

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 April 2023

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

Region 11 Updates

Welcome



The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to the childcare/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.

- Curious Kids Learning Center E. Main St. Inc., Plymouth
 - Bloom and Grow ELC, Bloomsburg
 - KCE Champions LLC at Drums Elementary, Drums
 - KCE Champions LLC at Freeland Elem. Middle School, Freeland
 - KCE Champions LLC at Heights Terrace Elementary, Hazleton
 - KCE Champions LLC at Valley Elementary Middle School, Sugarloaf
 - Magic World Child Care Center, Green St., Nanticoke
 - Yanet Ulerio Group Daycare, Hazle Township
-

Upcoming Free Professional Development

ELRC Region 11 Quality Coaches will be offering professional development courses in April. These courses are **free** of charge, and you will earn **PD hours** with each course.

There's still time to sign up and attend Quality Coach, Michelle Beckhorn's,

presentation of a course on motivating staff titled **“How to Get Your Staff to Show Up and Work as a Team- A Leadership Approach that Makes the Difference”** via Zoom on **April 5th**. Participants will be given ideas to use in their programs to promote inclusion and build strong relationships between staff and leadership. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

Quality Coach, Dana DeVito will present **“Understanding the Strengthening Families Protective Framework”** on **April 20th** at the Danville Child Development Center, Bloom Rd. Participants will learn about working with families and focus on the five protective factors: parent resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting & child development, concrete support in time of need and social emotional competence. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

Due to inclement weather, Quality Coach, Fawn Unger’s, presentation of **“Promoting Responsible Decision-Making”** was rescheduled to **April 26th** via Zoom. Participants will connect CASEL’s social-emotional competencies to PA Early Learning Standards and determine effective strategies to ensure the learning environment is supportive of the development of responsible decision-making. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.

Don’t hesitate to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. Hope to see you there!

Virtual Curriculum Fair

Have you considered purchasing a new OCDEL approved curriculum or would you like more information on how to effectively implement the curriculum you already use? Join us for a *Virtual Curriculum Fair* on Wednesday, 4/19 at 1:00 pm. Six different vendors will share out an overview and give participants the opportunity to join a breakout session to hear more.



Click [here](#) for more details.

Space is limited. Register now!

FREE Mandated Reporter Training

PA Family Support Alliance is providing free virtual Mandated Reporter training in April. This is a three-hour, live training approved by DHS and meets all requirements for training on recognizing and reporting child abuse. Click on each link to preregister.

- [4/5 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [4/6 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [4/6 - 6:00-9:00 pm](#)
- [4/11 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [4/12 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [4/12 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [4/15 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [4/18 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [4/19 - 6:00-9:00 pm](#)

- [4/20 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [4/27 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [4/28 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [4/29 - 9:00-noon](#)

Region 11 Provider Supports



Director's Network Roundtable

Because of the Virtual Curriculum Fair schedule this month, the Region 11 Director's Network Roundtable will not be meeting in April. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Thursday, **May 18th at 1:00 pm**. If you have not yet registered for the curriculum fair, see the link above!

Quality Coach Monthly Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach Monthly Calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities. Remember, your Quality Coach has office hours scheduled on the calendar and is available to meet with you and provide any needed supports.

- [Quality Coach Calendar April 2023](#)

Program Quality Assessment Team webinar

- [Let's Talk Quality - Stress Relief](#)

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders

- When enrolling new children who have Child Care Works funding, please verify with the ELRC if the child is authorized prior to moving forward with enrollment.
- When changing childcare rates and fees, remember to update your family agreement and handbook. Any changes to these documents should be shared with all enrolled families.

Grant Reporting

WSG 1.0 Reporting

Work Force Support Grant 1.0 reporting was due on 3/31/23. If you have not yet submitted your report, you are in noncompliance! You must complete your reporting form immediately and send it to elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org. Click [here](#) to view a tutorial for completing the grant reporting form.

If you discover that you have unspent funds, please return your reporting form with the payment to:

Community Services for Children
Attn: Jori Farley
1520 Hanover Ave

Work Force Support 2.0

All staff retention funds must be paid out to the staff within 45 days of receipt.

