

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

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

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

Region 11 Updates

Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19th for the Juneteenth federal holiday. Known to some as the country's "[second Independence Day](#)," Juneteenth celebrates the freedom of enslaved people in the United States at the end of the Civil War. For more than 150 years, African American communities across the country have observed this holiday.



Welcome New Providers

The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to our region! We look forward to working with you. ELRC staff are here to assist with your participation in Child Care Works, Keystone STARS, and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- Creative Corner Academy, Tunkhannock
- Freeland YMCA, Freeland
- Foundations Early Learning, Sayre
- KCE Champions at Hazleton Area High School, Hazleton
- Bloom and Grow ELC LLC, Berwick
- Busy Bee Daycare LLC, Hazleton
- Hazleton YMCA Early Learning, Hazleton
- Kings Children Daycare LLC, Hazleton
- Jenny Kids Family Daycare, Hazle Twp.
- Little Lights Day Care, Hazle Twp.

Region 11 Provider Supports



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 for our next meeting, Thursday, June 26th at 10:00 am for a discussion on "Summer Programming."** 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 in their classroom. Due to busy summer schedules and vacations, there will be no Teacher's Community of Practice in June or July. **We will resume in August. Watch for dates and times in upcoming newsletters.**

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 support needed. Click [here](#) to view this month's calendar.

Quality Coach in Action!

Directors from Building Blocks Early Learning Centers recently visited our Wilkes-Barre office for a Keystone STARS training with Quality Coach, Fawn Unger. Remember, your Quality Coach is available to provide individualized support for your early learning program, either at your location or in our training room.



Carl the Collector Sensory Space

On June 30, 2025 from 5:00-6:30 PM, join WVIA Education in partnership with the Pittston Memorial Library for the grand opening of a brand new sensory-friendly corner. This is designed to celebrate neurodiversity and provide a safe and engaging space for all children. All ages and abilities are welcome! Click [here](#) for more information.

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.

Rapid Response Team - Tip of the Month

Helping Children Regulate Emotions

Little children can have big emotions. We can help them by teaching them how to name their emotions and how to express themselves. Emotional regulation is a developmental skill where children learn to control their feelings.



[This article](#) names several strategies to help children grow in controlling their emotions including:

1. Labeling their feelings
2. Utilizing visual charts to help identify their feelings.
3. Breathing exercises
4. Mindfulness games
5. Reading books on feelings
6. Using children's artwork
7. Providing a "calm down corner"

Literacy can play a part in helping children regulate their emotions too. Reading encourages creative thinking and imagination. When reading with a child, it strengthens the bond between the child and the reader and enhances social and emotional development.

Try these tips:

- Read to children as young as infants
- Choose a quiet and distraction-free place to read
- Use rhythmic or rhyming books
- Point out pictures as you are reading
- Talk with toddlers and older children about what is happening in the story and the pictures
- With preschoolers, discuss feeling that come up during the story for the children to become familiar with all feelings

For more ideas, click [here](#).

Community Resource Spotlight

Bradford-Wyoming County Literacy Program

Bradford-Wyoming County Literacy Program

provides free and confidential instruction for adults in reading, writing, math, and English skills so they may reach their fullest potential in life and participate productively in their community.

For the program brochure, click [here](#).



ELRC Updates

Children Experiencing Homelessness

As the school year comes to a close, some children may be experiencing housing insecurity. Here are some strategies to help families over the summer months adjust to the changes in routine:



Plan for Summer Gaps

- Survey parents to ask about needs or concerns - food, clothing, diapers, formula, shelter/housing, etc.
- Reach out to community partners to determine where to refer families over the summer.

Prioritize Enrollment for Families Experiencing Homelessness

- Connect with the local educational agency for referrals of young children experiencing homelessness.
- Ensure that homeless families are prioritized for services per federal guidance.

Make Your Program Accessible

- Update enrollment forms and housing questionnaires to ask about living situations that may qualify as homeless.
- Translate information about homelessness into languages commonly spoken in your community.

Support Smooth Transitions to K-12

- Provide warm handoffs to school district homeless education liaisons.
- Share information to help school districts identify children and plan services.

2025 ELRC Spring Conference

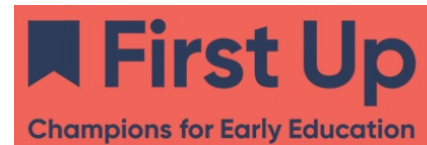
Thank you to the providers who were able to join us for the Spring ELRC Conference in May. We had over 180 attendees between the 2 conferences at Mohegan Sun and Lehigh University. It was a great day that offered valuable strategies for teachers working with children who display challenging behaviors and holding difficult conversations with staff and caregivers. You can see some photos from

the event on our [Facebook Page](#).

Save the date for our Fall ELRC Conference to be held on Indigenous People's Day (October 13, 2025). We encourage you to register staff for this meaningful event. Details coming soon!



