



Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 June 2024

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Columbia, Montour, Luzerne and Wyoming counties

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Region 11 Updates

Juneteenth

The ELRC offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19th in observation of the Juneteenth federal holiday. Known to some as the country's "[second Independence Day](#)," Juneteenth celebrates the freedom of enslaved people in the United States at the end of the Civil War. For more than 150 years, African American communities across the country have observed this holiday.



Welcome New Providers

The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to our region, and we look forward to working with you. ELRC staff are here to assist with your participation in Child Care Works, Keystone STARS, and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- Elko Group Daycare, Exeter
- King's College Early Learning Center, Wilkes-Barre
- The Home Away from Home Children's Learning Center, Wilkes-Barre
- Building Blocks Early Learning Academy, Wilkes-Barre

RAISE YOUR STAR ★★★★★

Congratulations to Curious Kids Learning Center, Wilkes-Barre location!

Miss Chastity and Miss Melanie have been serving families in their community for **25 years!** They have overcome struggles and celebrated successes, all while providing a safe and caring environment for the children at their center. They have made it through a fire (just 4 months after taking over the program), the Covid pandemic and opening a second location (twice). Thank you for your commitment to the children and families you serve!



Rally at the Capital

Recently, several Region 11 child care providers from the Hazleton area and Kim Bastian, PACCA, attended a rally at the State Capital in Harrisburg. They talked with legislators about the staffing crisis and the need for additional funding for child care. Thank for advocating for our child care programs!



Teacher Toolbox

Thanks to all the teachers who joined the Teacher Toolbox Learning Community!

**Growing Years
Catholic Youth Center
Lake Lehman-Jackson Early Learning Center
J. Andrew Morrow
SRU Elementary**

We focused on creating engaging and supportive learning environments. We discussed the importance of teamwork and celebrated our teams! We learned strategies to build relationships, create engaging learning centers, and ease day-to-day activities. Teachers were able to network with other teachers, share ideas, and learn new strategies that create an engaging, caring, and developmentally appropriate learning environment. The cultivating a Brag Book activity provided an opportunity for participants to showcase their classroom and the new strategies they implemented.

Region 11 Provider Supports

ELRC 11 Director's Network

The Region 11 Director's Network Roundtable meets monthly to share ideas and resources and to build partnerships in the child care community. Join us



Thursday, June 20th at 1:00 pm via Microsoft Teams to discuss “Taking the Classroom Outside”. Click [here](#) to register.

Quality Coach Monthly Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach Monthly Calendar for a quick reference to all regional support activities. Remember, **your Quality Coach has office hours** scheduled on the calendar and is available to meet with you and provide any needed supports. Click [here](#) to view this month’s calendar.

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders



June Invoices

All providers must submit their June invoice no later than July 30th. While other months allow for a 60 day window to submit invoices, due to the close of the ELRC fiscal year, all invoices must be closed out by the end of July. Invoices received beyond July 30th may not be paid.

School Age Flip

The ELRC is preparing for the change in schedules for school-age children over the summer months. The school age flip from part-time to full-time for all eligible school age enrollments and eligible PKC and Head Start children, will take place on **June 14, 2024**. This will affect your attendance reporting and payments. The School Age Summer form was due back to your Provider Specialist on 5/28/24. If you have not yet submitted this form, please do so immediately.

- [School Age Flip Form - Region 11](#)

Payment Schedule 2024-2025

The CCW Payment schedule for 2024-2025 has been released. Please download a copy and take note of invoice due dates and payment dates.

- [2024-2025 Payment Schedule](#)

PA Farm to School Network

The Pennsylvania Farm to School Grant Program provides Early Care and Education programs participating in child nutrition programs with funding to improve access to healthy, local foods and increase agriculture education opportunities. The program aims to connect children to fresh, healthy food available from Pennsylvania agricultural producers in their community and the surrounding areas.



Applications are open until Friday, June 7, 2024, at 4 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information



PENNSYLVANIA
FARM TO SCHOOL
NETWORK

VIRTUAL
OPEN HOUSE!

You're invited to:

- Hear from farm to school practitioners
- Learn about resources & opportunities
- Network and connect with members



Thursday, June 6, 2024

3-4:30 p.m. ET

Virtually on Zoom >

Register today:

pafarmtoschool.org



Keystone Scholars

All children born to or adopted by PA residents automatically have a Keystone Scholars account in their name with \$100 for postsecondary education expenses. Parents can activate their child's account at www.pa529.com/keystone. A child with an education savings account is three times more likely to enroll in a two- or four-year college and four times more likely to graduate.



Please share this information with the families in your program. Use the QR code above to start the account with the free \$100.

Keystone
Scholars

Free Summer Lesson Plans!

Nearly 600 child care providers downloaded 5,202 free lesson plans last summer, saving already short-staffed teachers hundreds of hours in lesson

planning and ensuring high-quality learning for 39,971 children statewide. Child care and youth-serving organizations can access **Best Day Ever!** at no cost again this summer with 11 weeks of all-new lesson plans for preschool and school-aged children.



