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## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 14 June 2023

Serving Lehigh & Northampton counties

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

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### Region 14 Updates

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#### 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](mailto:nkershner@northampton.edu).

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## Calling all Early Childhood Leaders!

Funded by PASSHE PDO, Northampton Community College invites you to attend First Up's "Coaching Training" series.

This Professional Development aims to recruit and grow Apprenticeship programs in the Northeast and Southeast areas. Coaching is a vital part of the Apprenticeship program and a useful tool for anyone who supervises or mentors other Early Childhood professionals.

Those with a CDA, Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's or PhD. in Early Childhood are invited to attend and learn about the Coaching process.

Click [here](#) to register. The confirmation will take several minutes to show up in your email. Please note this email so that you can navigate back to it on the day of the training!

- June 7th, Creating Goals and Action Steps, 1:00-3:00 PM

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## Upcoming Professional Development

You are invited to attend a **FREE** 2-Hour Training opportunity on June 23, 2023, 12:30-2:30! It will be conducted **in person** at Community Services for Children, 1520 Hanover Ave, Allentown, PA in the Training Institute. The topic is **Teaching Practices that Inspire Children to Learn**. Click below to view the flyer and for registration details. Receive 2 free hours of PQAS approved professional development! **REGISTER TODAY!!**

- [Teaching Practices that Inspire Children to Learn](#)

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## Region 14 Provider Supports

### Director's Network

At May's meeting, we discussed topics that programs have used for parent workshops and parent network meetings. Ideas included CPR classes for parents and school age children, end of summer school age play, field day (moon bounce, food trucks). STEM hands on activities with families and children, Kindergarten Readiness parent night that discussed transitioning to kindergarten, Family Bingo Night, and a golf event for parents and children.



Our next meeting will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. We will have someone from Early Intervention/Intermediate Unit at our meeting to discuss communication and partnerships with childcare providers and therapists/consultants. Click [here](#) to register.

### Quality Coach Office Days

Are you thinking about moving up in STARS and need some extra assistance? Do you need assistance with your Keystone STARS Renewal or Designation?

Your Quality Coach is here to help! Quality Coaches are available to answer questions throughout the week and are in the office weekly to meet one on one to support you through your STARS journey. 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.

### \*NEW\* Work Together Wednesday

Calling all STAR 1 Directors! Join us on Wednesdays starting in June from 1:00 to 1:30 pm for a new Work Together Wednesday series focusing on what you need to know about Keystone STARS to help you move up to the next STAR level. In June we will be discussing financial benefits of Keystone STARS, importance of a family handbook, implementing enrollment procedures, and ensuring proper supervision of children.

You will be able to ask questions, share resources, and network with other programs. Click [here](#) to register for the sessions in which you would like to attend.

### Program Quality Assessment Team webinar

- [Evidence of Success Inclusion](#)

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## ELRC Updates

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### 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](mailto: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!***



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## **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.

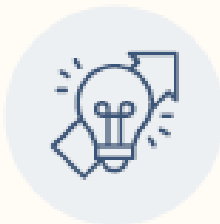
03



## 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](mailto: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?](#)

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## 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](#)
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## 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](mailto: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.

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## 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.



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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.

Visit ELRC Region 14

Community Services for Children | [elrc14@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc14@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

Connect with us



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

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