



Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16 January 2025

Serving Bucks County

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Region 16 Updates

Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Thursday, January 16th for staff training. We will also be closed on Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday.

Presidents' Day Conference Cancellation

We regret to say that due to scheduling challenges, the ELRC will not be able to offer the Presidents' Day Conference that was previously announced. Please be on the lookout for other training opportunities in the spring. We apologize for any inconvenience.



Alert

Supports for Families of Children with Early Intervention Services

Do you have children in your program who receive early intervention services? We have heard from providers across the county that many families struggle with understanding how to advocate for and support their children who have an IEP or IFSP.

The Bucks County LICC, Coming together for Kids, is sponsoring a virtual event, "Let's Talk Team! Families' Role in Being Part of the IFSP/IEP Team" with Jane Stadnik, a Family Resource Specialist at the PEAL Center. Families of children receiving early intervention (EI) services are invited to connect with other families and learn about practical tools to help support collaboration, how to work through conflict and talk with professionals about their vision for their

child.

This virtual lunch-n-learn will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 12-1 pm. Please share the attached flyer with any family that may benefit from this great learning opportunity.

- [Let's Talk Team! flyer](#)

Rapid Response Team

The Rapid Response Team provides prompt support in the event a child is at risk of suspension or expulsion. It is a short-term, collaborative approach, designed to connect families and providers with existing tools and resources. Supports are customized to fit a child's or teacher's needs.



Requests can be made using this [RRT Referral form](#). Referrals are processed on a first come, first served basis and we ask that providers prioritize one child referral at a time. One of the goals of the RRT is that strategies and supports will be used across classrooms at the provider so that all children and staff will benefit from these supports.

Before submitting a referral, please discuss with the parent as parental consent is required. Child observations, screenings and parent conferences should also have been completed so that you can provide the referral coordinator with detailed information regarding the case.

If you have any questions regarding the RRT supports, please reach out to your Quality Coach.

Region 16 Provider Supports

Director's Network

Directors, don't miss out! Each month the Quality Coaches host the Bucks County Directors' Network meeting. These sessions are an excellent opportunity to network with other ECE professionals by sharing strategies asking questions and learning from one another. A wide variety of service agencies from across the county participate regularly to provide information, updates and opportunities that support your children, families, and program goals. Partners include staff from early intervention, advocates, professional development, certification and more.



Please join us this month on Wednesday, January 15, 1:00-3:00, for an *in-person* gathering at Children's Village at Doylestown Hospital. Our Community of Practice topic will be *The Learning Environment*. Registration is required for this meeting. Please go to the Quality Coach Calendar to sign up.

- [Community of Practice Flyer for Directors](#)

Community of Practice - Early Educators

The ELRC offers ongoing supports program leadership and classroom teachers through Communities of Practice. Aimed at helping to strengthen classroom and programmatic practices, these short interactive learning opportunities are offered virtually during evening and daytime hours.

Come check out one of these sessions to see what they are all about. See the Virtual Early Educators Connections Flyer for more information and follow the link to register. The same topic is offered several times throughout the month, so you can register for the day and time that is most convenient for you.

- [Early Educator Community of Practice](#)

Quality Coach Calendar

Quality Coaches are here for you! In addition to the Directors Network Meetings, there are many different ways to connect with your coach for support and information. Coaches offer in-person site visits for planning, support, and pre-designations. But if you'd like to take a short break away from the hustle and bustle of your program, take advantage of a community day at Starbucks, or maybe check in to virtual office hours. Find details like these, as well as other learning and community events, on our Quality Coach Calendar and click on the event to register.

- [Quality Coach Calendar - January 2025](#)

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders

Winter Weather Closures

This is the time of year when winter weather can prompt program closures. Providers who use Provider Self Service (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. If you are not currently using PSS, reach out to your provider specialist for assistance.

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.

Invoice Accuracy

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 accurately reflected on your invoice each month.

