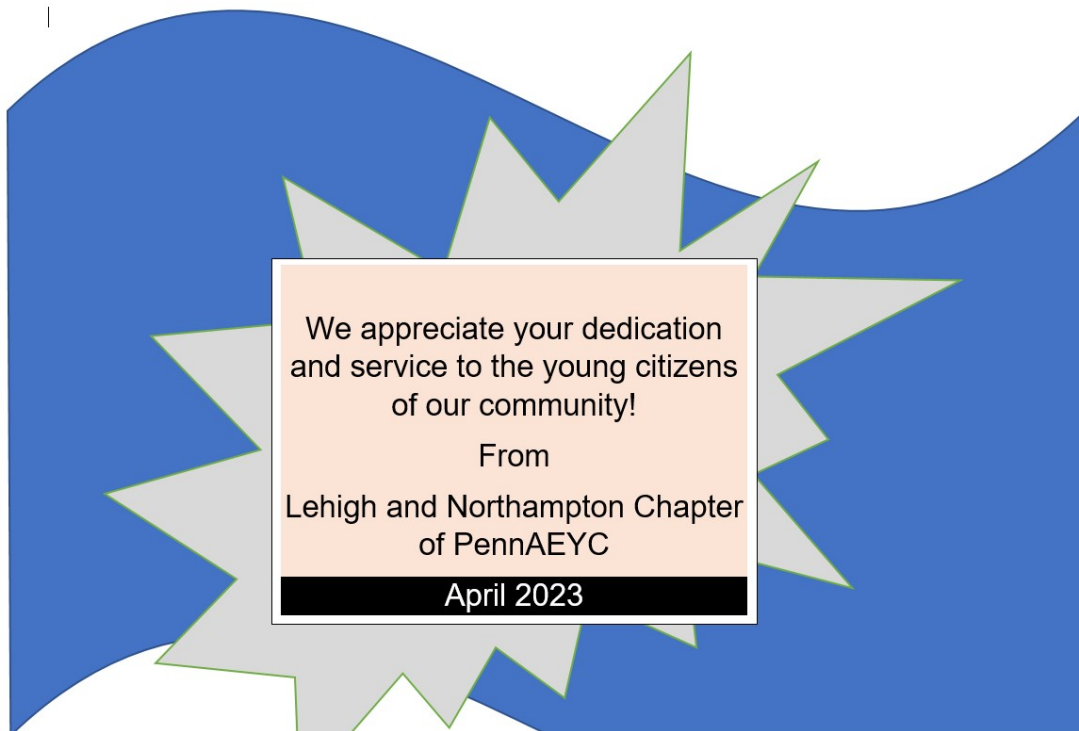


**Community Services for Children
Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 14
April 2023**

Serving Lehigh & Northampton counties

Region 14 Updates



Welcome

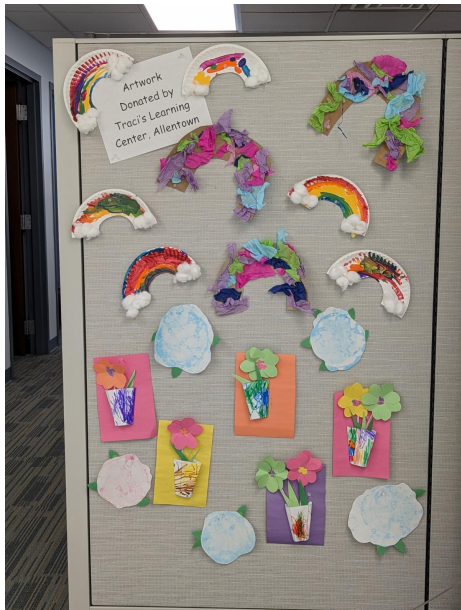


The Early Learning Resource Center Region 14 would like to welcome the following new childcare programs who opened in January, February, and March. We look forward to working with you in the future. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, the ELRC staff are here to help and to provide support to our early learning child care partners.

- Learning Ladder Bilingual Daycare 2
- Happy Faces Daycare 1 LLC
- Tejada Childcare Corp
- Liriano Childcare Corporation
- Santos Family Daycare
- Indhira Day Care
- Bright Light Learning Center Inc.
- Wonderland Kidz Drop In Childcare LLC.
- Mendez Mercedes Family Childcare

Thank You!

The ELRC would like to send a big THANK YOU to the staff and children at Traci's Learning Center in Allentown who donated artwork to our offices for our Art Work Display. The art work looks wonderful and helps to brighten up the offices.



Are you interested in donating artwork for our Art Work Display and showcasing the children's art work from your program? We are looking for art work from two providers per quarter to feature at both our Allentown and Bethlehem offices. 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.), not holiday related (such as 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.

Please contact your Quality Coach if you are interested.

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 14 Provider Supports

ELRC 14 Director's Network

At our Director's Network Meeting in March, we watched a quick video regarding the different generations within the current workforce and how their perspectives and values might differ across these age brackets. Additionally, a behavioral support tool from OCDEL for school-age childcare was shared and discussed in the context of current classroom make-ups.



Our next meeting will be April 11th at 1:00 pm. During this meeting we will have Denise Bauer from Wildlands Conservatory joining us to discuss the preschool programs they have available, Jan Schwartz and Anu Sachdev will also be joining us to discuss early childhood advocacy efforts happening in Pennsylvania, and Anabela Araujo, the PDO Coordinator, will also be with us to answer your questions if you have staff that are interested in pursuing further education. Click [here](#) to register.

Quality Coach Office Days

Do you need assistance with your Keystone STARS Renewal or Designation? Are you thinking about moving up in STARS and need some extra assistance? Your Quality Coach is here to help. Quality Coaches are in the office weekly and are available to meet. We are here to support you through your STARS journey to answer questions throughout the week. Click [here](#) for dates of when your Quality Coach will be in the office. Please don't hesitate to email, call or schedule a time to meet.

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.

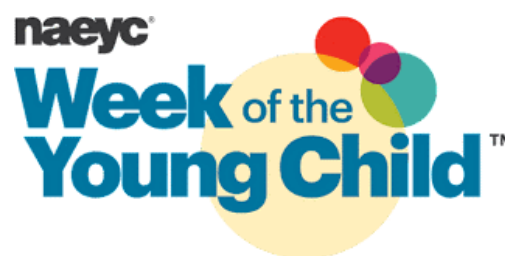
Email (required) .:

Select list(s) to subscribe to

- Bright Start, Bright Kids, Bright Future -IECMHC
- Certification Services News
- 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!

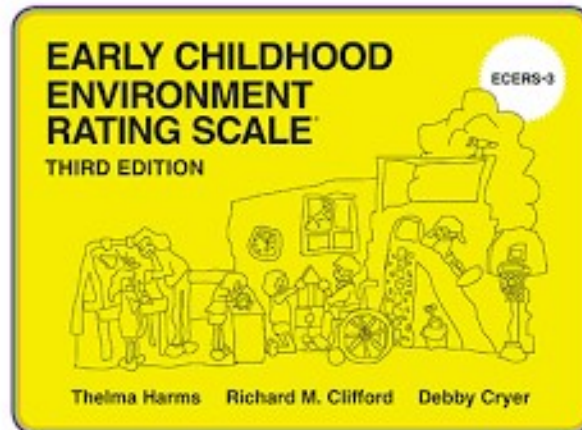
[Creating an Effective Parent Handbook](#) will be offered FREE to all Family & Group Providers in Regions 11, 12, 13, 14 & 16.

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.

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 14

Community Services for Children | elrc14@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



[Unsubscribe pcho@cscinc.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by bestair@cscinc.org in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!