

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

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

To distribute this newsletter to others, copy and share this link:

Region 12 Updates

CDA Apprenticeship Program

Northampton Community College is offering a CDA Apprenticeship cohort beginning in the Fall 2023. Three, 10 week courses will be held over Zoom with just one hour of class time a week! Funding is covered by the Professional Development Organization (PDO). Click [here](#) for more information!

To take advantage of this exciting opportunity, contact Natasha Kershner at nkershner@northampton.edu.

Director's Network

During our May Director's Network we had an engaging conversation about tuition assistance opportunities available for ECE practitioners through the PASSHE PDO. We were joined by PASSHE PDO Northeast Regional Coordinator, Lane Colburn, to discuss upcoming course offerings, eligibility requirements, and answer provider questions. To learn more about the PASSHE PDO or apply for funding please click [here](#). Practitioners looking for more information can reach out to acolburn@eceptdo.org. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the conversation!



Our next Director's Network meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14th at 1:00 pm. This month we will be joined by Rose Snyder of PennAEYC as well as Cellissa Hoyt and Andrea Bimonte of ECE Shared Services to discuss SharedSource PA and resources available for your program! We hope you will join us for this session. Please see the flyer below for more information and to register.

- [Directors Network](#)

Region 12 Provider Supports

FREE Professional Development Opportunity: Creating a Meaningful CQI

Please join us for an afternoon of professional development with Quality Coach, Aubryn Wojtkielewicz on June 21st at 12:30 pm. During the training, child care directors and administration staff will learn how to create meaningful, continuous quality improvement plans. Participants will be able to identify what tools can be used to drive a CQI. Participants will also put their goal to use by completing their own CQI plan. Click [here](#) for the flyer and to register now! Two hours of PQAS credit will be given for your participation in this event.



FREE Professional Development Opportunity: Writing Thoughtful CQI Goals for ERS & PD

On June 9th at 10:00 am, Quality Coach, Lynda Castro will look into how to use tools like your ERS scores and PD Registry staff reports to create CQI plans. Lynda

will break down steps for creating professional development and health and safety goals. Participants will gain a better understanding of the purpose of CQI writing and practice creating goals. Click [here](#) for the flyer and to register now! **Two hours of PQAS credit will be given for your participation in this event.**

Technology Tuesday

Our next Technology Tuesday session will be held on Tuesday, June 13th at 10:00 am. This month Lynda will be reviewing the different acronyms used in Keystone STARS performance standards, and help you to understand their meaning. Should you have any questions please contact Lynda at lycastro@cscinc.org.

- [Technology Tuesday](#)

QC Office Hours

Quality Coaches conduct office hours in our regional offices each week and are ready to meet 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 office day! Click [here](#) to see our schedule for June.

Program Quality Assessment Team webinar

- [Evidence of Success Inclusion](#)

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders

- Providers received an email on May 4th explaining changes to summer scheduling for School Age, Child Care Works enrolled children. Summer schedule forms are due back to the ELRC on **6/1/23**. If you have not yet returned this form, please do so today! Reach out to your Provider Specialist with any questions.
- As a reminder, the School Age Flip will occur on June 14, 2023 regardless of when your local school district ends their school year. Providers who have accepted the blended rate have been paid a higher part-time rate which includes 25 full-time days throughout the

school year. This accounts for any gaps that may occur between the district end date and school age flip date.

- Provider Self-Service - Move away from paper attendance and complete your invoice easily on PSS! Providers can also use PSS to report closed days, view enrollment summaries and schedule changes in real time. If you are having any issues with your PSS account, call the help desk at **1-877-491-3818**. Select Option 2, then Option 2 again

Work Force Support 2.0 - Reporting Forms Due!

Work Force Support Grant 2.0 must be spent and reporting form returned by 6/30/23! Completed forms should be sent to elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org. Please reach out to your Quality Coach with any questions.



Staff retention awards should have been paid out, through payroll, within 45 days of receipt of the grant. Staff recruitment funds were to be used on expenses between 7/1/22-6/30/23.

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***

Save the Date - Virtual Child Assessment Tool Fair

ELRC Region 11 will be hosting a virtual child assessment tool fair. Six assessment tool vendors will join the meeting to review their tool format, implementation, pricing and ordering information. This meeting will be a wonderful opportunity for providers who are beginning the process of selecting child assessment AND for providers looking for tips in using already purchased assessment tools.

Save the Date

August 17, 1:00-3:00 pm
Registration details coming soon!



STARS Designation Timeline

Keystone STARS providers complete a full-evidence designation every three years to maintain their STAR level. Quality Coaches assist providers to complete this designation process and ensure that all steps are met timely. See the infographic below and work with your QC to personalize the timeline for your upcoming designation.





STAR DESIGNATION TIMELINE

01



Planning Visit

Planning visits occur between 6-8 months prior to your STARS expiration. During this meeting, you and your Quality Coach will discuss your continuous quality improvement goals, staff qualifications, designation timeline, and other important information.

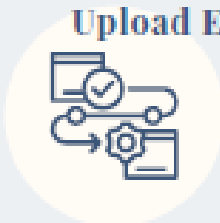
02



Complete Application

The Keystone STARS application is located on the PD Registry under your Organizational Profile's Quality Overview Tab. Once applied, you will get access to the Quality Indicators.

