



Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16 November 2023

Serving Bucks county

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<https://elrc-csc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Provider-Link-November-2023-Region-13.pdf>

Region 16 Updates

ELRC Offices Closed

Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Friday, November 11th for a staff professional development day. Offices will reopen to the public on Monday, November 13th.

THERE IS
always
SOMETHING TO BE
thankful for

As we take a moment this time of year to reflect on what we are thankful for, know that everyone from the Early Learning Resource Center appreciates all you do for the children and families in your care. In spite of challenges, the ECE community continues to serve children and give them a safe place to be nurtured, to learn and to thrive.



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 you with your participation in Child Care Works and Keystone STARS, and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- Vonnies Lil Rascals
- Wee Care Too and Early Learning
- Love and Care Learning

Meet Our New Quality Coach

The ELRC Region 16 welcomes our new Quality Coach Lauren Ditzler. Lauren brings years of Early Childhood Education experience to our Region, both as a teacher and director. She has a passion for working with children and is excited to use her experience in helping and sharing ideas with others. Lauren is a busy mom who enjoys spending time with her family. She has a 4-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter.



Annual Kick Off Meetings

Thank you to all who attended one of the ELRC Annual Kick Off meetings! It was a pleasure to have so many of you join us in-person. 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, **Children's Village and Kol Emet Preschool**.

If you were unable to attend the in-person meeting, we have one more chance for you to attend a “virtual” Kick Off Meeting via ZOOM this month. Our virtual meeting will be on Wednesday, November 8th, at 6:30 pm.

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

Region 16 Provider Supports

Bucks County Directors 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 review the updates to the 2023-2024 Keystone STARS standards. We will also be receiving important updates from our community partners.



- [BCDA November invitation](#)

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 - November 2023](#)

Free Professional Development

It is important for children to gain literacy skills during the very early years. The ELRC is offering a free course, *Creating a Print Rich Environment*, on the importance of acquiring these skills. This course will discuss what a print rich environment is and how to implement the techniques in a child care environment. Please see flyer below for registration information.

- [Creating a Print Rich Environment](#)

Family & Group Child Care Forum

We will be starting a *Family Forum* for Family and Group providers in Bucks County. Our inaugural meeting will be held on Monday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m. at the Panera Bread in Bensalem. This informal group will meet in-person at various locations to discuss issues that are relevant and unique to family and group child care providers. This will be a great networking opportunity with providers throughout the county, representing various STARS levels. Future dates, locations and topics will be discussed at the first meeting.

- [Family & Group Child Care Forum](#)

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders

- As we approach the holiday season, please take a moment to review the closures you submitted to ensure they are still correct. If there are any changes or updates, please contact your Provider Specialist.
- Any changes to a child's care schedule should be reported to your Provider Specialist prior to the submission of your invoice.



Co-payment Delinquencies

- It is important to report delinquent copayments timely to the ELRC. Per Appendix A of the ELRC Certified Provider Agreement, providers must report a delinquent co-payment to the ELRC on the business day following the day the co-payment becomes delinquent. For example, if a co-pay is not paid by Friday for that service week, the delinquency must be reported on your next business day, which is typically Monday.
- Please note, delinquencies can only be reported for copayments. Delinquencies regarding additional fees your program charges must be

handled privately with the family. If you are aware that a family is currently under adverse action, please urge them to resolve this as soon as possible in order to maintain their eligibility and prevent any disruptions in care. When delinquent co-pays are resolved, please notify us so we can satisfy the client's adverse action. When families are seeking to transfer enrollments, an ELRC Family Specialist will contact you to verify if that family is current with their co-payment before authorizing the transfer.

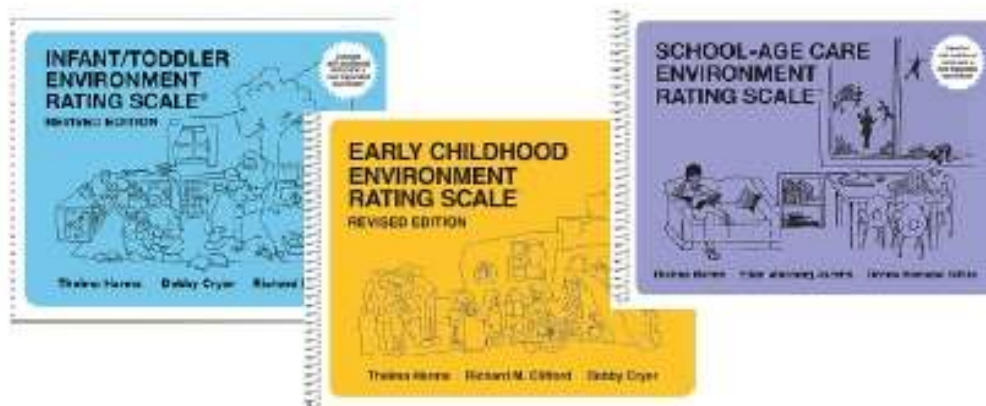
Program Observation Instrument Virtual Fair

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](#)



Child Development Associate (CDA) Expiration

CDA's do have an expiration date. As your staff complete their annual PD Registry profile review, they will be prompted to review their CDA qualification. If their CDA has expired, and they did not complete credit-bearing course work to achieve their CDA, their Career Pathway level will drop.

Create a plan to periodically review your staff's Career Pathway and work with your Quality Coach to ensure you have enough credentialed staff to maintain your STAR level.

The Professional Development Organization is also available to provide support to help staff by removing barriers to earning higher credentials and degrees. By

funding no-cost tuition and numerous supports to qualifying applicants, many prohibitive barriers are removed. Removing these barriers to education will lead to greater numbers of individuals who will earn a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) and associate or bachelor's degrees in early childhood education. In turn, this will build and support the pipeline of professionals.

Visit the PDO page here: [PHMC Professional Development Organization](#)

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](#)



**FREE Poster Series for Helping Kids Who
Have Experienced Trauma**

Have you ordered your FREE CO Detector?

All licensed providers in PA are eligible to receive two Carbon Monoxide detectors. CO alarms are designed to warn you of any unusual build-up of carbon monoxide in your facility and should be installed at a minimum, of one on every floor. Carbon monoxide can come from appliances, heating sources and even vehicles idling close to your building.

To request your FREE detectors, see the flyer below.

- [Carbon Monoxide Detector Request](#)
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The Impact of Stress on Oral Health

Stress is a reaction to a physical, psychological, or emotional demand. Everyone has felt stress at one time or another. Some stress is good because it pushes us to do things that are challenging and meet the demands of daily life. However, too much stress is not good and can have negative short and long-term effects on our health, including our oral health.

Long-term stress can cause problems with your mouth, teeth, and gums. These problems can include:

- Sores in or around the mouth.
- Teeth clenching and grinding.
- Tooth decay and gum disease.

Here are some tips to help you manage stress:

- Eat healthy foods.
- Take care of your mouth.
- Seek treatment for unhealthy habits.
- Practice relaxation techniques.
- Talk to someone.

This [Brush Up on Oral Health Tip Sheet](#) describes how stress affects oral health and offers more detailed tips to help you manage stress.

Early Childhood Education Linkage System (ECELS) Office Hours

The American Academy of Pediatrics ECELS Program is Now Offering Virtual Office Hours! These Office Hours will be used for addressing health and safety questions and concerns in your program. Please click on this [flyer](#) for more information regarding the Office Hours, including appointment bookings. Please reach out to ecels@paaap.org or cmanfre@paaap.org if you have any questions!

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

Community Services for Children | elrc16@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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