- Must be paid out in one lump amount.
- Must be paid through payroll.

Staff recruitment funds may be used for expenses between 7/1/22-6/30/23. Please see your grant application for eligible expenses.

Reporting forms for WSG 2.0 can be found [here](#). Please check your email for a WSG 2.0 reporting form specific to your program's grant and reach out to your Quality Coach with any questions. Completed forms should also be sent to elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org.

Kindergarten Registration



March & April begin school district Kindergarten registration!

Going to Kindergarten is a big event for every child and family. Families may feel excited and proud about this next big step but they may also be feeling a bit uneasy and anxious.

This [article by NAEYC](#) provides helpful tips for preparing parents and children for this exciting life experience.

Each school district has different days and times that registration occurs. Families can use this [link](#) to find out the specifics for the County/School District in their hometown.

Stay Connected

It can be challenging to stay up to date on the latest news and changes in regulations, OCDEL policies and announcements. At the ELRC, we highly recommend reading this Provider Link Newsletter each month. In addition, if you are not already subscribed to some of the other OCDEL and PA Key Newsletters, we highly recommend you do so.

Click on this [link](#) to subscribe and we suggest the following newsletters for all provider types:

To subscribe, complete the form below by entering a valid email address, checking the boxes of the eNewsletters you'd like to receive and submitting by clicking the "OPT IN" button.

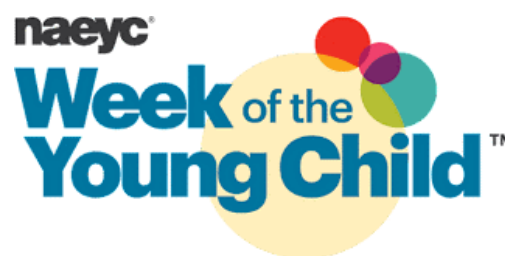
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- PA Early Education News & Special Announcements
- PA Head Start State Collaborative Office (HSSCO) News
- The Buzz on PD in PA

OPT IN

Week of the Young Child April 3-7, 2023



Every April, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) promotes the Week of the Young

Child. This week celebrates the importance of high-quality early learning, and the critical role early childhood educators play in a child's development and learning.

The ELRC would love to see the creative ways you are engaging families, children and other partners in the WOYC activities. Send pictures and stories to your Quality Coach and with your permission, we will add some submissions to the Provider Link newsletter or social media.

It's not too late to take part in this fun week! Visit NAEYC's [website](#) for celebration themes and other resources.

Family Provider FREE Professional Development Opportunity!

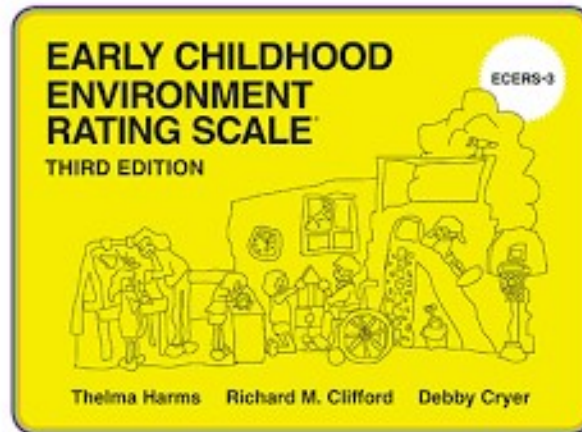
Creating an Effective Parent Handbook will be offered FREE to all Family & Group Providers in Regions 11, 12, 13, 14 & 16.

May 10, 2023
6:00-8:00 pm

This course was designed to address the unique policies and procedures needed in a Family/Group provider Family Handbook. This training will be held over Zoom and registration is now open on the PD Registry. Click [here](#) for more

details.

