

Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16

July 2025

Serving Bucks County

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

Region 16 Updates



The ELRC offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th.

Wishing you and your family, a safe and healthy holiday!

Region 16 Provider Supports

Director's Network

Directors and other early childhood educators come together monthly to discuss common issues and share solutions. Come out and network with other ECE professionals to be inspired with new ideas.

You will also hear updates about Keystone STARS and OCDEL news. Often, certification reps and early intervention staff will join as well.

We encourage new faces and new ideas at the meetings. If you bring someone that has not been to a meeting in six months, you will both be entered in a raffle. Come on out and join the fun, learning, and networking!

Our next meeting will be held in person at Doylestown Hospital on Wednesday, July 16th at 1:00 PM. We will be joined by IECMH to discuss a new reflective tool for teachers. Register via the link on the Coaches Calendar below!

We will be alternating our meetings between virtual and in-person. Hope to see you all soon!



Quality Coach Monthly Calendar

Schedule a time to meet with your Keystone STARS Quality Coach 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.

- [Quality Coach Calendar](#)



Annual Emergency Plans

Bucks County EMA is reporting that only 70 childcare centers have submitted an emergency plan that is up to date or nearly up to date. The EMA is working to ensure everyone has the support they need to

complete this safety requirement as per the Emergency Plan Regulation: [§ 3270.27](#).

Emergency plans must cover key safety procedures, including:

- Shelter-in-place and evacuation procedures
- Parent contact and reunification strategies
- Accommodations for children with special needs
- Annual reviews and staff training
- Emergency drills (documented annually)

If you need assistance developing or updating your emergency plan, email Mary Limbert at melimbert@buckscounty.org.

When submitting emergency plans to the county, be sure to use the shared email, BucksEMA@buckscounty.org. This ensures your plan is received and tracked. You'll get a confirmation reply, which you can keep as proof of submission.

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.

Save the date for our upcoming Fall 2025 conference! Sessions will focus on Social and Emotional Development and Quality Classroom Practices. **Please consider sending staff to this valuable learning opportunity.**



*Monday October 13, 2025
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM*

Health and Wellness Center
847 Easton Rd.
Warrington, PA 18976

Registration information coming soon!

Free First Aid Training

ECE PDO at PHMC is offering free Pediatric First Aid and CPR training in the Southeast region.

To enroll, submit the intake form [here](#) or click [on this flyer](#) to view more information on the program.



ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders

Outstanding Invoices

Providers must submit all outstanding invoices for May and June no later than **July 15th**. While other months allow for a 60-day window to submit invoices, due to the close of the ELRC fiscal year, all invoices must be received by 7/15. **Invoices received beyond 15th will not be paid.**



School Age Flip

The School Age Flip occurred on June 16. As a reminder, providers who have accepted the blended rate have been paid a higher part-time rate which includes 25 full-time days throughout the school year. This accounts for any gaps that may have occurred between your local school district end date and school age flip date.

Adverse Action Notification

When a family has become ineligible to continue with CCW funding, an Adverse Action (AA) is issued. Providers will also receive a copy of the AA. Please confirm receipt of this AA notification with the family and discuss next steps with them. You must wait to take action (change in fee collection, ending care, etc.) until the date on the notice, not the date the notice was received.

Payment Schedule 2025-2026

The CCW Payment schedule for 2025-2026 has been released. Please download a copy and take note of invoice due dates and payment dates.

- [2025-2026 Payment Schedule](#)

Supports for Spanish Speaking Providers



Invite a Legislator!

Invite your local legislator this summer to visit during family events, move up days or read to the children. Providers that want to invite a legislator to visit, could earn an incentive from \$160 - \$200 to be used for their program through Leadership in Action. For questions you can reach out to Rosanna Matos at rosanna.matos@firstup.org. Click the links below to learn more about Leadership in Action.

- [Leadership in Action](#)
- [Programa Liderazgo en Acción](#)

Summer Updates

There will be no Roundtable or SEPECC meetings for July and August. Roundtable meetings will resume on **September 18, 2025**. Bookmark the [link](#).



Farm to School

Children learn about food in all kinds of places, from the school garden to the cafeteria to the family dinner table. But no matter where they explore food, there are countless children's books out there to support their learning. Among the thousands of children's books that teach about cooking, gardening, ingredients, or tasting new foods, FoodCorps has hand-picked a few of their favorites for nurturing children's curiosity about food. Check out this [list](#) that they use to support their lessons in classrooms, cafeterias, and gardens.

Keystone STARS Tip of the Month STAR Movement



Summer months bring a good opportunity to focus on some goals you may have set for yourself over the school year. College students are back to help out, attendance can be lower with family vacations and older age groups are out of the facility taking part in fun field trips and excursions.

