



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

Serving Bucks counties

Region 16 Updates

RAISE YOUR **STAR** ★★★★★

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

STAR 2

- Creative New Beginnings Child Care & ELC

STAR 3

- Upper Bucks YMCA

STAR 4

- Lots of Love Learning Center
- Bucks Co Community College Early Learning Center

Thank you for your continued commitment to quality!



Welcome!

The Early Learning Resource Center Region 16 would like to welcome the

following new child care programs to the early learning community. We look forward to working with these programs in the future.

- Kiddies Aim Higher Child Care - Levittown
- Yia Yias Day Care - Churchville



Annual Kick Off Meetings

The ELRC will be holding it's annual Kick Off Meetings in October. Your attendance is highly encouraged as we will discuss updates to Keystone STARS standards, CCW changes, grant opportunities and review the plans for provider supports during the 22-23 school year.

Save the date for the meeting most convenient for you!

Lower Bucks County

Thursday, September 15th 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Christian Life Academy of Early Learning, 3100 Galloway Rd, Bensalem, PA 19020

Upper Bucks County

Thursday, September 22nd 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Pennridge Christian Academy, 720 Blooming Glen Rd, Perkasie, PA 18944

Watch for the September newsletter and your email for registration information. Hope to see you!



Art Work Displays

Child Care providers are invited to partner with the ELRC to showcase children's art work in the ELRC offices. Two providers per quarter will be featured and the art will be displayed with provider information. Please note the following guidelines:

- Art should be limited to 20 pieces per provider.
- Hanging art should not exceed 11x17. Small sculpture pieces or 3D art to hang from the ceiling may also be included.
- Art can be seasonal (beach art, fall leaves, etc) but not holiday related (no Santa, jack-o-lanterns, etc).
- Art must be dropped off to the ELRC office by the first of the month.
- Pieces will not be returned to the provider unless prior arrangements are made with your Quality Coach.

Click [here](#) to register as space is limited!

Region 16 Provider Supports

The Pennsylvania Key Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC)



Are you looking for support with: Helping a child who is struggling with behavior, attachment, peer relationships or emotion regulation? Helping teachers and families with self-care, stress, and coping, but not sure what to do next? IECMHC Virtual Office Hours is now accepting appointments for office hours throughout Pennsylvania!

- [Pennsylvania Key IECMHC Virtual Office Hours](#)

The Bucks County Director's Directory

A contact list of directors for directors!

If they have not already done so, directors can feel free to add their contact information at any time. A real time updated directory can be found on our Google Drive for Directors ([Google Drive Link](#)). Add your contact information [here](#).

Google Drive for Directors

Feel free to check out our Google Drive for Directors! If you have resources you think would be great to share with other directors, please send to your Quality Coach. Access [Google Drive here](#).

Bucks County Director Network Group

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

Please join our BCDA Planning Meeting on August 18th at 1:00 pm, if you would like to help plan the next meeting on August 5th please [register Here](#)

- [BCDA August Invitation](#)

Coaches Calendar

Quality Coaches Are Here For You! There are many options for ways to connect with your Quality Coach for support and information. Please view our Quality Coach Calendar for the month.

- [Coaches Calendar August 2022](#)

Coffee With Your Coach

Take some time away from the hustle and bustle of your program and meet up with your Coach! Our Keystone STARS Quality Coaches will once again be available throughout the community for in-person meetings. Coaches will be available to address questions, concerns, address supports or chat about any need you have!

- [Coffee With Coach](#)

Coach Virtual Office Hours

Your Quality Coach is available to connect on Fridays with the availability of Virtual Office Hours. Please see flyer for dates and times your coach is available and office hours link

- [Virtual Office Hours](#)

Healthy Minds

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

- [Healthy Minds flyer](#)



2022 Keystone STARS Performance Standards Recorded Webinar

The Keystone STARS 2022 Performance Standards take effect on July 1, 2022. A recorded webinar is now available to help providers understand the updates and edits that have been made to these standards.

Click [here](#) to view the recording.

You can also visit the PA Key website for additional supporting documents and download a copy of the performance standards and STARS manual. Click [here](#) to access the resource page.

2022 Market Rate Survey

Providers should have received their copy of the 2022 Market Rate survey in the mail (not email). OCDEL asks all licensed child care facilities to complete this survey. Your feedback is crucial in advocating for policy decisions and CCW rate setting.



Surveys will be collected until 10/11/22. If you have not received your survey or have any questions, please reach out to the Institute of State and Regional Affairs at ChildCareResearch@psu.edu or call 866-982-6433.