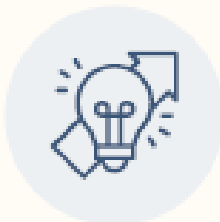
03



Upload Evidence & Submit Indicators

You can begin uploading evidence into the Quality Indicators as soon as you want. You may upload it into the vault or directly into the indicator. All evidence must be uploaded for the Quality Coach to review no later than 75 days prior to your STAR expiration.

04



IAP Consult

If applicable, the IAP consultation request is submitted to the PQA team. Please have the POIs being used completed and ready to submit upon request of the PQA assessor.

Your current IAP expires: _____

05



On-site Evidence Review

Your Quality Coach will complete the on-site review of confidential evidence at least 3-months before STAR expiration.

FREE Mandated Reporter Training

PA Family Support Alliance is providing free virtual Mandated Reporter training. 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.

- [6/6 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [6/8 - 6:00-9:00 pm](#)
- [6/9 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [6/12 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [6/14 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [6/17 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [6/20 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [6/22 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)
- [6/28 - 9:00-noon](#)
- [6/29 - 1:00-4:00 pm](#)

Designator Review

The Designator will complete their on-site review, if applicable.

Designation Complete

Once any follow-up is submitted and the Designator completes his/her review, your STAR designation will be complete and your STAR is renewed.

Please email training@pafsa.org for additional training dates or to request a session specifically for your organization.

Get Moving!

We all know that exercise is good for us, but did you know that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a specific amount of daily exercise for children? Infants should have at least 30 minutes of tummy time throughout the day.

Toddlers and preschoolers need 3 hours of exercise each day or 15 minutes of exercise for each hour they are awake. In addition, school-age children need at least 60 minutes of vigorous exercise each day.

The benefits of exercise are physical, mental and emotional. Exercise can reduce stress, improve physical strength, promote appreciation for the environment, encourage independence and creativity, build friendships, improve communication skills, and promote positive behaviors. In addition, scientists have learned that fresh air can contain negative ion molecules, which will increase our serotonin levels and alleviate depression!



With a bit of creativity and imagination you can plan fun gross motor activities for all age groups. Infants can have tummy time on a quilt outside, toddlers can play follow the leader and hop with their friends, preschoolers can run with streamers and school-agers can play kickball. As you plan your summer schedule, add new gross motor activities to your daily lesson plans and try to meet or exceed the daily exercise guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics for the children in your program.

For more information or ideas for gross motor activities check out:
[How much physical activity do children need?](#)

Curriculum Resources

Thank you to all who participated in the ELRC Virtual Curriculum Fair on April 19. We would like to extend our thanks to the vendors who donated their time and resources, as well as all who attended! We hope you were able to hear from a variety of vendors and gather valuable information to make an informed decision.

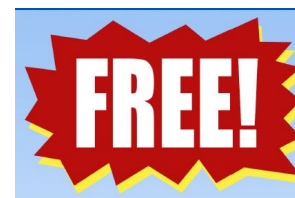


Sessions were recorded. To view the breakout session, click on the vendor below:

- [Learning Beyond Paper](#)
 - [Teaching Strategies](#)
 - [Experience Early Learning](#)
 - [FrogStreet](#)
 - [HighScope](#)
 - [Gee Whiz](#)
-

Summer Professional Development Series

School-age child care staff can take a FREE professional development series this summer, sponsored by PennAEYC. All workshops are held virtually from 6:30-8:30 pm. Registration is required. See the flyer linked below for more information.



[Professional Development Series](#)

ECERS-3 Equity Research Study

The PQA team is currently looking for classrooms serving children ages 3-5 to participate in an ECERS-3 Equity Research Study. Programs located in the following counties are encouraged to sign-up: Philadelphia, Montgomery, Delaware, Chester, Bucks, Lehigh, Berks, Lancaster, and York; however, all Pennsylvania programs serving 3-5 year olds are welcome to participate.

Two to three data collectors will visit each participating classroom to complete a 3-hour observation. More information and a link to sign-up can be found by emailing Rachel.kaplan@unc.edu or visiting [ECERS-3: Identifying Gaps and Equity Project Teacher Information Form \(qualtrics.com\)](#).

Health & Safety

Free Carbon Monoxide Detectors

If you are 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.

End of COVID Reporting

Shortly after the start of the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 (PHE), the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), required all licensed child care operators to submit information on children and staff who

tested positive for COVID-19 on the Licensed Facility COVID Data Collection Tool.

On May 11, 2023, OCDEL ended this reporting requirement and closed the portal, to align with the end of the PHE. Child care operators and facility persons are still required to report any reportable communicable disease to the Department of Health (DOH), 1-877-PA-HEALTH or 1-877-724-3258, or their respective local health department. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Brush, Book, Bed: A Nighttime Routine

Please share this oral health information with families:

1. **Brush** - Each night, help your child brush their teeth. Young children need help with brushing to do it well. Have your child spit out any extra toothpaste. Do not rinse with water; the little bit of toothpaste left behind is good for teeth.
2. **Book** - After brushing, find a comfortable spot and read a book with your child. Reading aloud will help with your child's language development and social-emotional skills. You can also make up stories, sing songs, or use silly voices while you enjoy spending time with your child.
3. **Bed** - Sleep is very important. Keeping a regular bedtime and having a predictable bedtime routine can help your child wind down at the end of the day.



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

[Unsubscribe pcho@cscinc.org](mailto:pcho@cscinc.org)

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

Sent by estair@cscinc.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!