

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 12 April 2023

Serving Susquehanna, Wayne, Lackawanna, Pike, Monroe & Carbon counties

Region 12 Updates

Welcome



The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to our region! We look forward to working with these programs in the future. Early Learning Resource Center staff are here to assist you with your participation in Child Care Works and Keystone STARS, and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- Mom and Pop Family Daycare - East Stroudsburg , PA
 - Perry's Academy of Learning at the Fricchione Center - Scranton, PA
 - Wee Wons Daycare and Preschool - Scotrun, PA
 - Ms. Angie's ABC's Childcare and Learning Center LLC - Mount Pocono, PA
 - Early Explorers Child Care Center LLC - Scranton, PA
 - Creative Lil' Minds Childcare 2 LLC - Scranton, PA
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Free Screenings Available for Monroe County Providers!



Pocono Mountains United Way

The Healthy Start Early Childhood Screening Program, facilitated by The Pocono Mountain's United Way, is proud to offer free health/developmental screenings for children birth to five enrolled in Monroe County childcare facilities.

Please click [here](#) to see a list of services provided and more information. Please reach out to Roxanne Powell at Roxanne@poconounitedway.org or (610) 417-0684 with any questions.

Professional Development Opportunity - Behavior Management

NEIU 19 will be hosting a professional development event, **Teaching Preschool Children with Challenging Behaviors** on May 10, 2023!

This two-hour PQAS approved training will focus on social emotional supports, positive behavior interventions, and is open to all staff.

Please click [here](#) for more information and to register now! Please contact Amanda Jacobino at amjacobino@iu19.org or (570) 876-9390 with any questions.



Director's Network

Thank you to all who attended our Director's Network on Thursday, 3/23/23. During this meeting we engaged in a powerful conversation about staff meetings and how to make them meaningful for your staff.

We hope to see you all at our next Director's Network for our inaugural ELRC Curriculum Fair, on Wednesday, April 19th, 2023, at 1:00 PM. Please see the next box in this newsletter for registration information.

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.

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 12 Provider Supports

Technology Tuesday

Our next Technology Tuesday will be on 4/11/23 at 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. This month we will be focusing on how to find professional development to meet your team's needs with Better Kid Care. We will be sharing our screen to walk you through each page! Click [here](#) to register now. Should you have any questions or would like assistance with a specific topic, please contact Lynda Castro at lycastro@cscinc.org.



Director's Boot Camp Returns!

Join Quality Coach, Deb Galloway, for the return of Director's Boot Camp on Thursday, April 26th, 2023, at 1:00 PM! This Director's Bootcamp session will explore positive guidance and provide your staff with the tools needed to set all children up for success. Click [here](#) to register now and contact Deb Galloway with any questions at dgalloway@cscinc.org.

Community Days and Office Hours

Quality Coaches are back in the community and looking forward to meeting with you! Should you need assistance with grants, technology or one on one support to achieve your Keystone STARS goals, please call or email your coach to schedule an appointment for an upcoming community day! This month our coaches will be visiting Lackawanna and Monroe counties! Click [here](#) to see our Community Day schedule for April.

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.
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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
Allentown, PA 18109

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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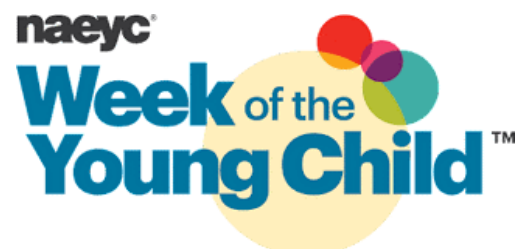
- Bright Start, Bright Kids, Bright Future -IECMHC
- Certification Services News
- Coaching: Window with a View
- ECE Recap
- Kindergarten Here I Am for Professionals
- Kindergarten Here I Come for Professionals
- Learning is Everywhere Monthly News
- Let's Talk Quality: PQA Blog Subscriptions
- PA Early 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.

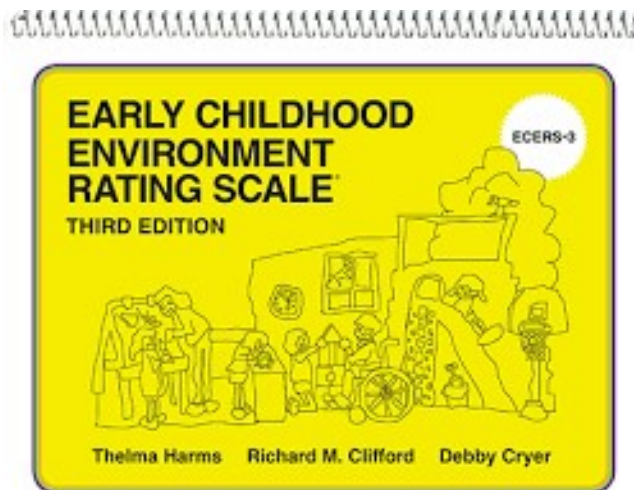
Family Provider FREE Professional Development Opportunity!

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.

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 12

Community Services for Children | elrc12@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

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