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## Community Services for Children

### Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11

### August 2024

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

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To distribute this newsletter to others, copy and share this link:

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## Region 11 Updates

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### Keystone STAR Movements

The following programs have demonstrated their commitment to quality by moving to a higher STAR level from April through July 2024.

Congratulations to the providers who have moved to a STAR 2:

- CHEDER MENACHEM
- LITTLE BIG STEPS PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE ELC INC
- BUILDING BLOCKS LEARNING CENTER

Congratulations to the providers who have moved to a STAR 3:

- SEILY ABREU FAMILY DAY CARE LLC
- JENNY NAVARRO FAMILY DAY CARE
- LLADELKIS BRITO DIAZ
- LADY ABREU FAMILY GROUP DAY CARE LLC
- LITTLE WIGGLES & GIGGLES LEARNING CENTER LLC

Congratulations to the providers who have moved to a STAR 4:

- THEIR BEGINNINGS
- SCRIBBLES AND GIGGLES DAYCARE LLC
- BUSY BEE DAY CARE LLC
- ONCE UPON A TIME LLC
- BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL



# pennsylvania

## KEYSTONE STARS

OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING

### Kick Off Meetings - Registration Open Rapid Response Team



The ELRC will be hosting the annual Kick Off Meetings in September with a focus on the implementation of the Rapid Response Team. The Rapid Response Team is designed to support the child care provider who is struggling with the challenging behaviors of a child who is at immediate risk of suspension or expulsion. The team will also provide supports and referrals to the family and child.

Representation from each child care provider at one of these meetings is crucial to learn about this project and how you can access it's supports.

*September 24*

*1:00-3:30 pm*

*OR*

*5:30-7:30 pm*

*Wilkes Barre*

*September 25*

*1:00-3:30 pm*

*Towanda*

*September 26*

*1:00-3:30 pm*

*Bloomsburg*

Click [here](#) to register

### CDA Apprenticeship

Northampton Community College is offering a CDA Apprenticeship program beginning in September. This is an amazing opportunity for program staff to earn 9 ECE credits and a CDA completely FREE! They are also able to take the courses online in the evening and complete the work at their own pace.

See the flyer below and contact Natasha Kershner at [nkershner@northampton.edu](mailto:nkershner@northampton.edu) for more information.

- [CDA Apprenticeship Flyer](#)

### 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 childcare community. Join us Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm via Microsoft Teams to discuss "Leading Productive Parent - Teacher Conferences".

- [Director's Network - August 2024](#)



## 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.

- [Quality Coach Calendar](#)

# ELRC Updates

## CCW Reminders

The ELRC financial books have been closed for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Payments cannot be made on invoices for care prior to July 1.



## School Age Flip - Back to School

The ELRC is preparing for the change in schedules for school-age children. The school age flip from full-time to part-time for all eligible school age enrollments, will take place on **Monday, September 2nd**. This will affect your attendance reporting and payments.

Please fill out the School Age Schedule Form [here](#) reporting only those children for whom you receive payment from ELRC Region 11, regardless of their schedule.

Email the completed form back to your provider specialist by: **August 16, 2024**.

The ELRC appreciates your support in communicating this need to your CCW enrolled families as well. Please remind them to contact their family specialist with any changes to schedules.

In addition, please check the August invoice and make any necessary corrections to schedules.

## PA Department of Health

### Program visits for immunizations and resources

Beginning July 2024, DOH field nurses and local Municipality Department of Health field staff will visit randomly selected child care providers to offer immunization education and resource materials for staff and parents/caregivers. A review of child immunization records can be provided, if requested by the child care provider. If requested, a random sample of immunization records can be reviewed.

The field nurses and staff are very knowledgeable and should be seen as a resource in helping to educate you and your staff on disease preventable vaccinations for the health and safety of the children and staff within your facility. Take this opportunity to ask questions and request specific educational resources.

Additionally, DOH will be sending out electronic surveys to all child care providers regarding the immunization status of every enrolled child at their facility. These surveys will serve as the mandatory reporting requirements for child care settings outlined in DOH regulations **28 Pa. Code § 27.77**.

[Immunization requirements for children in child care group settings](#). It is anticipated these surveys will be sent later this summer.

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## ECE Summit - October 28 - 29, 2024

The annual Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Summit will be back in-person for 2024 at the [Penn Stater Conference Center](#) in State College. Summit will run Monday and Tuesday, October 28 & 29, 2024.

Questions about Summit or suggestions for Keynotes can be sent to [info@earlychildhoodsummit.org](mailto:info@earlychildhoodsummit.org).



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## Supervision & Ratios

As you begin to plan your classroom enrollments and staffing for the Fall, be sure all rooms are fully covered to meet not only the ratios required, but the correct staffing components. Aides cannot be left alone with children so creative scheduling and combining of classrooms in the beginning and end of the day may be necessary. It is also important to factor in emergencies like staff illness or a child who needs temporary one on one attention. A floater or administrative support person who can help cover classrooms is necessary, especially for larger programs.



Take a look at this tool for [supervision and staffing patterns](#) and use it to assist in completing your staffing plans for the school year.

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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 Kellie Cathey, licensed social worker, who discusses children's mental health and how parents can support their child's well-being. Click [here](#) to listen.

# PARENT PROJECT PODCAST



## Health & Safety

### ECELS Health & Safety Newsletter

Early Childhood Education Linkage System (ECELS) publishes a monthly newsletter full of valuable health & safety tips and resources for staff, children and families.



Click [here](#) to download the most recent newsletter.

### Setting Oral Health Goals

Goal setting can help you create new behaviors and it can also allow you to measure your progress. Goals also give you the motivation to maintain healthy oral health habits.



Healthy oral health habits include:

- Regular dental visits and treatment
- Healthy snacks
- Brush with fluoride toothpaste at least twice a day
- No sugary beverages
- No bottle for bed
- Water or milk only in sippy cups
- Drink tap water
- Avoid or limit junk food and candy
- Limit sugar and consider sugar substitutes
- Last thing to touch teeth before bed is toothbrush with fluorinated toothpaste

Click [here](#) for an infographic that you can share with families to help them set and meet oral health goals.

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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 11](#)

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