

**Community Services for Children**  
**Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16**  
**April 2023**

Serving Bucks County

**Region 16 Updates**

**Congratulations to our Keystone STAR Move-up Providers this Quarter**



**STAR Level**

Kids Castle Hill	2
Kids Land	2
Shelia McGoldrick	2
Kiddie Academy Warminster	4
Lifespan Summer Camp	4
Early Learning Children's Academy (Bensalem)	4
Jean Garnett	4

Region 16 is happy to welcome two new members to our team.



**Lynne Guarnaccia**  
*Family Specialist*

Lynne brings years of Early Childhood Education experience to our Region. She enjoys watching her two teenage sons play sports and following her husband's NHRA drag racing team.



**Stephanie Ferber**  
*Quality Coach*

Stephanie has a bachelor's degree in Human Development and her Master's in Education. She enjoys movie nights and spending time at the beach with her family and two sons. They share their house with their two dogs and a cat.



## National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Take Back Day is a bi-annual event that provides community members with a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing unused, unneeded or expired medications. There are many drop off locations throughout Bucks County. Click on the flyer below for more information.

- [Take Back Location Flyer](#)

The Bucks County Suicide Prevention Task Force will be holding their "Hold On, You Matter Spring Walk" on Sunday April 30th.

Please see flyer for registration details and additional information

- [HOYM Walk Flyer](#)

## A Lunch and Learn Opportunity sponsored by the BCICC

### Navigating Community Resources, Behavioral Health Agencies, and Medical Assistance

An overview for Parents and Caregivers of Children with  
Autism/Developmental Delay

April 21, 2023

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Please see flyer for additional details and registration information.

## [Navigating Resources Parent Event Flyer](#)

### 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 16 Provider Supports

#### Dive Deeper into the Keystone STARS Standards

Take a deep dive into the 2022 Keystone STARS Performance Standards where we will review the intent and offer support on evidence to meet the indicators.

These VIRTUAL sessions are not mandatory, however, highly suggested for all STAR 2, 3, & 4 directors, and STAR 1 directors looking to move up STAR levels or wanting to incorporate high quality practices into their program.

Register once for each time frame, then attend any sessions you like using the appropriate Zoom link. Zoom registration links are embedded in the invitation or below:



- [Registration for 10 - 12 pm times](#) [Registration for 1-3 pm time s](#)

### **Back to Basics**

The Quality Coaches will be holding weekly virtual sessions for an in depth discussion on individual Keystone STARS Standards. Any STAR level is welcome to attend, however, all STAR 2, 3 & 4 directors should plan to attend any or all sessions in which they desire a better understanding of a particular standard. These sessions will last 15 - 30 minutes. Please save flyer for zoom link. Registration not required, just click link to join. **All sessions begin at 1:30 pm.**

- [Back to Basics April Schedule](#)

### **Bucks County Director Alliance**

Are you interested in learning about or have recently purchased a new curriculum? On Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, six OCDEL approved curriculum vendors - Learning Beyond Paper, Teaching Strategies, Experience Early Learning (formerly Mother Goose Time), Frog Street, Highscope, and Gee Whiz Education will be on hand for a brief overview and to answer your questions.

- [Virtual Curriculum Fair Flyer](#)

### **Coaches Calendar**

Quality Coaches Are Here For You! There are many options for ways to connect with your Quality Coach for support and information. Please view our Quality Coach Calendar for the month.

- [Coaches Calendar April 2023](#)

### **Quality Coach Community Days**

Take some time away from the hustle and bustle of your program and meet up with your Coach! Our Keystone STARS Quality Coaches will once again be available for individual meetings through a virtual or an in person option. Coaches will be available to address questions, concerns, address supports or chat about any need you have! Please see the flyer for the availability of your coach.

- [Community Day Flyer](#)

### **Program Quality Assessment Team webinar**

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

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## **ELRC Updates**

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto:elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org).

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## 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.

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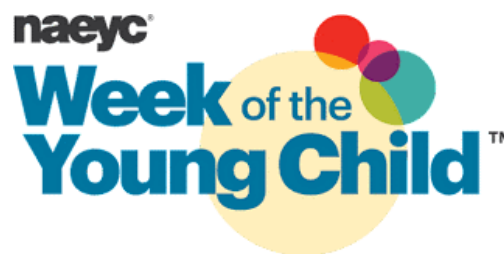
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- PA Early Education News & Special Announcements
- PA Head Start State Collaborative Office (HSSCO) News
- The Buzz on PD in PA

**OPT IN**

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## 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.

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**Family Provider FREE Professional Development Opportunity!**

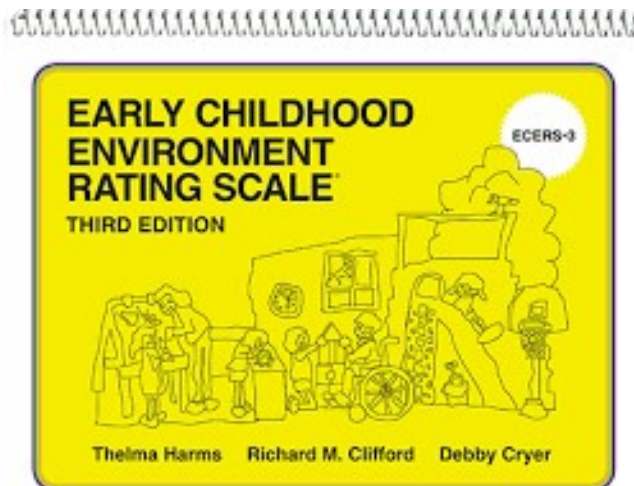
**Creating an Effective Parent Handbook** will be offered FREE to all Family & Group Providers in Regions 11, 12, 13, 14 & 16.

**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.

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## 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.

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**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.

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## 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.

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## Health & Safety

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### 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.

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## 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](https://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:estair@cscinc.org) and specify which Regional Newsletter you would like and requests will be added to next month's distribution.

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

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