

---

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

Serving Lehigh & Northampton counties

---

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

---

### Region 14 Updates

#### The ELRC is celebrating it's 5th anniversary!

We thank you for your partnership, collaboration and work with the families and children in your care. We are looking forward to continuing to serve you and the community as we move into the 2023-2024 fiscal year.



## Kick Off Meetings - Save the Date

The ELRC will be hosting Kick Off Meetings in September. We encourage all providers to attend to hear updates about Child Care Works, Keystone STARS, local collaborations and provider supports. Content will be the same at each meeting so choose the session that works best for you!

Please save the following dates and times and keep an eye out for registration information to be released soon!

*Tuesday, September 19*

*10:00 - noon*

*OR*

*6:30-8:30*

*Allentown*

*Northampton County*

*TBD*



## Art Work Displays

The ELRC would like to send a big THANK YOU to the staff and children in the Pre-K classroom at Little Buddies Childcare and Preschool LLC in Nazareth who donated artwork to our offices for our art display. You did a great job, the artwork looks wonderful!



Child Care providers are invited to partner with the ELRC to showcase children's artwork in our ELRC offices. Two providers per quarter will be featured and the art will be displayed with provider information.

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) but not holiday related (no 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.

Click [here](#) to register now!

---



## Welcome New Providers

The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to our region! We look forward to working with you. ELRC staff are here to assist with your participation in Child Care Works, Keystone STARS, and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- Wonderland Kidz Drop in Childcare LLC
- Garcia Family Daycare
- Rosa Martinez
- Pichardo Family Child Care
- Adventurous Kids Toddlers
- Ortiz De La Cruz Family Daycare

---

## Directors Network

At the Lehigh & Northampton County Director's Network meeting in June, the Early Intervention Deputy Administrator at Northampton County, Jessica Weitknecht, discussed the partnerships between Early Intervention therapists, families, teachers and directors. We also discussed some tips on how to help identify certain child behaviors and shared the following resources that you can access; the [CDC Milestones](#) and [Ages and Stages Questionnaires \(ASQ\)](#) which are helpful in identifying delays in development. You can contact Jessica directly at [jweitknecht@norcopa.gov](mailto:jweitknecht@norcopa.gov).

Our next meeting will be July 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. This month we will have an open discussion on what is going on with your programs. Come with any questions or concerns you might have. Also, share what is going well in your programs. Click [here](#) to register.

---

## Region 14 Provider Supports

### 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 Series

Calling all STAR 1 Directors! Join us on Wednesdays 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. This month we will be discussing Establishing and Illness and Injury Monitoring and Tracking System, Creating an Inclusive Program, Preventing Suspension and Expulsion of Children, and Understanding and Using Special Health Care Plans.

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

---

## ELRC Updates

---

## CCW Reminders

- Click [here](#) for the updated CCW payment schedule for 2023-2024. Please note the attendance due date to receive timely payment and submit to the ELRC.
- The School Age Flip occurred on June 14. As a reminder, 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 have occurred between your local school district end date and school age flip date.
- As always, review your invoices carefully to ensure the schedules are correct.
- Child Care Works will pay for 40 absences per child for the year. These absences reset back to zero on 7/1/23.

## Work Force Support 2.0 - Reporting Forms Past Due!

Work Force Support Grant 2.0 must have been spent and reporting form returned by 6/30/23! If you have not done so already, send completed forms 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**



## 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.

*August 17, 1:00-3:00 pm*

Click [here](#) to view the information flyer and to register!



## Child Care Insurance Survey

The Pennsylvania Insurance Department and Department of Human Services are responding to the difficulties childcare providers are having in finding insurance coverage.

Please take a moment to complete this survey by 7/31/23. Your information will be kept confidential and will assist the departments in addressing insurance availability and affordability.

[PID & DHS Insurance Survey](#)

Any questions can be directed to Caolinn Martin ([caolmartin@pa.gov](mailto:caolmartin@pa.gov)) or Jameekia Barnett ([jamebarnet@pa.gov](mailto:jamebarnet@pa.gov)).

## Transition Packets

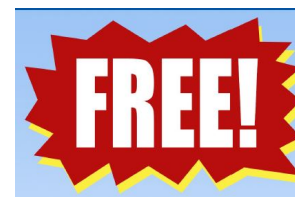
Summer camps have started and programs are preparing for their Fall enrollments! As you begin to set schedules and arrange classrooms for the new school year, think about how the children will transition to their new teachers and classrooms.



STAR indicator FC2.2, requires providers to have a policy to demonstrate how children are helped to transition between developmental stages. Transition information should be provided to parents at least a week in advance. Information can include a letter outlining how the child will gradually transition into the new classroom, what to expect on the first day and staff schedules and contact phone numbers. Packets can also include copies of daily schedules, teacher welcome letters and samples of lesson plans. Make sure parents are aware of any classroom expectations like potty training, daily communication methods and where the child's personal belongings can be stored, like in a cubby. Providing clear communication will allow parents and children to feel confident about this exciting next step!

## 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.



Sessions are still available 7/20 & 8/17.



## Health & Safety

### Tick Safety

*What should child care providers do when they find a tick on a child?*



OCDEL Certification recommends that if a childcare provider finds an embedded tick, they should immediately contact the child's parent or guardian so that next steps can be determined quickly. This is consistent with regulation 132(a). It is advised that a provider does not remove a tick unless there is written authorization by the parent and the provider has received the appropriate health and safety training to do so. Following proper technique for tick removal can be challenging; even with proper technique, heads can stay attached and need to be dug out, which can be difficult.

### Air Quality Alerts

The recent air quality alerts due to the wildfires in Canada prompted programs to re-examine their outdoor policies and communication of those policies to families. Take a look at your parent handbook and check to see if there is guidance regarding daily outdoor play, weather permitting.

When weather poses a significant risk, children should remain indoors. The PA Position Statement defines weather permitting as:

- Temperature/wind chill is above 25 degrees
- Heat index is less than 90 degrees
- No precipitation falling
- No current air quality alert

Read more of the PA Position Statement [here](#).

---



### Setting Oral Health Goals

Goal setting can help you create new behaviors and it can also allow you to measure your progress. Goals also give you the motivation to maintain healthy oral health habits.

Healthy oral health habits include:

- Regular dental visits and treatment
- Healthy snacks
- Brush with fluoride toothpaste at least twice a day
- No sugary beverages
- No bottle for bed
- Water or milk only in sippy cups
- Drink tap water
- Avoid or limit junk food and candy
- Limit sugar and consider sugar substitutes
- Last thing to touch teeth before bed is toothbrush with fluorinated toothpaste

Click [here](#) for an infographic that you can share with families to help them set and meet oral health goals.

---

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

[Unsubscribe pcho@cscinc.org](#)

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

Sent by [estair@cscinc.org](mailto:estair@cscinc.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!