednesday, 4/13. Certification Supervisor, Erica

Armbruster, was available to answer all health and safety questions, along with providing additional guidance regarding recent OCDEL announcements.

- Please join us for the next Director's Network meeting on May 11th at 1:00pm. May's topic will be Summer School-Age Activities featuring guest speakers from the Reading Public Museum and Walk-in Art Center of Schuylkill Haven.
- [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 May calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities and professional development opportunities

- [Calendar - May 2022](#)

PQA - Let's Talk Quality monthly webinar series

- [May Topic: Inspiring Spaces for Infants & Toddlers](#)

Healthy Minds

Join us for guided meditation every Monday at 1:00 pm

- [Healthy Minds flyer](#)

ELRC Updates

CCW Updates & Reminders

- Providers should have received a reminder to submit your Appendix B - Closed Days, for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. If you are completing this document on paper, it is due back to the ELRC by 5/6. Providers using PSS have until 5/13 to complete their Appendix. You can view an instructional video [here](#). Reach out to your provider specialist with any questions.
- Providers are expected to report any co-pay delinquencies to their provider specialist by Monday of the following service week. Providers using PSS can report both the delinquency and when the co-payment has been satisfied.
- Co-pay changes occurred for many families in April. Please review your enrollment summary carefully to ensure you are collecting the correct co-pay in May.
- Look for more information regarding the upcoming School-Age flip which occurs on June 13th.

STAR Movement Tip of the Month

Did you know that OCDEL has a list of approved curricula and assessment tools?

STAR indicator EC3.4.1 requires providers to select and implement one of these approved curricula. A curriculum is an essential component to a quality program as it assists teachers in designing classrooms, planning activities and implementing developmentally appropriate practices. The assessment tool will inform teachers of the child's competencies so they may design learning environments to meet individual needs.

If you have not already implemented one of these curricula or assessment tools, it is strongly recommended to use ARPA funds to purchase these items. Your Quality Coach can assist you in selecting a curricula or assessment tool that reflects your program's philosophy, goals and objectives.

View a complete list of OCDEL approved curricula [here](#) and the list of assessment tools [here](#).

PD Registry

All licensed providers are expected to keep their PD Registry staff lists updated. When bringing on a new hire, make this part of your onboarding process.

The Director should go into the program's organization profile (on the Registry you will find this in the drop down menu under your name) and click on the employee tab. Click on the "manage invites" button. You can then enter the staff person's information including their personal email, job title and start date. The staff member will then need to accept the invitation and complete their profile.

When a staff person **leaves** employment, go back into your organizational profile and click on the employee tab. You will see a blue box with 3 dots. Click on this button to update. You will then be able to assign an end date to this employee.



Keystone STARS Planning visits

If you are a STAR 2, 3 or 4 program, your Quality Coach will contact you to schedule a **Planning Visit** approximately 6 months before your STAR expires. This visit with your Quality Coach is vital!

During a planning visit you will:

- Discuss your programs unique continuous quality improvement goals
- Organize and prepare for upcoming renewals and designations; setting timelines to ensure success.
- Hear the latest updates and opportunities available to you and your staff (upcoming grants, free ECE courses, etc.).

- Ask your questions and receive individualized attention catered to your needs and goals.

Child Care Technology Access Award

All eligible DHS certified child care providers, regardless of Keystone STAR Level, who are in need of technology tools can apply for this one-time award. This funding opportunity will be awarded in the form of a voucher to order approved materials from the Kaplan Learning Company. The award amount is based on provider type and licensed capacity.

Kaplan began sending emails to eligible programs on 4/20/22. These emails were sent from info@kaplanco.com. Providers who have not received the email from Kaplan, should first check their Spam and/or Junk folders as the email may be diverted to one of these inboxes. If you still did not receive the email, reach out to Kaplan at 1-800-334-2014. If you have questions regarding eligibility, you can email OCDEL at RA-ocdelsubchildcare@pa.gov.

Click [here](#) to read the full announcement with details on eligibility, ordering and reporting requirements.

Health & Safety

PA Farm to Child Nutrition Summit

The PA Farm to Child Nutrition Summit will be held on 6/23 at the Ag Progress Days site outside State College. This summit will facilitate peer-to-peer learning and networking and showcase farm to child nutrition and best practice. Registration is free and breakfast and lunch will be provided.



Registration deadline is 6/8 or when capacity is reached. Click [here](#) to view the flyer and registration is now open at www.projectpa.org.



COVID Vaccines for Children PD

Join Penn State Better Kid Care and Dr. Timothy Shope, MD, MPH for the latest update on COVID vaccines for children in early care and education settings.

Questions about availability and effectiveness of the vaccine, ongoing research, how the Omicron variant might affect vaccines and how to support vaccine confidence for families will be among the many topics discussed during this free 1-hour webinar.

May 4th
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Click [here](#) to register

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Life in the early childhood education profession is nowhere near back to a normal state of operation. OCDEL understands that ECE professionals are learning to cope with their personal trauma from this global event while also supporting the children and families. OCDEL is committed to giving the ECE community recognition and support.



It is with this in mind that OCDEL has invested in a tool to support Pennsylvania's ECE professionals. All staff can access 2 free years on the Heathy Minds at Work app. Click [here](#) to learn more about this app and how to access!

Oral Health

Healthy mouths are important, especially for babies and young children.

- Poor oral health can cause children to have problems eating, speaking, and learning.
- Baby teeth are important because they hold space for adult teeth.

A healthy mouth is important for overall health.

- Cavities can be painful and lead to infections and other health problems.
- Cavities can be prevented with proper oral care.

Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with families.

A logo for "CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH". The words "CHILDREN'S" and "ORAL HEALTH" are stacked in large, bold, black letters. Below them, in smaller black text, is the tagline "TEACH YOUR CHILDREN GOOD ORAL HEALTH TECHNIQUES FOR LIFE".

**CHILDREN'S
ORAL HEALTH**
TEACH YOUR CHILDREN GOOD ORAL
HEALTH TECHNIQUES FOR LIFE



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](#)

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