

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

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

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### Region 12 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!



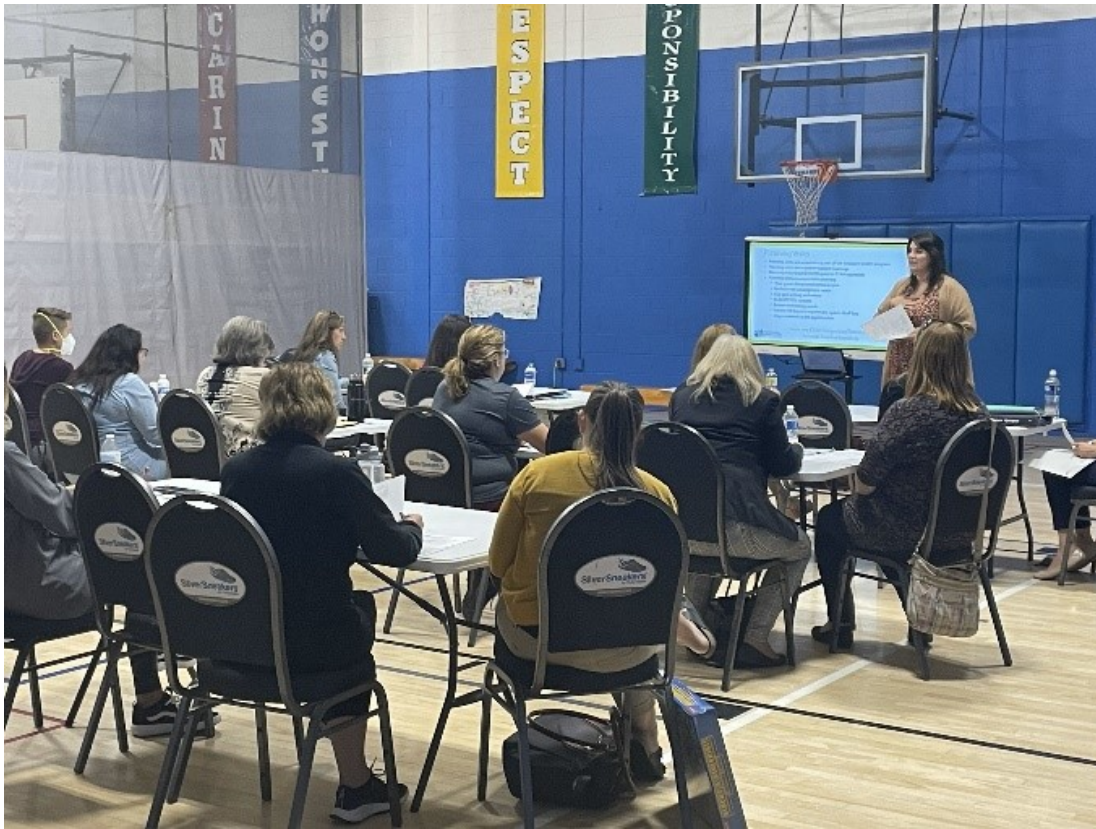
#### Annual Kick Off Meetings

Thank you to all who attended the ELRC Annual Kick Off meetings! It was a pleasure to see so many of you join us face to face. During these meetings, we discussed important updates regarding Keystone STARS, Child Care Works and ELRC provider supports.

We would also like to express our gratitude for the wonderful hosts of these events, Northampton Community College, Greater Carbondale YMCA, and Covenant Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your hospitality.

We will be hosting a “virtual” Kick Off meeting this month for anyone who was unable to attend in person! Our virtual meeting will be on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Please click [here](#) for more information and to register now!



### Directors Network

Our next Director's Network will be held on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. During this meeting, representatives from CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) and PA Farm to ECE will join us to discuss nutritional resources available to your program, and answer any questions you may have! Participating in an organized effort to support nutrition for children can help your facility earn bonus points during your next Keystone STARS designation or movement!



Please click [here](#) to register now!

### Region 12 Provider Supports

#### Free Professional Development

On Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 PM, Quality Coach, Aubryn Wojtkielewicz, will be exploring the importance of having a family handbook, what content to include, and how to improve your current policies and procedures.

Two hours of PQAS credit will be given for your participation in this event.

- [Enhancing Your Family Handbook Flyer](#)



### Teacher Support Group

We are looking to create a support group for classroom teaching staff. This will be a network of classroom teachers who will work together to share ideas, trouble shoot challenges, and grow together as educators. Please note, ELRC staff will lead all meetings, and there will be ground rules in place to protect the confidentiality of your program. We are currently surveying staff to assess their preferences for meeting times and areas of support needed.

Please share the brief survey with any staff you have who may be interested and encourage them to respond no later than 10/13/2023. Please contact Quality Coach, Lynda Castro, with any questions at [lycastro@cscinc.org](mailto:lycastro@cscinc.org).

- [Teacher Support Group Survey](#)

### **STAR 2 Cohort**

Are you interested in moving to STAR 2 and do not know where to start? Please join our upcoming STAR 2 movement cohort! This will be a series of meetings for STAR 1 providers interested in moving to STAR 2. You will work together with a group to navigate the Keystone STARS Performance Standards and gather evidence. Our first session will be on October 4, 2023 at 12:30 PM. Please see flyer below and contact Aubryn Wojtkielewicz at [aubrynw@cscinc.org](mailto:aubrynw@cscinc.org) with any questions.

- [STAR 2 Cohort](#)

### **Director Bootcamp**

Join Quality Coach, Deb Galloway, for the return of Director Boot Camp on Wednesday, October 11, 2023! This year our Director's Boot Camp will focus on how to develop and enhance your business practices. Click below for more information and to register. Please contact Deb Galloway at [dgalloway@cscinc.org](mailto:dgalloway@cscinc.org) with any questions.

- [Directors Boot Camp](#)

## **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**

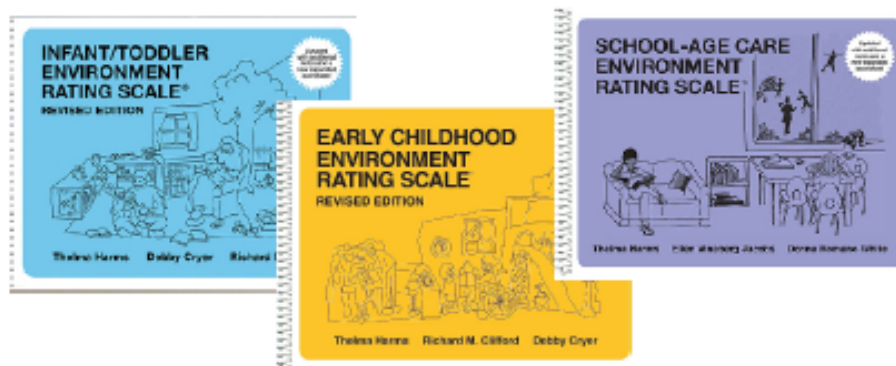
Did you know that Pennsylvania has over 10 different approved Program Observation Instruments? Most providers are familiar with the Environmental

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](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 12

Community Services for Children | [elrc12@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc12@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

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