CCW Base Rate Increase

Effective January 1, 2025, OCDEL has increased base rates paid to providers participating in CCW. Base payment rates are also known as the Maximum Child Care Allowance (MCCA).

Please read the [full OCDEL Announcement](#) and these [specific instructions](#) for ELRC Region 16. If submitting updated rates to the ELRC, please note that published rates must be signed and dated.

STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards Final Expense Reports

All providers who received a Continuous Quality

Improvement Award are required to submit a Final Expense Report no later than March 28, 2025. Keep all receipts for eligible expenses, including payroll records to verify staff bonuses have been paid through payroll and taxes deducted appropriately. All expenses must have occurred from July 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025.



Click [here](#) to access a copy of the Final Expense Report. Providers should follow the instructions attached to the Final Expense Report and return the completed form to their **Quality Coach**. Quality Coaches have office hours available to assist you in completing the expense report if needed.

For eligible expenses, please see the [Announcement ELRC 24 #02, 2024-25 Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards](#).

Rapid Response Team - Tip of the Month What is "Active Supervision"

Active supervision practices create an environment that is safe, engaging and positive. Staff develop skills in listening and observing and begin to anticipate children's needs. These skills are important to develop as they can help to prevent injury and challenging behaviors, making the classroom a more enjoyable place to be.



Use this [Active Supervision article](#) in an upcoming staff meeting. Read through the article together and have staff break into small groups to work through the discussion questions. Come back together to share out their reflections and strategize ways your program can improve supervision practices.

Supports for Spanish Speaking Providers

[First Up Hispanic ECE Fellowship](#), is still accepting applications until mid -January, for the next cohort which will begin in February.

[Apply Here](#). To learn more about the fellowship, please attend the next info session on January 8th, 2025 at 1pm. Register [here](#).

*This is a Spanish led fellowship.



[Getting Ready for Kindergarten](#) info sessions will happen on January 15th, 2025 at 1pm and 6:30pm, this session is meant for parents of children entering Kindergarten in Sept. 2025 and for educators that support these families. Sessions will be in English and Spanish.

[1:00pm meeting link](#)

[6:30pm meeting link](#)

E.C.E. Latinos Provider Round-tables will continue in the new year on the 3rd Thursday at 1pm. This is an open format meeting for all PA providers, where the conversation topic is brought in by those participating in the discussion. Next one will be January 16th, 2025 at 1pm: Registration link is [here](#).

Energy Detectives - School Age Resource



The Energy Detectives is an innovative program that offers a series of FREE children's books and FREE, standards-aligned curriculum designed by teachers to support educators and their students to connect climate solutions to classroom learning.

This workshop will prepare you to teach your students about energy conservation using a series of free children's books and accompanying standards-aligned, hands-on curriculum for grades K-5. Not only are the lessons free to use and designed to be flexible to fit your time and instructional needs, but also the program provides FREE books to educators and ALL their students! Over 150,000 books have been shipped to schools so far! Order your free books and learn more at <https://energydetectives.org/>.

Family Child Care Training Series

Two new training series are available for Family Child Care Providers FREE of charge.

- RULER is an evidence-based approach designed to integrate social and emotional learning into child care. Developed by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, RULER helps build emotional intelligence skills crucial for creating positive environments and fostering meaningful relationships.
- All Our Kin Business Series, is 10-week course available to Family Child Care Providers, including those just beginning their journey. Learn about building a budget, setting rates, creating policies, figuring out time/space percentage, and more.

A Q&A session will be held on Friday, January 3rd at 1:00 pm. Click [here](#) to join the session.

Click on the flyers below for more information:

- [RULER Series](#)
 - [All Our Kin Business Series](#)
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Updated Health & Safety Pre-service Training

OCDEL has released [Announcement C-24-03 Updated Health and Safety Training Part 1 and Part 2](#). This Announcement provides a new two-part Health and Safety Training that all child care providers hired on or after January 1, 2025, who have not previously completed an acceptable Health and Safety training, must complete.

