



## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 August 2022

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

### Region 11 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

- Ana Estrella Group Home Daycare
- Charlotte Casterline Early Learning Center
- Little Stars Child Care LLC
- Foundations Early Learning Center
- B&B Family Day Care
- Seily Abreu Family Day Care
- Lady Abreu Garcia
- Jenny Navarro Family Day Care

#### STAR 4

- West Pittston Child Development Center
- Little Cubs Den

Thank you for your continued commitment to quality!



Welcome!

The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to the child care/early learning community in Region 11. We look forward to working with these programs in the future. Remember, ELRC staff are available to answer your questions and provide resources.

- Building Blocks After School EP Crestwood HS, Mountaintop
- Future Blossoms Early Learning Center, LLC, Athens

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## Behavioral and Developmental Support Services

If you are looking for guidance with challenging behaviors or developmental delays, our region has agencies that are here to help you. Early Intervention, Infant Early Childhood Mental Health, Intermediate Units, and Intensive Behavior Health Services provide early childhood education programs, children, and families with support and intervention to ensure all children succeed.

Click [here](#) for contact information and to learn more about these local agencies .

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## Annual Kick Off Meetings

The ELRC will be holding its 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.



*Sessions will be identical.  
Save these dates for the meeting most convenient for you!*

### **Columbia and Montour Counties**

Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
Penn State Cooperative Extension, 702 Sawmill Road, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

### **Bradford and Sullivan Counties**

Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
Penn State Cooperative Extension, 200 Main Street, Suite 3, Towanda, PA 18848

### **Luzerne and Wyoming Counties**

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
ELRC Region 11 Office, 41 S. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

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

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## Apprenticeship Programs

Keystone College is running new apprenticeship programs in the Fall of 2022.

### Benefits to apprenticeship:

- Become a childcare professional.
- Advance skills with on-the-job training and professional mentoring.
- Earn college credit while earning a paycheck.
- Receive incremental wage increases as competencies on the job increase.
- Take advantage of available funding opportunities.



Individuals pursuing the CDA may be interested in the following offerings:

- EDUC 2130: Child Family & Community (weekly meetings on Zoom, August 1 - October 15)
- PSYC 2190: Child Development I (completely online, October 17 - December 16)

Additional course offerings are available for those interested in the associate/bachelor's degrees in Early Childhood Education. Groups of 8 or more individuals can start at any time with courses and schedules designed to meet their needs. Individuals already working in the field may be eligible for funding opportunities.

Click [here](#) for more information and reach out to Dr. Caroline Millen at [caroline.millen@keystone.edu](mailto:caroline.millen@keystone.edu) with questions or to get started.



### 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 11 Provider Supports

Coach's Corner-Technology - Your Quality coach is available each week via Zoom for technology support. She can share her screen and walk you through the new STARS designation system, navigating the PD Registry and more. Click on the link below for scheduled days to join or register.



- [Coach's Corner-Technology](#)

The Region 11 Director's Network Roundtable meets monthly to share ideas and resources and to build partnerships in the child care community. Join us on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom to share transition strategies. Click the link below for details on registration, location and time.

- [Director's Network Roundtable August 2022](#)

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach Monthly Calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities.

- [Quality Coach Calendar August 2022](#)

### Healthy Minds

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

- [Healthy Minds flyer](#)

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## ELRC Updates

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### 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.

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### 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](mailto:ChildCareResearch@psu.edu) or call 866-982-6433.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.



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## 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](mailto: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](http://ersi.info).



## ARPA Reporting

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](mailto:estair@cscinc.org) and specify which Regional Newsletter you would like and requests will be added to next month's distribution.

Visit [ELRC Region 11](#)

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