

## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13 December 2023

Serving Berks & Schuylkill counties

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### Region 13 Updates

#### ELRC Offices Closed

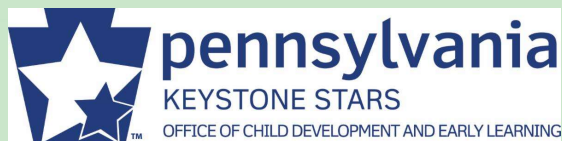
Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Monday,

December 25th and Monday, January 1st. We wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season!



#### Keystone STAR Movements

The following programs demonstrated their commitment to quality by moving to a higher STAR level since July 2023.



**Congratulations to Caterpillar Childcare Center who moved to a STAR 2!**

**Congratulations to The White House Day Care, LLC who moved to a STAR 3!**

#### CPR and Pediatric First Aid Training Opportunities

The United Way of Berks County is hosting

several CPR and Pediatric First Aid training sessions between now and December 2024. Click [here](#) to view the flyer.



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## Region 13 Provider Supports

### Directors Network

The Director's Network in December will be focusing on the following special programs: Eco Healthy Child, PA NAP SACC, PBIS, Farm to ECE, CACFP, & After School Quality. Join us to learn how to get started and ask related questions. Please click on the flyer below for more information and to register. We hope to see you there!

- [Director Network December Flyer](#)



## Professional Development Opportunities

### Effective Classroom Management

ELRC Reading Office

Thursday, December 7, 2023

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Click [HERE](#) to register!

### Effective Supervision

ELRC Reading Office

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Click [HERE](#) to register!

## Regional Calendar

Check out our calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities and professional development opportunities.

- [Region 13 December Calendar](#)

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## ELRC Updates

### Child Care Works Reminders

#### Winter Weather Closures

This is the time of year when winter weather can prompt program closures. Providers who use PSS will have until the 5th of the following month to report closures. Providers who do not use PSS must contact their provider specialist within three days of reopening the facility in order to receive a paid closure.



The subsidy program will pay for a maximum of 15 closed days per year from July 1 through June 30th for which the provider also charges private-pay families.

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## Directors Credential - Enrolling Now!

Have you considered enrolling in a Directors Credential program? Lehigh Carbon Community College has credential coursework beginning in the Spring 2024. 95% of the cost of the coursework can be covered by Rising STAR Tuition Assistance so this is a wonderful opportunity to get started! You do not have to reside in Lehigh or Carbon County to enroll!

Click [here](#) to view the flyer and registration information.

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## ECE Data Management Software

Are you interested in finding out more information about data management software to help you track attendance, child illnesses, invoicing, communications, staff schedules and more?



ELRC Region 13 will be hosting a virtual Data Management Systems fair on February 21, 2024 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Five vendors will be available to explain their program and answer any questions you may have.

Click on the flyer below for more information. Pre-registration is required for this FREE event.

- [Data Management Systems flyer](#)
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## LIHEAP Assistance Available!

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now accepting applications. LIHEAP is a federally-funded program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) that provides assistance for home heating bills so those Pennsylvanians meeting eligibility and income guidelines can stay warm and safe during the winter months. Assistance is available for renters and homeowners.

The LIHEAP application period for both cash and crisis grants opened on November 1, 2023, and will remain open until April 5, 2024.

Pennsylvanians can apply for LIHEAP and other public assistance programs online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or by phone at 1-866-550-4355. Please share this information with staff and families as needed.

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## Creative Child Care Solutions

OCDEL has launched a new initiative, Creative Child Care Solutions, to educate

businesses how the impact of child care access and high cost of care can negatively affect Pennsylvania's economy and workforce.

Part of this work is to identify businesses that are open to exploring partnerships with local child care providers. Karen Grimm-Thomas will provide supports including gathering and compiling data and talking points to engage with businesses directly.

Please click [here](#) to read more about this program and reach out to Karen at [kargri@pakeys.org](mailto:kargri@pakeys.org) with any questions or potential business contact.

## OCDEL & Start Strong Want to Hear from You!

Join OCDEL Deputy Secretary Shante' Brown and Start Strong PA partners at one of the virtual child care provider listening sessions this fall!



