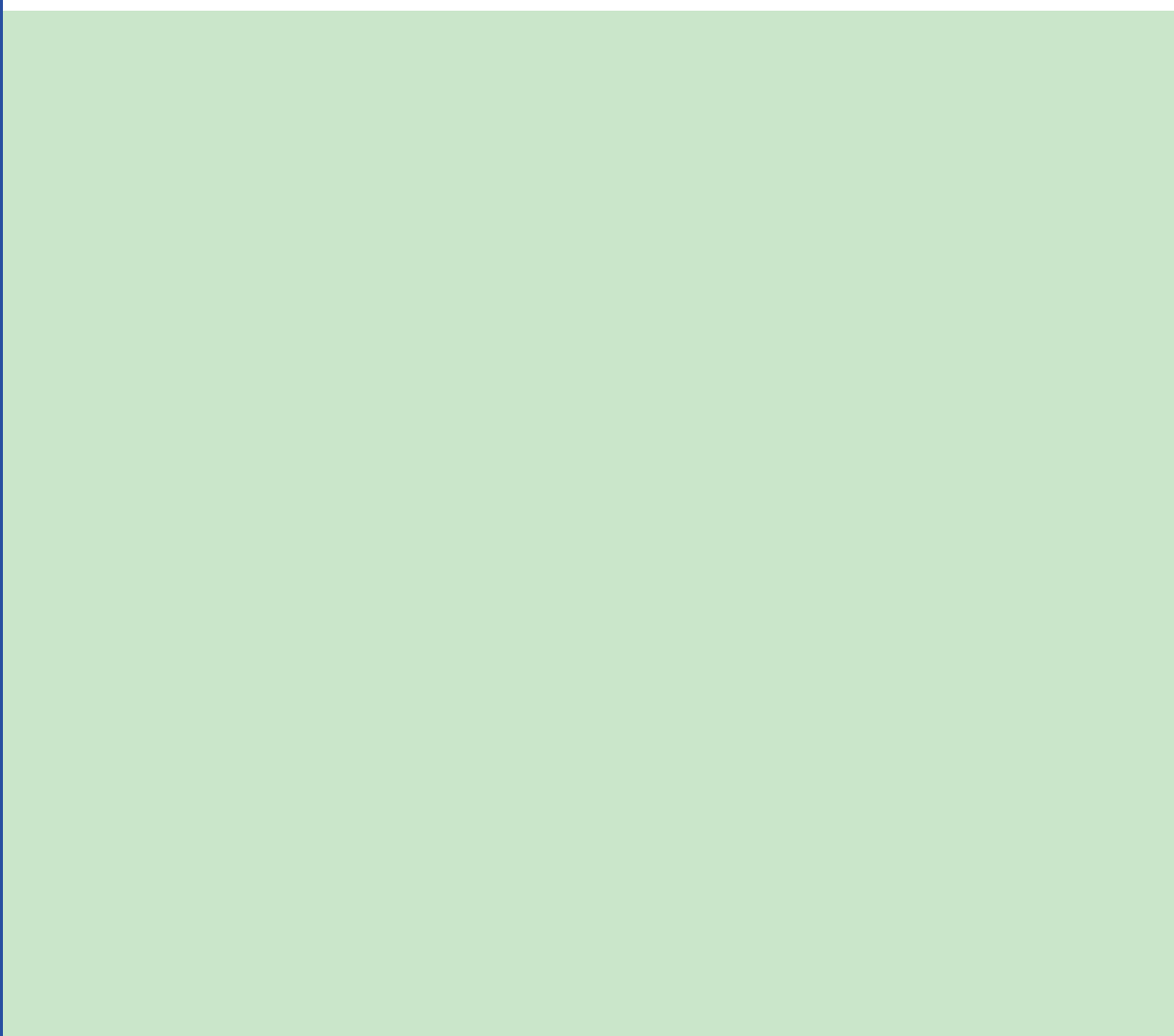


**Community Services for Children
Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16
April 2025
Serving Bucks County**

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

Region 16 Updates



Early Learning Resource Center Spring 2025 Conferences

- 8:30-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-12:00 Decoding Difficult Behaviors and Applying Strategies to Support Resiliency

A 4-year-old temper tantrum could be communicating so much more than you think...Let's take a closer look at the effects of trauma on young children and how to understand "age-appropriate behaviors" vs "trauma related behaviors". We will give concrete techniques and strategies to better help and understand how to guide a child and their families who have experienced trauma.

