



Community Services for Children Family Connection Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 August 2025

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

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Region 11 News

The ELRC offices will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2025 for Labor Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 2nd.



School-Age Schedules

If your child is entering Kindergarten or returning to school and will need before and/or after school care, please remember to touch base with your Family Specialist to report any changes to your child's schedule.



Children's Service Center

Children's Service Center is committed to the wellness of young people in the community. Their services are designed to meet the individualized needs of children, teens, and families. Assessment, Crisis, and Referral Services are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for initial assessment and referral.



For more information regarding these services, see the attached [brochure](#) or visit their [website](#).



Hazleton Wellness Fair

Visit this walk-up clinic held on August 28th for quick medical advice. The clinic features doctors, nurses, dentists, social workers, drug/alcohol services, emergency housing services, mental health services, and nutrition advisors. Screenings and vaccinations will also be available on site.

Click [here](#) for the flyer with more details.

PA CareerLink



www.pacareerlink.pa.gov

Luzerne County

The PA CareerLink Hazleton office invites you to join us for their PA CareerLink Day/Workforce Development Day on Friday, September 12th.

75 North Laurel St.
Hazleton
10:00am - 2:00pm

This event will connect families with information on free programs, training, and employment opportunities. Employers will also be on-site recruiting for open positions if you're looking for work or a career change.

Bradford County PA CareerLink Awareness Event

On Tuesday September 9th, PA CareerLink is hosting an open house. Please see this [flyer](#) for the community resources that will be available.

312 Main St
Towanda
9:00am-1:00pm

Looking for a Career Change?

Do you love children and want to make a difference in the lives of young families? Check out ECE hire for job postings in early childhood education. Click on the logo below to access the latest listings:



ECEhire.com
a PHMC program

Parenting Corner

Rapid Response Team

Rapid Response Team is a short-term intervention designed to support children who may be experiencing challenging behaviors in the early learning setting. This team observes the child at the childcare facility and will offer strategies to the teacher and parent. If appropriate, referrals to community resources and services are shared with the family and provider.



*If you have concerns that your child may be suspended or expelled from childcare and could benefit from the Rapid Response Team supports, you can begin the referral process here: [RRT Referral](#)
(This program does require parental and provider consent)*

DID YOU KNOW?

80% of a child's
brain develops in
the first 3 years.

Enroll Now for PA Pre-K Counts

Quality pre-kindergarten can give your child a strong start in school and in life. Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts provides free half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten for at-risk children throughout Pennsylvania.



Children and their guardians must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the PA Pre-K Counts program:

1. They must be residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
2. They must meet the income eligibility requirements of at or below 300% of the federal poverty level for their family size
3. The child must be between the age of 3 and younger than the Kindergarten entry age for the district in which they reside.

Once these eligibility requirements are met, enrollment procedures are based on local community needs. These procedures may contain other considerations for enrollment, such as diagnosed disabilities or developmental delays, English as a second language, or any other factor that the program deems as a priority to ensure that their communities' needs are being served.

There are PA Pre-K Counts classrooms in many Pennsylvania counties. To find PA Pre-K Counts programs near you, contact your local family specialist and they

Parent Project Podcast

Community Services for Children has been hosting the Parent Project Podcast to engage families in areas of common concern for parents. Experts provide perspectives on topics of health & safety, mental health, child transition and other important subjects.

This month, we are joined by Erin Barron, a nurse with 20 years' experience, who discusses car seat safety. Click [here](#) to listen.



Positive Parenting Tips

Positive parenting is an approach that emphasizes mutual respect, emotional connection and healthy family boundaries. Positive parenting can help reduce power struggles and help children thrive because they feel safe, seen and supported.

Positive parenting does not mean allowing a child to do whatever they want. It is approaching challenging behaviors in a gentle and consistent way that strengthens connections, self-regulation and communication.

Here are some strategies used in positive parenting:

1. Labeling and validating feelings.
2. Having consistent routines to create predictability
3. Offering choices (with boundaries)
4. Following through on consequences calmly without yelling or shaming

5. Share your own emotions and coping skills
6. Catch them doing something good!

For additional information on positive parenting visit the links below

- [Positive Parenting Tips](#)
 - [The Power of Positive Parenting](#)
 - [Positive Parenting and the Seven Essential Life Skills for Children](#)
-

Child Development

The Power of Inclusion in Early Childhood Classrooms

Programs that have earned a Keystone STARS level of 2-4 are required to have an inclusion policy and implement inclusionary practices throughout their program. Inclusion in early childhood classrooms goes beyond simply placing children of all backgrounds and abilities in the same space. It's about creating a learning environment where every child feels seen, valued, and supported.

Why Inclusion Matters

Children come to the classroom with unique experiences, cultures, languages, abilities, and needs. Inclusive classrooms ensure that all children – including those with disabilities, from diverse cultural or linguistic backgrounds, or with different family structures, are given equal opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

Inclusion in early learning:

- Promotes social development and empathy. Children learn to appreciate differences and develop friendships with peers who may not look, act, or learn like them.
- Improves learning outcomes for all children. Inclusive practices benefit everyone by encouraging flexibility, creativity, and collaboration.
- Builds a strong sense of belonging. Every child deserves to feel like they're part of the group and that their contributions matter.

How Parents Can Support Inclusion

Parents play a vital role in fostering an inclusive mindset – both at home and in partnership with educators. Here are a few ways families can help:

- **Model Inclusive Language and Attitudes**

Talk to your child about kindness, respect, and differences. Use books and stories that feature diverse characters and experiences to spark discussions.