The listening session events are designed to:

- Share the results from the September 2023 child care provider survey (focused on successes and challenges with the Pennsylvania child care system);
- Gather additional feedback on the Pennsylvania child care system from those working in the field;
- Offer opportunities for your questions to be answered by Deputy Secretary Brown; and
- Present current and future opportunities to engage with OCDEL and Start Strong PA.

**Northeast PA**  
**Monday, December 4, 2023**  
**11:00 am -1:00 pm**  
Register via [Zoom](#)

**Family Child Care (Statewide)**  
**Monday, December 4**  
**5:30-7:30 pm**  
Register via [Zoom](#)

## OCDEL Early Childhood Conference - March 25-26, 2024

***Stable and Secure: Supporting Children Through Trauma Sensitive Approaches***

Mark your calendars for this voluntary training opportunity, focused on high-quality resources to support the social emotional development of young children, with an emphasis on trauma-informed care. Conference sessions also address self-care.

**Audience:** Directors and teachers of Pennsylvanian licensed child care centers, group child care, family child care homes, and after school care.

**Location:** Hershey, Pennsylvania. Additional details on registration and logistics will be provided soon.

Financial support for overnight room accommodations will be available for participants. There is no registration fee for this conference. Additional details coming soon!

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## 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 Beth Thomlinson, Director of Community Resilience at the United Way of the Lehigh Valley. Beth discusses family resilience and how to bounce back from those tough times that all families experience. Click [here](#) to listen.



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## Health & Safety

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### School Age Child Care Mental Health Consultation



The PA Key is now offering SACC Mental Health Consultation appointments. This service utilizes a consultant who problem-solves and collaborates to develop goals for social-emotional concerns, behavioral or developmental concerns, emotional well-being of staff and partners with the family.

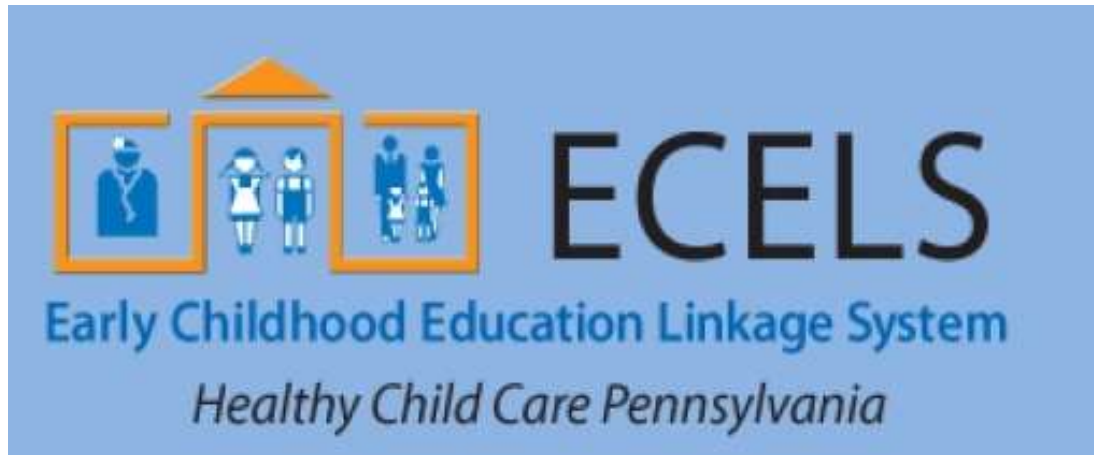


For more information regarding the program and scheduling an appointment, please see the flyer below:

- [SACC Mental Health Consultation flyer](#)

## 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 [here](#) to view the flyer for more information regarding the Office Hours, including appointment bookings. Please reach out to [ecels@paaap.org](mailto:ecels@paaap.org) or [cmanfre@paaap.org](mailto:cmanfre@paaap.org) if you have any questions!



## Discover Your Teeth

Here is some information about teeth for you to share with children and families.

Click [here](#) to view or print a larger copy.

This graphic is compliments of Kids Smiles: [www.kidssmiles.org/](http://www.kidssmiles.org/)



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. Requests will be added to next month's distribution.

Visit ELRC Region 13

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

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