- 12:00-1:00 Lunch Provided
- 1:00-4:00 Holding Difficult Conversations

This presentation looks at common issues between families and support people and how to navigate some tough feelings and conversations. Things like helping families navigate diagnosis of the child, or themselves as well as other "hot button" issues such as "noncompliance" or lifestyle/ safety issues such as very unkept homes and discussing possible Child protective services calls. Examples of words and phrases to use will be provided.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED ON PD REGISTRY

- First session will begin promptly at 9:00 am and late arrivals will be turned away.
- Open to all childcare directors and staff from ELRC Regions 11, 12, 13, 14, 16
- 6 hours of FREE PQAS training (must be present for full training to receive credit)
- Resource bag valued at \$50 for each participant

Wilkes Barre
Event #377944

Bethlehem
Event #377945

Tuesday, May 13th
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Mohegan Sun
1280 Highway 315
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

OR

Wednesday, May 14th
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Lehigh University - Iacocca Center
111 Research Dr,
Bethlehem, PA 18015



WWW.CSCINC.ORG

This conference is funded by the Preschool
Development Grant and the Office of Child
Development and Early Learning



Questions?
Email estair@cscinc.org

Click [here](#) to download the flyer

Space is limited! Register today.

Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership

Did you know you can host an Immunization clinic at your child care program? Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership will bring vaccines to the children in your program to help keep everyone healthy and safe. See the [BCHIP flyer](#) for more details.

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! Did you know that every month, providers come together to hear updates on STARS, get OCDEL news, meet certification reps and early intervention staff, and learn about other agencies that support the ECE field and young children? In addition, participants get to spend time with directors sharing ideas, solving common problems, and learning from one another.



We always have had a good turnout for these meetings, but we would really like to see new faces and hear new ideas. To encourage increased and new participation, we now have a raffle at each meeting, with great gifts going to the winners. Anyone who attends, who has not been to a meeting in the last 6 months will be entered to win. Also, if you bring someone that has not been to a meeting in six months, you will both be entered to win. Come on out and join the fun, learning, and networking!

Beginning in June, BCDN meetings will be offered virtually and in-person on alternating months. While we value the benefits of in-person sessions, we understand it's not always possible to get out of your program. See the Communities of Practice Flyer for dates, times, featured discussion topics, and to register.

- [Directors Network Flyer](#)

Teacher's Community of Practice

Quality Coaches offer short virtual learning sessions for classroom staff. These convenient 30 minute opportunities are aimed at exploring new skills, and strategies to enhance the learning experience for children.

Each month a different topic is the focus of discussion and idea sharing.

A change in format has been planned, with one session offered on the first Thursday of the month from 1:30-2:00 PM, and another meeting on the third Monday from 7:00-7:30 PM, where participants can share successes and feedback after implementing new ideas in the classroom. See flyer for more details.

- [Early Educator Community of Practice](#)

Quality Coach Monthly Calendar

Do you have questions for your quality coach? Do you need help with a Designation? Do you need new ideas and strategies to achieve your goals? Your Quality Coaches are here for you! Take some time away from the hustle and bustle of your program and meet up with your Coach! Keystone STARS Quality Coaches are available at convenient locations across the county, or if you prefer, check out Virtual Office Hours. Please see the Coaches' Calendar for locations, dates and times.

- [Coach Calendar - April 2025](#)

Bucks County Intermediate Unit Tender Bridges Advisory Council

Tender Bridges opens effective dialogue, and provides education and resources as a means of supporting successful growth and transitioning for pre-K through first grade students in Bucks County. Working with staff and administrators in public and private education, higher education, local and state agencies, along with child care and preschools, Tender Bridges helps ensure students a smooth evolution through their early childhood education. Utilizing a coordinated continuum of high quality programs, personnel are provided collaboratively planned trainings, the sharing of mutually important resources, and access to dialogues about children and program content appropriate to their grade levels and advancement.

The **Tender Bridges Advisory Council** supports a fluid focus, adaptable to addressing new/current issues as well as topics brought forth by interested parties, issues that arise due to changes in education regulations or requirements, and the investigation of innovative new concepts.

The council consist of representatives from the Intermediate Unit, Pre-K Counts, local school districts, and child care centers throughout the county. Meetings are held in-person every other month at the Intermediate Unit in Doylestown. All are encouraged to attend. The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Rapid Response Team - Tip of the Month Using the RRT Strategies

A child care provider or parent can submit a Rapid Response Referral for any child enrolled, birth - 6 years old, who may be displaying challenging behaviors.



