

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 March 2025

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

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Region 11 Updates

Dental Health Awareness Month

Quality Coaches took time to visit some child care programs in February to celebrate Dental Health Awareness Month. Coaches were able to read some dental books, practice brushing a 3-D model of teeth and complete some arts and crafts with the children. Each program visited received a dental awareness kit to use in other classrooms. You can order a similar kit [here](#).

Thank you to the following programs for welcoming our Quality Coaches:

- Wysox Children's Center
- Greater Pittstown YMCA Early Learning Center



NEW ELRC Office - Bloomsburg

Good news! The ELRC now has an additional office in Bloomsburg, located at The HUB at Mulberry Mill. This provides a convenient location for families and childcare providers to meet with the ELRC staff to access available services.

The office is open from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and is located at:

The HUB at Mulberry Mill
160 W 6th Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

FREE Kids' Dental Day

Luzerne County Community College is hosting a free dental day for kids on **Saturday, April 5, 2025**. Along with **\$300 worth of free dental services** for kids, there will be fun dental stations, dental characters and prizes. Click [here](#) for details.

Community Resource Spotlight - FREE Dental Clinic

Luzerne County Community College is a teaching facility offering free dental services for all ages at their clinic. These services are available throughout each semester at the college and include cleanings, x-rays, dentist exams and much more. No insurance required. For more information click [here](#) or contact Ayla at (570)281-2797 or email at aylasavage2004@gmail.com.

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.

Director's Network

The Region 11 Director's Network meets monthly to share ideas and resources and to build partnerships in the childcare community. Each meeting will include a Community of Practice for leadership. Topics will focus on strategies for reducing suspension and expulsion, classroom management, and behavior management through the lens of the director. We hope you will join us on **Thursday, March 20th at 10:00 am** via Microsoft Teams to discuss **"Preparing Your Staff for Success"**. Click [here](#) for details and to join the discussion.



Teacher's Community of Practice

This is an opportunity for teachers to learn about classroom and behavior management. Communities of Practice allow teachers to share ideas, ask questions, and learn new strategies to implement. They will take place the fourth Thursday of each month via Microsoft Teams. The topic on **Thursday, March 27th at 2:00 pm** will be **"Engaging Classrooms"**. Click [here](#) for more details and to join.

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.

Rapid Response Team - Tip of the Month Transition Time

Transitions can be difficult for some children which can lead to challenging behaviors as they struggle to adapt to a change in their day. Children may become frustrated when forced to stop an activity in which they are engaged and enjoying. They may be experiencing anxiety as they have to leave their classroom to transition to another setting. Behaviors can quickly escalate leaving teachers wondering how to handle the situation.

Empowering teachers with some simple techniques, such as using visual cues prior to the transition time, can make days run smoother for everyone.

Take a look at these transition strategies and consider adding this topic to an upcoming staff meeting agenda. Discuss the challenges your staff may be having around transition times and choose 2-3 strategies to try over the next two weeks. Pop into classrooms and see how things are going to show your support!

- [Transition Strategies](#)



ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders

The Child Care Works provider agreement outlines expectations for suspension

and expulsion of children enrolled.

- Providers must have a written expulsion and suspension policy that is shared with parents and includes a protocol to apply when an at-risk child is identified.
- Provider must contact the ELRC prior to suspending or expelling a CCW child. Please contact your Provider Specialist to report your intentions prior to taking action.
- Note that our Quality Coaches are available for additional supports using the Rapid Response Team (see Rapid Response Team information above).

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](#).

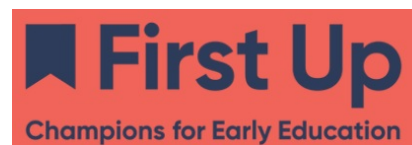
Tax Form 1099

If you have received grant funding or Child Care Works payments from Community Services for Children in 2024, you should have received your 1099. Please reach out to your Provider Specialist with any questions. Please note that this 1099 will include any grant funds that were received in 2024.

