

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13 April 2023

Serving Berks & Schuylkill counties

Region 13 Updates

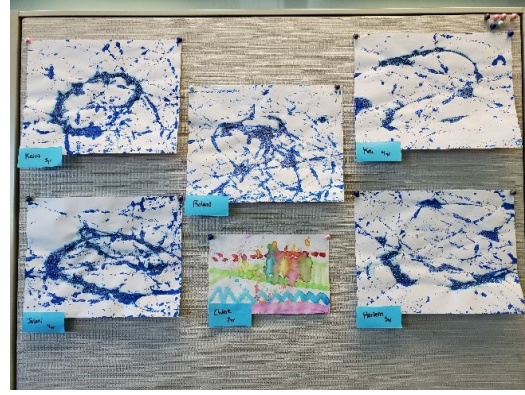
Welcome



The Early Learning Resource Center, Region 13, would like to welcome the following new childcare programs who opened in late-December, January, February, and March. We look forward to working with you! Please reach out to us with any questions.

- Brecknock Academy Childcare
 - Caterpillar Childcare Center
 - Fabien Home Daycare
 - Kings & Queens Early Learning Center
 - Reading Day Care Corp
 - St Jerome Regional School Little Lions Preschool
 - Tiny Treasures Childcare
 - Tiny Treasures Childcare II
-

Art Display



We would like to thank Today's Church for donating artwork displayed in our ELRC Reading office. Thank you for helping to brighten our waiting room and workspace!

If you are interested in donating artwork to be displayed in the ELRC offices, please click [here](#) to sign up!

Good News from the Goddard School in Wyomissing

Ms. Linda (Taylor), Preschool 2 teacher, and her class have been learning about the states through a project where they have requested letters to be sent to them from all of the states. They made the WFMZ news! See the link below to watch the segment.

[Preschool class learns geography with letters from all over the U.S.](#)

A Berks County preschool teacher is teaching her kids about the world around them through letters.



Berks Early Care and Education Council (BECEC) Virtual Annual Transition Training for Professionals

Friday, May 5th 9am-11am

Click [here](#) to view the flyer and for registration information.

Registration deadline is May 3rd.

Meet Our New Staff

Carolyn Javier



Carolyn Javier is our new Administrative Specialist. Carolyn has a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation and human services.

She spent three years working in a childcare center and loves working with and for children. Carolyn enjoys spending time with her close friends and her family.

Collette Gilmore



Collette Gilmore recently joined our staff as a Family Services Specialist. Collette has an Associate's degree in Applied Science/Human Services. She has experience in social services performing TSS work and working with children in the Reading School District doing youth lead volunteer activities in the community.

Collette has one son Avery and a daughter-in-law Deborah. She enjoys listening to music, singing, and spending time with her dog Teddy. Collette also loves, when she has the opportunity, to visit her son and experience different restaurants and activities.

Community Events



Reading Area Community College

Saturday, April 22nd 10am-2pm
See [flyer](#) for details.



