



## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13 September 2024

Serving Berks & Schuylkill counties

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

### Region 13 Updates

The ELRC offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024 for Labor Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 3rd.



#### 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 4*  
*1:00-3:30 pm*  
*OR*  
*6:00-8:30 pm*  
*Reading*

*September 5*  
*1:00-3:30 pm*  
*Schuylkill Haven*

September 10  
1:00-3:30 pm  
Hamburg

Click [here](#) to register

*If a child enrolled in your program could benefit from the Rapid Response Team supports, you can begin the referral process here: [RRT Referral](#). (This program does require parental consent)*

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## 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.

PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



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## Berks Early Care and Education Council (BECEC) Annual Retreat

The BECEC Annual Retreat is being held on Thursday, September 19 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Berks County Intermediate Unit (Main Office). The theme this year continues to focus on Early Intervention Service Delivery Coaching Across Settings. Please note that registration through Frontline Education is now open and the link is on the [flyer](#).

The deadline to register is Thursday, September 12.

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## Region 13 Provider Supports

### ELRC 13 Director's Network

At our August meeting, PACCA Ambassador, Kim Bastian, joined us to share advocacy information. We discussed the importance of advocacy, various ways to advocate for ECE in PA, and a PA budget update. Instead of a September Director's Network meeting we will be holding our Annual Provider Kick-Off meetings. Attendance is strongly encouraged. See the registration link in the box above.



### Regional Calendar

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

- [Region 13 Calendar](#)

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## Explore Your Public Library

Your public library has many resources that can support the work you do. Check it out!



<https://www.pottsvillelibrary.org/>

<https://readingpubliclibrary.org/teachables/>

## ELRC Updates

### CCW Reminders

#### Provider Self Service Users-Closed Days

The ELRC sent copies of the Appendix B: 2024-2025 Closed Days to all Providers with the new Provider Agreements. If you are Provider Self Service (PSS) user and updated your closed days for 2024-2025 when completing your new Provider Agreement, please go into PSS and update your closed days. The ELRC cannot update closed days for PSS users. Please contact your Provider Specialist if you have any questions.

- As you prepare for Fall enrollments, please report school year changes to your Provider Specialist
- School-age children will revert back to the part-time, school year rate on **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Please be sure to check your September invoice to make sure all of your School Age children flipped to the part-time blended rate and that their schedules are correct.
- It is important to always review invoices for accuracy. Children who are missing from your invoice must be added timely. Also, check to ensure any children who have changes to enrollment or left care are corrected on your invoice each month.

### STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards!

Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Award acceptance letters will be sent to eligible STAR 2, 3 & 4 providers in mid-September. The intent of the Awards is to improve, support, and recognize the quality of Pennsylvania's early learning and school-age programs that are invested in the Keystone STARS Program.



Providers in ELRC Regions 11, 12, 13, 14 & 16 will be emailed their acceptance letter. If you are expecting a letter but do not receive it by the end of September, please reach out to your Quality Coach.

Providers should complete their acceptance letter and email back to [elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org). All acceptance letter must be received by December 13, 2024.

For full details, please see the [Announcement ELRC 24 #02, 2024-25 Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards](#). This Announcement contains important information regarding general provider eligibility requirements, a policy eligibility exception for STAR 1 programs, special consideration for STAR 2 and 3 programs, award amounts, allowable expenses, ineligible expenses, processes and a timeline.

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## IECMHC has added School Age Consultation!

The PA Key Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program has now added a team to work with School Age children! This team will provide consultation to help problem solve challenging behaviors, peer relationships, emotional regulation and other struggles that school age children may be having during their time in your program.

Please see this flyer for more information and to request the [FREE](#) service.



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## Strengthening Business Practices - Series Open

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance is offering a new curriculum series, *Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs*. The training content and activities are designed to strengthen child care providers' foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations.

The series contains four modules of business practices 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

For an overview of sessions offered, click on this flyer:

- [Business Practices for Child Care Programs](#)

For dates and registration information, click on this flyer:

- [Fall-Winter 2024 Registration](#)
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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).



PENNSYLVANIA  
FARM TO SCHOOL  
NETWORK

## PA Farm to School Network

The Pennsylvania Farm to School Network (PFSN) is a collaborative that works to advance farm to school strategies and policies across the commonwealth. The network is made up of members, working groups, a leadership team, and a coordinating agency. PFSN works to cultivate farm to school and farm to early care and education (ECE) initiatives that:

- create opportunities for all children across the state to grow, learn about, and enjoy eating Pennsylvania foods;
- increase market opportunities for Pennsylvania producers;
- connect growers, schools, ECE sites, and community members around food

To learn more about the PA Farm to School Network, and receive resources throughout the year, [sign up](#) for the Monthly Harvest newsletter. For a round-up of the current farm to school opportunities, check out the [latest Monthly Harvest](#) Newsletter.

## 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 Erin Barron, a nurse with 20 years' experience, who discusses car seat safety. 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.

## Apple Juice Recall

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website indicates that more than 9,500 cases of Great Value apple juice sold at Walmart stores across 25 states has been recalled by Walmart's juice supplier. Reportedly the juice contains 13.2 parts per billion (ppb) inorganic arsenic, which exceeds the FDA set limit of 10 ppb.



Sold as 8-ounce bottles as part of a 6-pack, the exact UPC code can be obtained on the FDA enforcement report. Click [here](#) for more information.

## How Smoking Affects Oral Health

Smoking can lead to disease and disability, harming nearly every bodily organ. More than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking. Secondhand smoke is also dangerous to both adults and children.

Smoking traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes, and smokeless tobacco can all cause health problems. Smoking makes it more likely that a person will have tooth decay, gum disease, oral cancer, and poor birth outcomes. It also causes stained teeth, bad breath, and reduced ability to taste and smell.

Not smoking or quitting smoking is important for overall health, including oral health. When a smoker quits, it improves their health and quality of life. It also improves the health and quality of life of those around them, especially young children.

[Smokefree.gov](#) - Explore this website to find out about different [ways to quit smoking](#).

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.

Connect with us



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