Supports for Spanish Speaking Providers

ECE Latinos Roundtable: Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 1pm. This space is an open-format meeting where the participants may introduce the topic of conversation. Participants will hear about resources that First Up has available where they could participate virtually. The next one will be on **March 20th, 2025**. Click [here](#) to register.

- [ECE Latins Roundtable Flyer](#)



FUP and LEJ Capitol Caravan : May 5th, 2025. Multiple groups will be heading to Harrisburg for an ECE takeover! There will be a press conference regarding the need to invest more funding into childcare and PreK, private meetings with legislators, and more!

- [Capitol Caravan flyer](#)

First Up Annual Conference will be April 25th & 26th, from 8:00am - 4:30pm In Philadelphia PA, at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue (4200 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131) There are 1-day options available. PQAS credit for participants, Spanish PD sessions, Keynote speakers each day, raffles and more!! To register visit: <https://www.firstup.org/fupac/>

Strengthening Business Practices

Family and center-based programs are eligible for this FREE Business Practice professional development series. Session include topics on budgeting, marketing, financial reports and staff recruitment. PQAS hours are available.



Click on the flyer below to register. Spaces are filling quickly!

- [Strengthening Business Practices flyer](#)
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2025 OCDEL Conference

Registration is now open for the 2025 Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Early Childhood Education Conference, *Stable and Secure: Supporting Children Through Trauma Sensitive Approaches*. This two-day conference is scheduled for April 22-23, 2025, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown in Pittsburgh, PA and is free for attendees. In addition, up to two overnight rooms will also be paid for by OCDEL. This conference is open to all child care providers, but due to attendance limitations prioritized attendance will be for early childhood directors and teachers. Registration is limited to two staff per program.

Click to see more information and how to register .

When you register, you will then need to make your overnight hotel reservations at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown in Pittsburgh, PA. Although the hotel room is being paid by OCDEL, **participants must make their own reservations separately from the conference registration**. Registering for the conference does not mean an overnight room is reserved.

Questions or concerns? Reach out to Toni Kopenhaver at antkop@pakeys.org.

CDA Amnesty

The Child Development Associate (CDA) renewal amnesty program allows anyone with an expired CDA credential to complete the renewal process and reinstate their CDA. **This option is only available until July 31, 2025.**



If you have staff with an expired CDA, take advantage of this opportunity! Click [here](#) for more details.

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 their office hours by following this [link](#). After you register, you will receive an email confirmation with your appointment information.

Disinfection vs. Sanitation

In childcare settings, maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our children is of utmost importance. Two key processes that contribute to this goal are sanitation and disinfection. While these terms are often used interchangeably, they represent different practices that serve distinct purposes.



Sanitation refers to the process of reducing the number of germs, dirt, and impurities on surfaces to a safe level. This is typically achieved through cleaning practices that involve soap, water, and physical removal of debris.

Disinfection, on the other hand, involves using chemical agents to kill or inactivate germs on surfaces. This process is vital in preventing the spread of illnesses, particularly in settings where children are in close contact with one another. Disinfection is often applied after sanitation, as it is most effective on surfaces that are already clean.

1. **Establish a Routine:** Create a regular schedule for cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces such as toys, tables, and doorknobs. Daily routines help ensure that these areas remain clean.
2. **Use the Right Products:** Choose EPA-approved disinfectants that are effective against a broad range of pathogens. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for use, including contact time and dilution ratios. Avoid using these products with children present and always keep these products locked away out of reach of the children.
3. **Educate Staff:** Provide training for staff on the differences between sanitation and disinfection, as well as best practices for both.
4. **Involve Children:** Teach children about the importance of cleanliness through fun activities, such as handwashing songs or cleaning games. Engaging them in



Setting Oral Health Goals

Why is setting goals important? Goal setting can help you create new behaviors. It can also allow you to measure your progress. Finally, it can 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 healthy oral health goals.

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 11

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

Connect with us



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

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