Supports for Spanish Speaking Providers



- Harrisburg Capitol Caravan: Advocates from Early Learning PA and ECE educators are visiting the state capitol weekly and need more educators to join them. You can sign up [here](#). Next dates are June 3, 9 and 26 with First Up. For your time and effort, your ECE program will receive a \$200 Visa gift card through the Early Learning PA Leadership in Action program. If you bring a parent from your program to meet with their legislator, the amount increases to \$250 for the program and for the parent.
- ECE Latinos Roundtable: **June 19, 2025.** (in Spanish) Join the conversation with fellows Hispanic ECE providers by registering [here](#).
- Want to earn incentives for your program? Are you interested in inviting legislators to your program? Contact Rosanna Matos.
Rosanna.matos@firstup.org

Keystone STARS Tip of the Month Planning Visits



Planning Visits with the Quality Coach are an important part of the STARS designation and renewal process. How much do you know about these visits?

True or False?

Planning visits ensure the program is ready to either maintain their Star Designation or advance to the next STAR level.

- **TRUE**

The program can wait until a month or two before their designation before having their planning visit.

- **FALSE** - Every facility that is a STAR 2, 3, or 4 will receive an email from their Quality Coach to schedule a planning visit **at least 6 months** prior to your STARS expiration date.

Delays or STARS expiration can occur if the planning process isn't started in a timely manner.

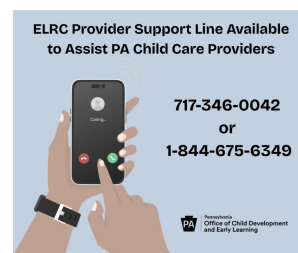
- **TRUE** - It takes time to gather the required evidence and to ensure everything is in place before the STARS expiration date.

My Quality Coach will help my program with the process and assist with questions that arise.

- **TRUE** It is important to maintain communication with your coach to meet important deadlines.

Provider Support Line

Childcare providers with ELRC agreements can now reach out to the Provider Support line. This is a safe space to share any questions, concerns, or gratitude regarding an ELRC experience.



Before reaching out regarding issues, first contact the ELRC to attempt to resolve your concerns. OCDEL supports providers with matters that cannot be resolved directly with the ELRC.

Calls to this direct line to OCDEL are welcomed Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at 717-346-0042 or 1-844-675-6349.



PA Farm to School Network

OPEN HOUSE: PA Farm to School Network September Virtual Open House

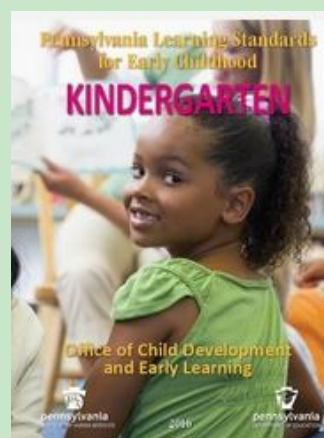
Thursday, June 12, 2025 | 3:00-4:30 P.M.

The PA Farm to School Network (PFSN) is hosting a virtual open house for educators, farmers/growers, school food service directors, early childhood education (ECE) providers, parents and community partners to learn about youth leadership within farm to school. Join in to hear from students and staff of Lankenau Environmental Science Magnet High School as they share their experiences and stories. Learn more and register for the Open House [here](#).

Updated Edition PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood

OCDEL will soon release an updated edition of the Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood. The update includes changes to the Science Standards to ensure alignment to the newly adopted STEELS Standards.

Starting in September 2025, providers will be required to adopt The Pennsylvania Family Engagement Birth through College, Career, Community Ready Framework.



All licensed child care facilities will receive one complimentary copy of the following:

- 2024 Infant, Toddler Learning Standards for Early Childhood
- 2024 Pre-Kindergarten Learning Standards for Early Childhood
- 2024 Early Learning Standards Continuum

Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood are available for viewing, download, and printing at <https://www.pakeys.org/early-learning-standards/>.

Additional standards may be purchased by visiting <https://shoppaheritage.com/collections/education>.

An asynchronous training on the transition to the new 2024 Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood will be accessible on the PD Registry titled "2024 Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood Revisions Overview."

Please direct all questions regarding the new 2024 Learning Standards for Early Childhood to ra-pwpaels@pa.gov.

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.

Summer Safety Tips

As the weather heats up, we can ensure a safe and fun summer with these practical tips:



Sunscreen

- Sunscreen must be provided by the parent and labelled with the child's name. Check for expiration dates too! It should be a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher to prevent sunburn.
- Apply at least 15-30 minutes before going outside.

Outdoor Safety

- Avoid outdoors between the peak hours of 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you do go outside, seek a shady area or invest in shade structures for your playground.
- Use the [Child Care Weather Watch](#) to help decide if it is safe for children to be outside.

Hydration and Heat Exhaustion Prevention

- Provide frequent water breaks when outside during hot weather
- Make sure water is accessible at all times
- Encourage parents to send their children in light colored clothing

Free Lead Testing for Drinking Water

The Department of Environmental Protection contracted with Terraphase Engineering to spearhead its [Lead Testing Program](#) for schools and childcare centers across Pennsylvania. This free, voluntary program not only provides lead testing for schools and childcare facilities, but it also includes grant-funded remediations including:

- Up to \$3,000 per hydration station
- Up to \$30,000 per building
- Up to \$100,000 per applicant

Learn more about the initiative [here](#).



Brush Those Teeth!

Brushing is one of the main ways to keep a child's teeth healthy. [Sesame Workshop](#) is a website with resources, games, and songs to help children learn how to brush their teeth along with their Sesame Street friends.



You can visit the website [here](#).

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!