The RRT will respond to a referral by completing an observation of the child in the classroom setting. The team will be able to give immediate feedback and strategies for the classroom teacher and program leadership, to support both the child and staff. Many strategies shared will not only benefit the referred child, but will support and strengthen overall classroom practices. Ideas on transitions, room arrangement, "cool-down" techniques, verbal and visual cues are often requested by teachers.

While the goal of the RRT is to maintain the referred child's enrollment in the program, RRT will also improve classroom practices, support the development of your staff and provide resources that can be used for all children in the program

who may need additional supports. This will only work if program leadership shares and replicates the provided strategies with all classroom staff. After the follow up meeting with the RRT, include the ideas and resources in your next staff meeting so all staff can benefit and begin to implement these practices in their own classrooms.

Remember, each region also offers Communities of Practice for both program leadership and teaching staff. Make sure to sign up at least one of your teachers to attend the CoP and have them share back what they learned at the next staff meeting. This will not only enhance your staff meetings but gives opportunity for some teachers to develop some leadership skills as they share out what they learned!

Congratulations!

This month, we wanted to recognize 3 individuals who have been important members of the Early Childhood Community. After 30 years of service, Maxine Worth will be retiring as Executive Director at Schoolhouse Learning Center. She saw the importance of valuing her staff, which then improved the quality of the programs. And with that importance in quality in mind, the programs maintained their STAR 4 levels throughout the years. She was a valued leader in the organization and loved by all.

Wendy Mill will be retiring after 28 years of service in the Schoolhouse Learning Center community. She started as a Director in the Southampton location in 1996 and was then promoted to her role as Educational Director. Like Maxine, she valued the importance of quality childcare. She oversaw the STARS and OCDEL requirements, planned trainings for staff at each location to increase professional development, worked closely with DHS and STARS coaches, and encouraged staff to pursue their CDA and onboarded that whole process. She attended meetings with stakeholders and always kept up to date with state changes and grants.

Sabrina Jewell will be retiring from her role as Director at the Trumbauersville location after 30+ years at Schoolhouse Learning Center organization. Sabrina was always passionate about helping all children even when others could not. She was also passionate about the Farm to Table concept and often would teach children where food comes from and that you can make your own food! She was a strong advocate for her staff and valued them as individuals, always encouraging them.



Thank you Maxine, Sabrina & Wendy for you years of dedication to young children and their families.

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders



40 Day Absence Policy

If a CCW child is absent for more than 40 enrollment days between July 1 and June 30, the parent will be responsible to pay the childcare provider the full daily rate for each day of absence beginning with the 41st absence. They will pay the provider's daily rate in addition to the weekly co-payment.

For example, if their copayment is \$20/week and the daily rate is \$30, they must pay \$50 for the week that includes the child's 41st day of absence and all subsequent absences through June 30th. July 1, the absences would reset back to zero.

Reporting Inability to Meet Child Care Needs

Please remember, you must notify your Provider Specialist if you are unable to provide care, for any reason, for a child(ren) enrolled through CCW. If you are unable to meet a child(ren)'s authorized enrollment schedule due to staffing, behavior issues or any other reason, you must report it immediately to your Provider Specialist so, the child(ren) do not accrue absences, and you are paid correctly. If you find it necessary to close your facility due to staffing or other emergency, you must report this immediately or within three days of reopening. If eligible, you may be able to request a paid closure(s). Your Provider Specialist is available to answer your questions.



April 5-11, 2025

Every April, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) promotes the Week of the Young Child. This week celebrates the importance of high-quality early learning, and the critical role early childhood

educators play in a child's development and learning.

The ELRC would love to see the creative ways you are engaging families, children and other partners in the WOYC activities. Send pictures and stories to your Quality Coach and with your permission, we will add some submissions to the Provider Link newsletter or social media.

It's not too late to take part in this fun week!

- Monday, April 7th: Music Monday
- Tuesday, April 8th: Tasty Tuesday
- Wednesday, April 9th: Work Together Wednesday
- Thursday, April 10th: Artsy Thursday
- Friday, April 11th: Family Friday

Visit NAEYC's [website](#) for celebration ideas and other resources.

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 **April 17th, 2025**. Click [here](#) to register.

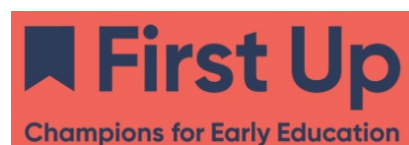
- [ECE Latinos Roundtable flyer](#)

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 Registration](#)

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!!

- [First Up Conference Registration](#)



Updated PD Registry Home Page

The PD Registry is updating its home page. When you login after May 1, you will notice a change. It is the same system; just a new look!