Environmental Rating Scale Trainings



Join the Program Quality Assessment team for these virtual Environmental Rating Scale trainings. ERS focuses on the typical daily experiences of children in early childhood and school-age settings. The assessment considers how teacher engagement, the spaces and equipment used by the children, accessible play materials, and children's activities combine to enhance learning. The ERS instruments are comprised of subscales and items. ERS items include observable and/or reportable indicators that reflect consistently occurring quality practices and provisions.

The age specific ERS instruments used in Pennsylvania include:

- ITERS-R: Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale - Revised (birth-36 months)
- ECERS-R: Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Revised (37 months-K.)
- ECERS-3: Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale - Third Edition (37 months -K.)
- SACERS-U: School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale - Updated (school-age)
- FCCERS-R: Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale - Revised (birth-school-age in a residential setting)

Click [here](#) for upcoming opportunities.

Updates to Approved Curriculum and Assessment Tools

OCDEL has released the updated approved listings for both curricula and assessment tools for use in Keystone STARS effective July 1, 2023. Those listings can be found [here](#).

Highlights of the updates include:

- Two new curricula for Infant/Toddlers have been approved and added to the listing.

- One new curriculum for PreK has been approved and added to the listing.
- No new assessments have been added to the listing.
- Two previously approved assessments for Infant/Toddlers will become sunset on June 30, 2023, and will be inactive July 1, 2023.

Programs should refer to [ELRC Announcement 22 #07-OCDEL-Approved Developmental Assessment and Curriculum Tools](#) for more information on expectations for using OCDEL approved tools in Keystone STARS.

The Importance of Family Handbooks

The purpose of a family handbook is to share the policies and procedures of your program with the families that you serve. It's also an opportunity to share your program's strengths and to provide clear expectations so that families can determine if your program will be a good fit for their child.

Family handbooks should be reviewed at least annually and be revised whenever necessary. Requesting input from staff can also be helpful when updating your handbook. They may be aware of trends or concerns that could be addressed with updated policies. If your handbook has been created electronically it can easily be updated and sent out to your families.

Your family handbook is a reflection of your business, your educational philosophy and your daily policies and procedures. It provides clear communication between families, staff and the director and should be updated as needed. If you are looking for a sample handbook or want to know what policies should be included in your handbook, contact your Quality Coach who will provide a variety of samples and resources.

Health & Safety

Free Carbon Monoxide Detectors

If you're a Pennsylvania certified childcare provider, you are eligible to receive two complimentary Carbon Monoxide Detectors. OCDEL is making these detectors available, but the ordering and placement of detectors is not a regulatory requirement.

Certified childcare providers should have received an email from School Health on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, with directions. Click [here](#) for more details.

Medicaid and CHIP Renewals

Starting April 1, 2023, Pennsylvania is required by federal law to review Medicaid and CHIP recipients' eligibility every year, which means that recipients must submit a renewal.

It is very important that renewal forms are completed and returned even if nothing has changed. Completing a renewal allows DHS to determine eligibility for MA or CHIP coverage. Coverage will continue for recipients who are still

eligible.

There are a few ways for recipients to complete a renewal:

- Complete the forms DHS sends and mail them back in the envelope included in the packet.
- Drop completed forms off at the [local county assistance office \(CAO\)](#).
- Complete the renewal online at dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS.
- Complete the renewal over the phone by calling 1-866-550-4355.

Make sure contact information is correct with DHS. Recipients can opt-in to receive text messages and email alerts about their benefits.

- Visit [COMPASS](#) and log into their My COMPASS Account.
- Use the free [myCOMPASS PA](#) mobile app.
- Call 1-877-395-8930



Finding a Dentist

Did you know that tooth decay is the number one chronic disease for children but can be prevented and managed with good oral care? Oral care starts during pregnancy and dental visits should begin by a child's 1st birthday.

For help finding a dentist use the following links:

- Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/finding-dental-clinic-your-child>
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry - Find a Pediatric Dentist: [AAPD | Find A PD](#)
- American Dental Association - Find a Dentist: <https://findadentist.ada.org/>
- Pennsylvania Dental Association: <http://www.padental.org>
- Find Dentists Accepting Medical Assistance: <http://www.InsureKidsNow.gov>

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 11

Community Services for Children | elrc11@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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