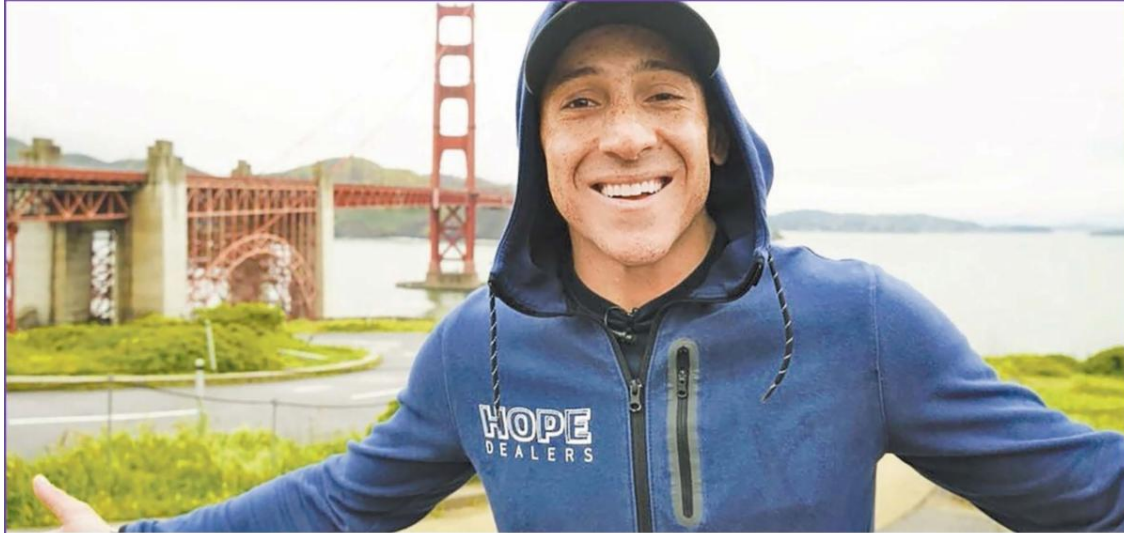
Opp Shop Outlet Sale

140 Lemon Street, Reading
Friday, April 28th 10am-2pm
See [flyer](#) for more information



Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit

Saturday, April 29th 10am-4pm
See [flyer](#) for more details.



Mental Health Awareness Month
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
Monday, May 8th
Martz Hall, Pottsville

5:00-5:30 Complimentary pizza & drinks will be served in the concession area
5:30-6:30 Presentation with Q&A and Meet & Greet to follow

FEATURING: KEVIN HINES

Kevin Hines is an award-winning mental health and suicide prevention activist, multiple award-winning filmmaker, bestselling author, international educator and subject matter expert, who reaches audiences with his story of an unlikely survival and his strong will to live.

SCMH&DS
Mental Health & Developmental Services
570.621.2890 • Crisis 877.993.4357



REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL 570-621-2890
(RSVP requested, but not required).

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kevin-hines-mental-health-awareness-presentation-tickets-539296850397>

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 13 Provider Supports

Director's Network Group

At March's Director Network meeting, we discussed successful staff meeting topics and agendas. Don't miss April's Director Network Meeting on the 12th at 1:00 pm! We will be adding depth to the agenda by taking a few minutes to be mindful, a quick activity for leadership building, and the focus questions. Please register for the event using the zoom link below

- [Director's Network Group Invite Flyer - April](#)



Learning Community

This month, join us on Wednesday, 4/19/23 at 1 PM for a Virtual Curriculum Fair! Have you been interested in adding or changing the curriculum in your program, but have not had the time to research them all? Do you have questions related to your current curriculum? Or maybe, you just do not know where to start... this event is for YOU! For more details, check out the link below. Preregistration is required.

- [ELRC Virtual Curriculum Fair Flyer.](#)

Regional Calendar

Check out our calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities and professional development opportunities.

- [Region 13 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
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.

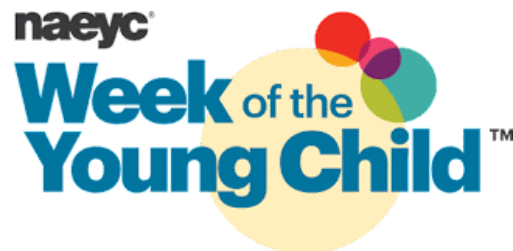
Email (required) .:

Select list(s) to subscribe to

- Bright Start, Bright Kids, Bright Future -IECMHC
- Certification Services News
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- 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 ProviderLink 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.

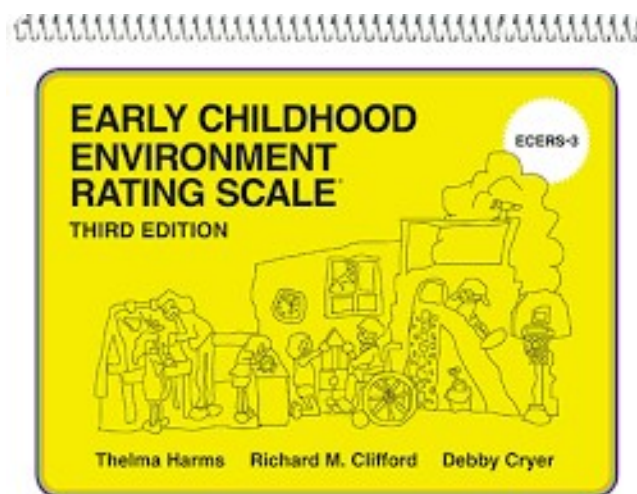
Family Provider FREE Professional Development Opportunity!

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>
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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](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc13@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

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