

Community Services for Children
Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16
October 2023
Serving Bucks County

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Region 16 Updates

Provider Celebrates 30 years!

Please join us in congratulating Donna Blackburn who will be celebrating her 30th year as the Owner/Director of Katie's Place Home Daycare LLC located in Chalfont, PA. Donna enjoys providing care to children from 6 weeks through 6 years in an intimate environment where children often feel like siblings. Thank You Donna for your dedication to the field!



Kick Off Meetings - Registration Now Open!

Thank you to all who attended the ELRC Region 16 Annual Kick Off meetings! It was wonderful to meet with many of you in person. We discussed important updates regarding Child Care Works and Keystone STARS. We were also joined by various partners that discussed provider supports that are available.

We would also like to thank Children's Village and Kol Emet Preschool for hosting these events.

If you were unable to attend, we will be offering one more opportunity for a Zoom option in November. Keep an eye out for the registration flyer coming from your Quality Coach!

Advance your Career Pathway with the ECE PDO at PHMC

The ECE Professional Development Organization (ECE PDO) at PHMC coordinates funded degree and credential pathways for the ECE workforce. The ECE PDO will match you with higher education partners and necessary supports to help you advance on the Career Pathway and achieve your goals. Visit the [ECE PDO at PHMC](#) webpage to complete an inquiry form and begin working towards earning your degree or credential today!



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT** ORGANIZATION
a PHMC program

Region 16 Provider Supports

Bucks County Director Alliance

Join us for our monthly Bucks County Director Alliance meeting! Attendance is strongly recommended as there are important updates for all child care providers! This month we will welcome Share Source representatives who will share helpful cost-saving strategies and tools.

- [BCDA Flyer](#)



Coaches Calendar

Quality Coaches Are Here For You! There are many options for ways to connect with your Quality Coach for support and information. Please view our Quality Coach Calendar for the month.

- [Quality Coach Calendar](#)

Movement Cohort

Are you a STAR 1 ready to advance your STAR level? Join the ELRC to gain the knowledge and support to raise your STAR level. Please see flyer for more information.

- [STAR 1 Cohort](#)

Quality Coach Community Days

Take some time away from the hustle and bustle of your program and meet up with your Coach! Our Keystone STARS Quality Coaches will once again be available for individual meetings throughout the county. Coaches will be available to address questions, concerns, address supports or chat about any need you have! Please see the flyer for the availability of your coach.

- [Community Days](#)

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.

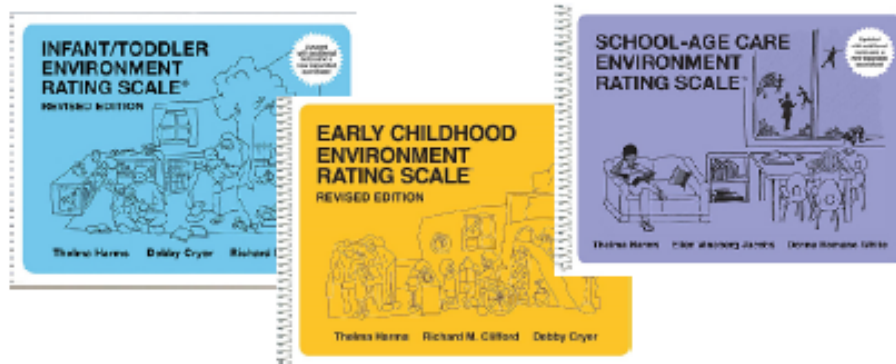
Join us for our virtual POI fair to learn about these options and select a tool to meet your program needs. Click on the flyer below to learn more about these options and to register for the virtual fair.

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 16

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