- **Communicate with Your Child's Educators**

Share insights about your child's background, interests, and needs. This helps teachers tailor learning experiences and better understand how to support your child.

- **Encourage Inclusive Play**

Guide your child to include others during play, especially those who may be shy, new to the school, or have different abilities. A simple invitation can go a long way in making someone feel welcome.

- **Get Involved in the Classroom Community**

Volunteer for multicultural events, support inclusive policies, and attend parent-teacher meetings. Your engagement shows your child that inclusion is a shared value.

Creating a more inclusive world starts with the youngest learners – and with all

of us. By partnering together, educators and parents can create environments where every child is empowered to learn, grow, and belong.

Resource & Referral

Nurse-Family Partnership®

Nurse-Family Partnership® is an evidence-based, community health program with 45 years of research showing significant improvements in the health and lives of moms and their children affected by social and economic inequality.



Nurse-Family Partnership Program helps new moms by providing:

- Specially trained registered nurse to partner with moms-to-be starting early in pregnancy and continuing through the child's second birthday
- Care and support needed for a healthy pregnancy, and a healthy, thriving baby
- Resources and advice to keep babies healthy and safe as they grow, learn, and develop
- Voluntary, free support for moms-to-be
- Trusting relationship with a nurse who will help new moms build their confidence, achieve their goals, and create a brighter future for themselves and their babies

Moms enrolled in Nurse-Family Partnership benefit by getting the care and support they need in order to have a healthy pregnancy. At the same time, families develop a close relationship with the nurse who becomes a trusted resource they can rely on for advice on everything from safely caring for their child to taking steps to provide a stable, secure future for their new family.

Click [here](#) to find the Nurse Family Partnership near you.

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 children and families.



Click [here](#) to download the most recent newsletter on UV Safety, Window Safety and Extreme Heat.

National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). It's a great time to raise awareness about the importance of vaccines for people of all ages. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):



What Is National Immunization Awareness Month?

NAIM is observed every August to:

- Highlight the importance of vaccination for children, teens, and adults.
- Remind parents to stay on top of school-required immunizations.
- Encourage healthcare providers to discuss vaccine schedules with patients.
- Promote flu and COVID-19 vaccinations as fall approaches.

Why Do Vaccines Matter?

- Vaccines prevent serious diseases like measles, polio, whooping cough, and HPV.
- Immunization protects individuals and entire communities.
- With recent disease outbreaks and misinformation, awareness is more important than ever.

How Can I Participate?

As a parent, you can:

- Review and update your child's vaccine records.
- Schedule back-to-school or catch-up appointments.
- Share reliable info with friends or family on social media.
- Talk to your doctor about any vaccine concerns.

Oral Health

What is in our teeth? There are several items that make up the tooth: the pulp, enamel, roots, crown and more.

The infographic, courtesy of [Kids Smiles](#), shows us these parts and how they come together to form our teeth.

To get a better look and to print the image, [click](#) here.

Discover Your Teeth



TOOTH ANATOMY

Enamel

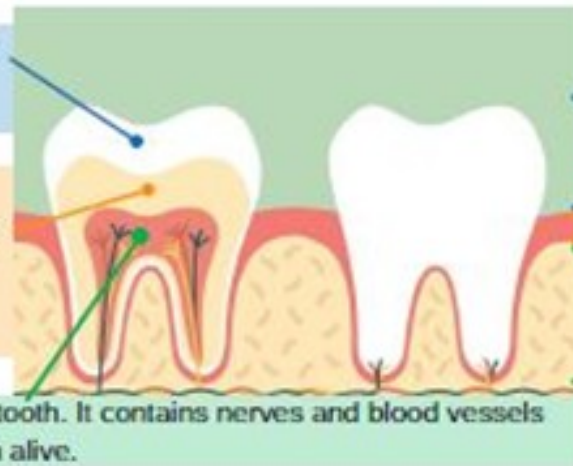
Visible, protective covering of the tooth.

Dentine

Yellowish part under the enamel. It makes up most of the tooth structure.

Pulp

The "heart" of the tooth. It contains nerves and blood vessels that keep the tooth alive.



Crown

Part of tooth above the gum.

Gum

Root

Part of tooth under the gums and jawbone.

FOUR TYPES OF TEETH

Premolars



Mash Food

Incisors



Bite Food

Molars



Grind Food

Canines



Tear Food

FUN FACTS

- Teeth are the hardest part of your body
- Teeth are as unique to you as your fingerprint
- Tooth decay is preventable - brush 2x a day for 2 minutes!

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Family Engagement

Savor the Last Month of Summer

As you are getting ready to jump back into school-mode,

take time to savor the last moments of summer with your child. August is a great month to spend time outdoors. Outdoor activities boost physical health, improve focus, reduce stress and encourage creativity & problem-solving. Try some of these activities:

- [Paint Rocks](#) - Gather some rocks and set up an outdoor painting center. Acrylic paints work well for staying power and vibrancy.
- [Make a Miniature Garden](#) - Make a miniature garden for any small figures that your kids love. Line a plate or tub with soil and combine outdoor and indoor items to create a tiny imaginary world.
- [Make Crayon Tree Rubbings](#) - Use crayons and paper to make some tree rubbings. Explore the variety of patterns that come from different barks.
- [Press Flowers or Leaves](#) - Go on a walk to gather different flowers and press them between parchment paper in a large book. Identify the presses.



Adopted from Mary Poppins website

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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