



Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 14 September 2024

Serving Lehigh & Northampton counties

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Region 14 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.

Tuesday, September 17

10:00 am - 12:30 pm

OR

6:30-8:30 pm

Allentown

(SPANISH MEETINGS WILL ALSO BE OFFERED ON 9/17)

Friday, September 20

10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Easton

Wednesday, September 25

12:30 - 3:00 pm

Allentown

Click [here](#) to register

Please note the language of the meeting when registering
(Spanish or English)

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)

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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Region 14 Provider Supports

Quality Coach Office Days

Are you thinking about moving up in STARS and need some extra assistance? Do you need help with your Keystone STARS renewal or designation?

Your Quality Coach is here to help! Quality Coaches are available to answer questions throughout the week and are in the office weekly to meet one on one to support you through your STARS journey. Click [here](#) for dates when your Quality Coach will be in the office. Please don't hesitate to email, call or schedule a time to meet.



Bethlehem Quality Coaches!

Alexis (Lexi) Johnson has been a Quality Coach with ELRC 14 since November 2023. Prior to coming to the ELRC 14, Lexi was a director at a local child care program. She has dedicated herself to become a lifelong learner with a passion for helping providers understand the intent, implementation, and impact of the STARS standards.

Amreeta (Reeta) Fietkau is the newest member to our team. She joined us at the beginning of July 2024. Before she came to the ELRC 14, she was a Quality Coach in ELRC Region 18 in Philadelphia. As an army wife, she previously held positions as an assistant teacher, one on one instructor, lead teacher, education coordinator and center director across four states during her career.

Please see the Quality Coach office days flyer to find out when Lexi and Reeta will be at the Bethlehem office. They would love for you to come and meet with them! You can also reach out to them to schedule a meeting at your convenience.

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



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 2nd**. 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. All acceptance letters 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.

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.



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.



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.



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 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 | elrc14@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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