

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

Serving Lehigh & Northampton counties

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Region 14 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!

There are 2 more Kick Off Meetings in October. If you haven't had an opportunity to attend a meeting, we encourage all providers to come 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!



Wednesday, October 4
10:00 - noon
OR
6:30-8:30 pm

Community Services for Children
1520 Hanover Ave
Allentown, Fowler Building

Click [HERE](#) to register!

Berks Early Care and Education Council

The Berks Early Care and Education Council (BECEC) invites you to join the group. Your perspective and experience as a child care provider is valuable to improving early learning experiences for all children and Early Intervention Services in Berks County. Click [here](#) for more information and a calendar of events.

CPR and Pediatric First Aid Training

The United Way of Berks County is hosting several CPR and Pediatric First Aid training sessions between now and December. Click [here](#) to view the flyer.



Region 14 Provider Supports

Get to Know Keystone STARS!

Are you a STAR 1 Program? If so, please join the ELRC 14 for an informational webinar to learn about the basics of Keystone STARS. Keystone STARS is not the same as it was when it first started. It has evolved over the years. Come and learn what Keystone STARS is today. We will be share information on the STARS structure, benefits and incentives, STARS Performance Standards, the designation process, and how your Quality Coach can help you. Several dates and times are available, click the flyer below for more information.



- [Get to Know Keystone STARS flyer](#)

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. Please don't hesitate to email, call or schedule a time to meet.

- [Quality Coach Office Days](#)

Fall Professional Development Opportunities

Join the ELRC 14 Quality Coaches for upcoming in-person Professional Development Opportunities this fall. All Professional Development is open to all

program directors, family providers and teaching staff and are being offered **FREE** of charge.

After-School Child Care, Not an After Thought

October 13th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Effective Supervision

October 27th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Teaching Practices that Inspire Children to Learn

November 3rd from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Enhancing Your Family Handbook

November 21st from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

View the flyer below for more details and registration information.

- [Fall 2023 PD Flyer](#)

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.

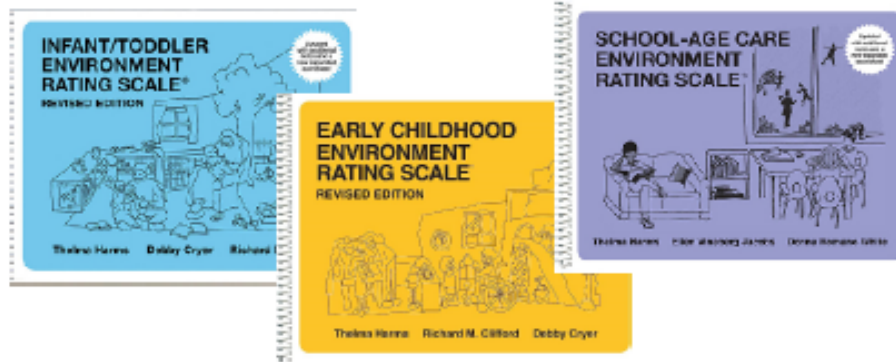
Join us for our virtual POI fair to learn about these options and select a tool to meet your program needs. Click on the flyer below to learn more about these options and to register for the virtual fair.

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 14

Community Services for Children | elrc14@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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