Use this time to work on your ERS self-assessments, begin organizing child files for the Fall, schedule staff to take some trainings on assessment tools or curriculum. If you set a goal to achieve the next STAR level this year, reach out to your Quality Coach who can help you access tools and resources to make the movement process smoother for you. Higher STAR level programs are able to receive a higher subsidy reimbursement amount, called a STAR add-on and may be eligible for higher grant amounts when grants become available this school year.

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.

Confluence Podcast Episode #5 *Understanding the Complex Differences Between Certification and Quality Initiatives*

Now Available



There is sometimes confusion around general health and safety, certification requirements, and standards and processes for quality initiatives, both local and national. Episode #5 of the Confluence podcast, **Understanding the Complex Differences Between Certification and Quality Initiatives** (19:51), with special guest, Luisa Olivo Wolf, Bureau Director of Early Childhood Policy and Professional Development in OCDEL, explores these complexities to clarify for the provider community.

The Confluence Podcast is a starting point for news and information from the Bureau of Certification Services. Confluence means a flowing together. In a literal sense, it's about rivers. But it's more often used to discuss the coming together of factors or ideas. Join the monthly podcast that will take you on a journey to understand the complexities of OCDEL's Bureau of Certification Services, DHS Certification Services Bureau, in partnership with stakeholders across the commonwealth, most importantly, Early Childhood providers, children, and families.

[Listen to Episode #5](#)

Missed past episodes, or want to revisit them? [Listen now.](#)

TEACH Scholarships

PACCA is Accepting Fall 2025 TEACH Scholarship Applications!

Planning to go to college this fall? Apply now for a TEACH Early Childhood® Pennsylvania Scholarship!

To be considered for Fall 2025, your TEACH application and all required documents must be received by Friday, July 11th.

- Applications are accepted all year, but late or incomplete ones will not receive priority consideration.
- Fall scholarship awards will be dependent on available funding.
- Start your college admissions process NOW and talk to an Early Childhood Education (ECE) advisor at your school. We can connect you with the right person!

Click [here](#) to learn more and download an application.

Click [here](#) to contact a TEACH Counselor with questions.

Don't wait—take the next step toward your college goals today!

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 view their newsletters and download the most recent edition.

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 childcare 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.

Professional Development

ECELS Emergency Preparedness Self-Learning Modules

This self-learning module, divided into three parts, is designed to deliver essential knowledge on emergency preparedness and response to childcare providers in Pennsylvania. It builds on the new required health and safety training (effective January 2025) offered by Better Kid Care, equipping providers with the tools and confidence to protect children's physical well-being and mental health during emergencies.

For a full list of topics visit their [webpage](#).



Tick Safety

What should childcare providers do when they find a tick on a child?

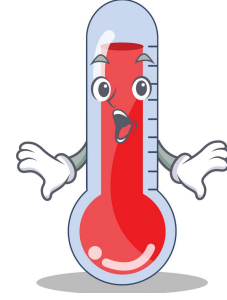
Department of Human Services Certification recommends that if a childcare provider finds an embedded tick, they should immediately contact the child's parent or guardian so that next steps can be determined quickly. This is consistent with regulation 132(a). It is advised that a provider does not remove a tick unless there is written authorization by the parent and the provider has received the appropriate health and safety training to do so. Following proper technique for tick removal can be challenging; even with proper technique, heads can stay attached and need to be dug out, which can be difficult.

Summer Safety -Preventing Hot Car Deaths

Warm sunny days in the summer are the best part of the season. However, with the warm temperature comes hot cars. An average of 38 deaths per year are due to a child being left in a hot car.

Did you know

- On an 80-degree day the car's temperature can reach 107 within twenty minutes and 123 degrees after an hour
- 25% of the children entered the vehicle on their own and became trapped
- 55% of deaths occur because a caregiver unknowingly left a child in a car
- Heatstroke sets in with a bodily temperature of 104
- Bodily temperatures of 107 can be fatal



How to avoid hot car deaths

- Make it a habit to check the backseat of the car before locking it
- Leave a personal item in the backseat with the child such as a purse or briefcase
- Providers can call to check when a child doesn't show up to the center when scheduled
- Make sure cars are locked when not in use and keys are out of reach of children

Check out some other resources on preventing hot car deaths:

- [NHTSA Heatstroke Prevention](#)
- [Safekids Heatstroke](#)

The Impact of Stress on Oral Health

Stress is a reaction to a physical, psychological, or emotional demand. Everyone has felt stress at one time or another. Some stress is good because it pushes us to do things that are challenging and meet the demands of daily life. However, too much stress is not good and can have negative short and long-term effects on our health, including our oral health.



Long-term stress can cause problems with your mouth, teeth, and gums. These problems can include:

- Sores in or around the mouth.
- Teeth clenching and grinding.
- Tooth decay and gum disease.

Tips for Managing Stress:

- Eat healthy foods
- Take care of your mouth
- Seek treatment for unhealthy habits
- Practice relaxation techniques
- Talk to someone

[This Brush Up on Oral Health tip sheet](#) describes how stress affects oral health and offers more detailed tips to help you manage stress.

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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