You can read more details about this change on the [PA Key website](#).



Mid Summer 2025 Online Child Care Health Advocate Course - Tuition Assistance Available

Enrollment is now open for the Mid Summer 2025 online Child Care Health

Advocate course (EARL 160) offered by Northampton Community College. This unique three-credit hour college course is taught remotely over 9 weeks: June 2 through Aug 4, 2025. The course addresses 15 different health and safety modules as a resource for childcare directors, teachers, assistant teachers, and childcare practitioners. Participants will learn to assess, identify, and prioritize the health and safety needs of children and staff and will learn to collaborate with a registered nurse or licensed physician who serves as the facility's childcare health consultant.

Tuition assistance is available for childcare facility staff. Space is limited; Please click [here](#) to start the enrollment process for an OCDEL-supported slot. All Pennsylvania early childhood staff including directors, teachers, assistant teachers, and family childcare home providers are eligible to enroll. OCDEL will cover all tuition-related fees, books, and materials for the course (valued at over \$1,000).

Questions regarding course content can be directed to ecels@paaap.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.



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.



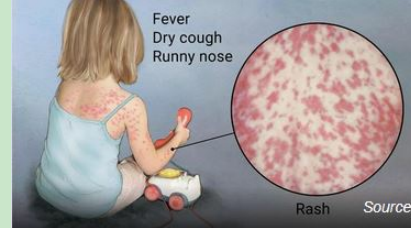
Virtual Office Hours

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

Measles

Recent measles outbreaks have many families concerned but most people who have gotten sick

were not vaccinated against measles. This is a reminder of the importance of making sure your child(ren) are fully vaccinated. The measles vaccine is very effective in protecting against measles. However, no vaccine is 100% protective so very rarely, people who are vaccinated may develop measles. Two doses of MMR protect 97-99 of every 100 people.



Measles was once a common childhood disease and almost an expected part of growing up. While most children recovered from the measles without problems, in some cases, the infection caused pneumonia, encephalitis (infection of the brain) and even death.

The measles virus spreads easily through the air when an infected person sneezes or coughs and someone nearby inhales the infected droplets. It can also be transmitted by direct contact with fluids from the nose or mouth of an infected person. The most recognizable measles symptom is a very high fever accompanied by a red or brownish blotchy rash, although this is not the only symptom. Before the rash appears, children with measles develop cold-like symptoms, including: cough, runny nose, fever, red, watery eyes. These symptoms tend to get worse during the first 1 to 3 days of the illness.

For more information visit [How to Protect Your Children During a Measles Outbreak - HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org/How-to-Protect-Your-Children-During-a-Measles-Outbreak)

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. Prevention services and supports developed by this collaboration can help parents, other caregivers, and communities protect children and strengthen families.

For the month of April, we encourage you to promote child abuse prevention awareness with your networks.

- Use #ChildAbusePreventionMonth in your social media posts
- Wear Blue on Friday, April 19th to show your support of Child Abuse Prevention
- Share this website with families enrolled in your program. There are lots of great articles and videos to support parents facing the challenges of parenting. [Discipline Tips for Toddlers, Kids, Teens & Tweens - GetParentingTips.com](https://www.getparentingtips.com)
- Host a refresher of PA Mandated Reporter training for your teachers during your April staff meeting.

ECELS Emergency Preparedness Self-Learning Module

This three-part self-learning module is designed to equip child care providers in Pennsylvania with increased knowledge on emergency preparedness and response, complementing the new (Jan. 2025) required health and safety training required by Better Kid Care. *Each part is \$15 and 2 hours of Professional Development Credit. Credit will be awarded in the PD Registry.*



- Part 1 sets the tone by covering essential emergency preparedness best practices, as well as evacuation emergencies, providing guidance on how to secure and protect children and staff where shelter-in-place is not possible. Part 1 also explores how to prevent illness and respond to public health crises and disease outbreaks.
- Part 2 addresses safeguarding children and staff during severe weather events, shelter-in-place emergencies, and strategies for handling power outages and utility disruptions while maintaining safety and ensuring continued care.
- Part 3 expands on the importance of effective drills, preventing violence within the ECE program to maintain a safe environment, and addresses mental health concerns in child care settings during emergencies and drills alike. At the end of Part 3, providers are offered a wealth of resources/references.

Reading to Children About Oral Health



Reading to children is an important way you can help them develop language skills and learn information about the world. Reading to children about oral health can help them be prepared to visit the dentist and to learn about caring for their teeth.

Check out these book lists for young children: [Books about Going to the Dentist](#) and [Books about Teeth](#). Happy reading!

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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