The Health and Safety Training Part 1 and Part 2 will be available in Spanish.



Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Awards

Applications are now open for Pennsylvania's fourth annual Equity in Early Childhood Education Champion Awards. This award brings awareness to and highlights the equity work being done within Pennsylvania's early childhood education settings, including child care, evidence-based home visiting, and early intervention programs.

Pennsylvania recognizes outstanding achievements in advancing equity by individuals and early childhood education and/or afterschool programs. Pennsylvania invites nominations of individuals or programs that have demonstrated support to children and their families by embracing diversity and full inclusion as strengths, upholding fundamental principles of fairness and justice, and/or working to eliminate structural inequities that limit equitable learning opportunities.

Applicants (individual and program) must demonstrate how the individual, early childhood, and/or afterschool program has supported children and their families through embracing diversity and full inclusion as strengths, upholding fundamental principles of fairness and justice, and/or working to eliminate structural inequities that limit equitable learning opportunities. Application deadline Friday, January 24, 2025.

Click [here](#) for more information and how to apply.

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.

Virtual Office Hours

You can now connect with ECELS staff during office hours. ECELS staff can discuss any questions and concerns you may have, pertaining to healthy child care practices. Please register for an appointment for our office hours by following this [link](#). After you register, you will receive an email confirmation with your appointment information.

Protecting Children from Lead in Drinking Water in an Early Childhood Facility



Each early childhood program is responsible for protecting children from exposure to lead in drinking water in their facilities. Even small amounts of this toxic metal can harm children. You cannot see, smell, or taste lead in water. The only way to know if there is lead in your program's water is to test the water that comes out of each faucet or plumbing fixture where you get water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.

Explore two new resources to learn how to test your facility's water for lead and what to do after you get the test results from a certified lab.

[Testing Your Facility's Drinking Water for Lead](#)

The only way to know if there is lead in your program's water is to test it. This tip sheet will answer your questions about testing for lead in your program's drinking water.

[Steps to Take if There Is Lead in Your Drinking Water](#)

This tip sheet explains what to do if lead is found in your program's drinking water.



First Aid for a Child's Oral Injuries

Injuries to the head, face, and mouth are common in young children. Even when adults do their best to keep children safe, oral injuries can happen. Most oral injuries happen when young children are learning to walk. The top front teeth are injured most often. Check out this [flyer](#) and the tips below for more information.

Tips to help you know what to do for common oral injuries:

- Tongue or lip injured. Clean the injured area. Press a clean washcloth on it to stop bleeding. Keep the child's head up and facing forward to prevent choking. Put ice, wrapped in a clean washcloth, on the area to reduce swelling. If bleeding doesn't stop after 30 minutes, the child should be taken to see a dentist or doctor right away. If the dentist or doctor is not available, the child should be taken to the nearest urgent care center.
- Tooth chipped or cracked. Clean the injured area. The child's dentist or an urgent care center should be contacted right away. Have the child rinse with water, if possible. If there is bleeding, press a clean washcloth on the gum around the tooth to stop it.
- Tooth knocked out. The child's dentist should be contacted right away. Do not try to put a baby tooth back into the mouth. Clean the injured area. If there is bleeding, have the child bite on the area with a clean washcloth for 15 to 30 minutes to stop it.
- Tooth knocked loose, moved, or pushed into gum. If a child's tooth has been knocked loose, moved forward or backward, or pushed into the gum, the child's dentist or an urgent care center should be contacted right away. Have the child rinse with water, if possible. Press a clean washcloth on the gum around the tooth to stop bleeding.
- Toothache. If a child has a toothache, it is likely that the tooth has a cavity. The child needs a dental appointment as soon as possible to find out what the problem is and get treatment.

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.

Visit ELRC Region 16

Community Services for Children | elrc16@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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