CCW Reminders

- School Age flip will be taking place August 29th. Children will be flipped back to the PT enrollment rate. Please remember to look at your invoices carefully for these school-age enrollments to be sure no corrections are needed.
- If children are missing, please add them to your invoice to ensure payment. Remind the families to contact their family specialist regarding their enrollment change.

Become a CCW Provider

Are you interested in becoming a Child Care Works provider but not sure how to begin? Our Provider Specialist in ELRC Region 12, Mary Ruth Tanner, has created a short video explaining the benefits of having a CCW agreement with the ELRC.

You can view the video [here](#). Reach out to the ELRC to schedule a meeting to review the provider agreement.

Pelican System Updates

The Pelican System recently went through some updates which included auto-generated emails and text messaging.



We have had reports that some providers have gotten notification that their provider invoice was not received by the ELRC. Please note that there may be a delay of entering your invoice into Pelican which is then prompting the message.

If you know you had submitted your invoice, you can disregard this reminder. But always reach out to your Provider Specialist if you have any concerns.



Professional Development Opportunities

Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance is offering a new curriculum series, Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs. The training content and activities are designed to strengthen child care providers' foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations.

The series contains four modules of business practices content:

- Budgets, Projections, and Planning
- Financial Reports and Internal Controls
- Marketing for Child Care Programs
- Staff Recruitment and Retention for Center-based Child Care Programs

There are two versions of this series: one for center-based providers and one for family child care (based) providers. Select dates are available in Spanish. Please click [here](#) for additional details.

Environmental Rating Scale

Self-paced, online ERS courses are being removed from the PD Registry. However, virtually facilitated, live ERS sessions are being planned for the 2022-23 program year. These sessions will be scheduled throughout the year. Programs can review the current ERS PD calendar on the PA Key website [here](#) (under the Statewide PQA Professional Development Calendar section). Additionally, programs using the ERS to inform their CQI work are still able to apply for the LearnERS Coaching Framework. Information about LearnERS can be requested at LearnERS-PA@pakeys.org.

Programs wishing to access self-paced, scale-specific introductory ERS professional development offered by the Environment Rating Scale Institute, can register and attend sessions via the Institute's website ersi.info.



If you have not done so already, please begin to complete your ARPA spending report on the PD Registry. All dollar amounts received must be allocated to one of the spending categories. Also, please note that age-level capacity must be completed at the bottom of the report. If you have any questions, please reach out to your Quality Coach.

You will receive a reminder email from the PD Registry to complete this report. Failure to submit by its due date, which is 60 days after your last payment was received, will require all ARPA funds to be returned.

Workforce Support Grant Payments

Workforce Support Grant applications are being approved and finalized by the ELRC. Payments will be sent to providers via direct deposit or check prior to 9/16/22.

Some helpful reminders:

- Do not submit your final expense report until after payment has been received and all money has been disbursed.
- Should a staff person leave your program after you had requested an amount in their name, those dollar amounts need to be added into the “Other Staff Supports” bucket and be spent accordingly. This bucket can be used for sign on bonuses, staff training, onboarding expenses, etc. If you are unable to spend those funds, they must be returned to the ELRC.
- Staff must be paid their full award within 30 days of receipt of the funding.
- Please read through the award letter once received and follow up with your Quality Coach with any questions.

Spanish Resources for Summer Learning and Literacy

The resources for OCDEL's Summer Learning and Literacy Road Trip are now available in Spanish! See the English and Spanish versions of the printable Summer Road Trip Map and My Summer Learning and Literacy Road Trip Travel Journal.

The nine-week virtual Summer Learning and Literacy Road Trip encourages families and caregivers to discover Pennsylvania libraries and resources available to support early literacy and learning. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Health & Safety

COVID Vaccines for Children 6 months and older

COVID-19 vaccines are now available for children 6 months through 5 years of age. The pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is safe, and it is highly effective



at protecting children against COVID-19-related illness, hospitalization, and death.

Vaccinating children against COVID-19 is the best way to help keep families and communities healthy and schools safer this fall. Children in this younger age group can be vaccinated with whichever vaccine is available (either Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech).

Click [here](#) for additional information

Oral Health - Talking To Your Child about the Dentist

Children need to visit a dentist or dental clinic to keep their teeth and mouth healthy. If children have regular dental visits, the dentist and dental hygienist can take care of their teeth and find oral health problems early.



Having regular dental visits also teaches children to value good oral health. Click [here](#) for more information and for tips to share with families about preparing their child to visit the dentist.

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 16

Community Services for Children | elrc16@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

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