The Learning Lamp developed Best Day Ever! to reduce the burden of staffing shortages and rising costs for child care programs. Lessons are easy to access, use readily available, affordable materials, and come aligned with PA Academic and Early Learning standards. The plans are offered in week-long themed units: 11 preschool and 11 school-age lesson plans are available now to summer programs in Pennsylvania at no cost. The lessons were written and tested by The Learning Lamp's own teachers. A leading provider of out-of-school time learning in south-central Pennsylvania, The Learning Lamp will share all Best Day Ever! units for FREE through August 2024

For more information about The Learning Lamp and its Best Day Ever! 2024 Free Summer Trial, call Kerri at 814-262-0732 ext. 245.

FREE Mandated Reporter Training

PA Family Support Alliance is providing free virtual Mandated Reporter training in June. This is a three-hour, live training approved by DHS and meets all requirements for training on recognizing and reporting child abuse. Click on each link to preregister.



Note: Each person must log in through a separate device using the unique access link emailed after registration to receive credit. Shared email addresses may not be used in the same session.

Click [here](#) to view dates and register.

Dual Language Labels

Young children who are Dual Language Learners can be a challenge to child care teachers because they may not understand the teacher's directions or what is being asked of them in their classroom. One way that preschool teachers can support Dual Language Learners is to provide labels for the classroom environment, toys, and materials that children access all day. Families are often eager to participate in helping their child's teacher by providing words and phrases that can be used on classroom labels. The United Way of Berks County has created a list of English/Spanish words that can be used in any child care classroom. Feel free to use these [labels](#) in your program to assist your Spanish-speaking students. They can also be helpful for Spanish-speaking staff who have English speakers in their classrooms. All students can benefit from environmental print-rich classrooms.



Click [here](#) for more information!

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.

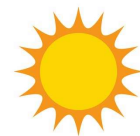
Please consider sharing these podcasts with the families in your program!

This month, we are joined by Katie Fries a registered play therapist and owner of [All of You Therapy, LLC](#). She walks listeners through the ways to meet a child's emotional needs. Click [here](#) to listen.



Health & Safety

Summer Water Safety



As programs start their summer day camp programs and other fun water activities, it's critical to adhere to water play regulations and review supervision practices with your staff. It takes only a small distraction to result in a child drowning or near drowning!

Remember that ratios change when children are swimming:

- Infant - 1 staff to 1 child
- Young or Older Toddler - 1 staff to 2 children
- Preschool - 1 staff to 5 children
- Young School Age - 1 staff to 6 children
- Older School Age - 1 staff to 8 children

Regulations also require each child care provider have a facility person certified

as a lifeguard to supervise children when swimming. The lifeguard is not counted in the required staff to child ratio.

The National Drowning Prevention Alliance has created a Water Safety Season Toolkit that you can use to review water safety with your staff and share with families! For example, use this [video](#) during an upcoming staff meeting!

[National Drowning Prevention Alliance Toolkit](#)

Helping Children Stop Using a Pacifier

Sucking on pacifiers is a normal reflex for infants and toddlers. However, long-term use of pacifiers can affect a child's bite and the growth of the jaws and bones that support their teeth. If a child shows no interest in giving up their pacifier by age 4, they may need help to stop.



Here are some ways to help a child stop using their pacifier.

- **Talk to the child.** Tell the child why you want them to stop using their pacifier. Say to them you believe they can stop.
- **Take the pacifier away gradually.** Let the child use it only at certain times, like naptime or bedtime. Slowly increase the amount of time that the child isn't using a pacifier.
- **Reward the child.** For each day they don't use their pacifier, put a star on the calendar. At the end of an agreed upon time period, give them a non-food reward, like a trip to the park.
- **Encourage the child to throw their pacifier away.** If the child asks for it, remind them that they threw it away. Tell the child they're a big kid, and big kids don't use pacifiers.
- **Trade the pacifier.** Ask the child to put the pacifier under their pillow. Tell them the pacifier fairy or someone else will take the pacifier while they sleep and leave a gift instead. If the child asks for the pacifier, remind them they traded it for a gift.
- **Poke holes in the pacifier.** Use a clean pin to make the holes. If the pacifier has holes in it, it won't feel good for the child to suck on.

Please consider posting this [flyer](#) for families to reference.

National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety. 2022. Healthy Habits for Happy Smiles: Helping Children Stop Using a Pacifier. Washington, DC

Safety Recall

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's recall of [Dixon Ticonderoga Creativity Street Foam Pattern Rollers](#), typically used for painting by children, because their lead levels exceed the federal content ban.
- Huihuang Trading is recalling 200 fishing game toys because they contain small high-powered magnets. If children swallow the magnets, they can suffer serious injuries or death. The fishing game toys were sold on Amazon.com from June to July 2023 for \$20 to \$25. Email safety@operationagency.com for a refund.
- Lolanta is recalling 16,900 children's hooded flannel robes sold in sizes 2-3 years, 3-5 years and 6-8 years on lolanta.com and Amazon.com from January 2021 to October 2023 for about \$30.



Email business@lolanta.com or visit <https://bit.ly/49LzEsW> for a refund.

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

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Community Services for Children | elrc11@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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

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