

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 October 2023

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Columbia, Montour, Luzerne and Wyoming counties

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Region 11 Updates

Celebrating Provider Successes

Has your program celebrated a milestone such as an educational achievement, program anniversary, new accreditation or retirement? Please reach out to your Quality Coach and let them know! We would love to celebrate with you!



Kick Off Meetings - Registration Now Open!

The ELRC will be hosting Kick Off Meetings in October. 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!



Tuesday, October 3 - session full!

1:00-3:00 pm

ELRC Region 11 Office

41 S. Main St.

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Wednesday, October 4

1:00-3:00 pm
Penn State Extension
200 Main Street, Suite 3
Towanda, PA 18848

Thursday, October 5
1:00-3:00 pm
Penn State Cooperative Extension
702 Sawmill Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Monday, October 23 - *additional date added!*
1:00-3:00 pm
ELRC Region 11 Office
41 S. Main St.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Click [HERE](#) to register!

Fall is Here!

Thank you, Building Blocks Learning Centers, for bringing the colors of Fall indoors for the ELRC Region 11's Fall artwork display. This is an opportunity to showcase what your children are learning and how they are expressing themselves through art. If you are interested in signing up to have your children's art displayed, click [here](#)!

Region 11 Provider Supports

Move Up to STAR 3/4 Cohort

Review the designation process with Dana, Quality Coach, and develop a meaningful plan to implement the Keystone STARS Standards. Resources and strategies will be part of each session.

- [STAR 3 & 4 Cohort](#)



Coffee Talk

Fawn, Quality Coach, is available the second Thursday of each month to provide any support needed on renewals, designations, evidence uploading, the PD Registry, Career Pathways, Keystone STARS Standards or to answer any other questions you might have. Grab a cup of coffee and jump on Zoom!

- [Coffee Talk flyer](#)

Quality Coach Monthly Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach Monthly Calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities. Remember, **your Quality Coach has office hours** scheduled on the calendar and is available to meet with you and provide any needed supports.

- [QC Calendar October 2023](#)

Director's Network Roundtable

Due to the annual Kick Off Meetings scheduled this month, the Region 11 Director's Network Roundtable will not be meeting in October. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday, Nov. 16th at 1:00 pm for a review and discussion of the revised 2023 STARS Standards.

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders

- Please remember to report excessive child absences, late starts and terminations prior to invoicing time. Children exceeding 5 consecutive days of absences need to be reported immediately. If these circumstances are reported as they occur, the corrections may already be reflected on your attendance invoice making it easier for you to complete the monthly attendance accurately.
- Please report co-payment timely. If you attempt to report more than one week, the ELRC will be unable to pursue the outstanding weeks with the family.



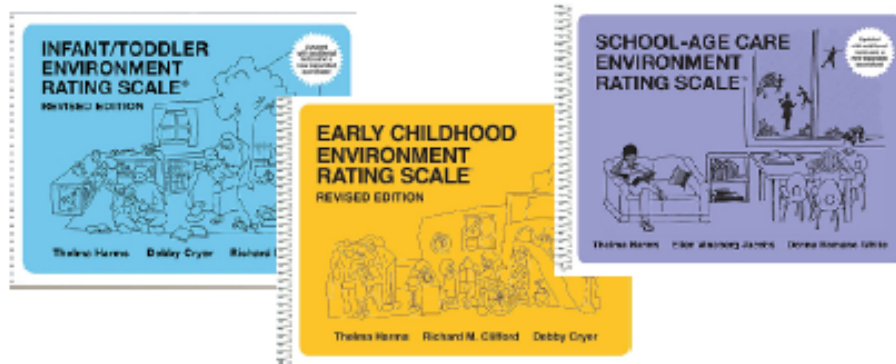
Program Observation Instrument Virtual Fair

Did you know that Pennsylvania has over 10 different approved Program Observation Instruments? Most providers are familiar with the Environmental Rating Scale or ERS. But many other options are available to assist leaders in rating program quality including interactions, business practices, inclusive child supports and other classroom environments.

Join us for our virtual POI fair to learn about these options and select a tool to meet your program needs. Click on the flyer below to learn more about these options and to register for the virtual fair.

*November 14th
1:00-3:00 pm ~ English
7:00-8:30 pm ~ Spanish*

[*Program Observation Instrument ~ English*](#)
[*Program Observation Instrument ~ Spanish*](#)



Celebrate the 24th annual *Lights On Afterschool* Oct. 26, 2023

Launched in October 2000, *Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The effort has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement and generates media coverage across the country each year.

The Afterschool Alliance organizes *Lights On Afterschool* to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things—such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon Do and poetry—and discover new skills. The events send a powerful message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance is offering a new curriculum series, **Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs**.

This FREE training includes content and activities that are designed to strengthen child care providers' foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations.

The series contains four modules of business practice content:

- Budgets, Projections, and Planning
- Financial Reports and Internal Controls
- Marketing for Child Care Programs
- Staff Recruitment and Retention for Center-based Child Care Programs

This series is available in both English & Spanish and for Center & Family based providers! Modules run now through December. Click on the flyer below and register today!

[Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care - English](#)

Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care - Spanish



Office of Developmental Programs

Are you serving a child with disabilities? Are you interested in learning more about available services and resources? Check out the **document** below for help understanding the Office of Developmental Programs in Pennsylvania. The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) is to support Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities and their families to achieve greater independence, choice, and opportunity in their lives.

[Gold Book from the ODP](#)

Parent Project Podcast

Community Services for Children has been hosting the Parent Project Podcast to engage families in areas of common concern for parents. Experts provide perspectives on topics of health & safety, mental health, child transition and other important subjects.

Please consider sharing these podcasts with the families in your program!

This month, we are joined by Denise Continenza, Food, Families & Health Educator at Penn State Cooperative Extension, as she shares about youth mental health. Click [here](#) to listen.



Health & Safety

Fire Prevention

October is Fire Prevention Month! The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) has an abundance of resources available on their website, including lesson plans and classroom activity ideas.



Fire Safety may also be an interesting parent workshop idea (STARS indicator FC3.4.6). Invite a local fire house to visit the center one evening to show the trucks to the children and ask a firefighter to discuss home fire safety with families. You can provide the following resources and handouts to families to supplement the workshop.

- [Fire Escape](#)
- [Escape Planning Tips](#)
- [Smoke Alarms at Home](#)
- [Safety Action Plan](#)

Brush Those Teeth!

Brushing is one of the main ways to keep a child's teeth healthy. [Sesame Workshop](#) has a variety of games and songs to help children learn how to brush

their teeth with their Sesame Street friends. There are also multiple resources available for families and caregivers. We encourage you to visit the Sesame Workshop website: <https://sesameworkshop.org/> and share this information with families.

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 11

Community Services for Children | elrc11@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

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