



## Community Services for Children Family Connection Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 12 August 2025

Serving Susquehanna, Wayne, Lackawanna, Pike, Monroe & Carbon Counties

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### Region 12 News

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



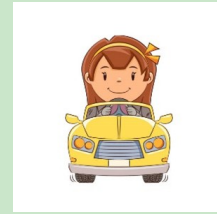
### School-Age Schedules

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.



## Mobile Community Days

ELRC staff are out in the community to meet with families at our mobile site locations. The mobile sites allow families to meet with family specialists in locations that may be more convenient for them.



Please stop by to obtain information on the Child Care Works program, pick up/drop off applications, or to receive assistance in finding resources in your local community. Child [here](#) to download our flyer for upcoming dates and locations. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Angels & Dragonflies Children's Charity

FREE event! Angels & Dragonflies Children's Charity is hosting their annual bookbag giveaway event on Saturday, August 16th, 2025, from 10am-2pm. Children **MUST** be present to receive backpacks.

- [Angels & Dragonflies flyer](#)

## Fathers Matter

Outreach in Lackawanna County has a support group for fathers. All fathers are invited to join Wednesday evenings from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Childcare is available upon request. Fathers can come to a support group to learn new parenting skills, help dealing with stress, and to obtain connection for other resources.

- [Fathers Matter Flyer](#)

## Family Fun in Wayne & Pike Counties

The Wayne County Family Center has developed a map for families who are looking to find ways to have fun with children 0 to 5 years old. This map identifies local venues to explore for recreation, socialization, and enrichment. Click [here](#) for the flyer to learn more. This link will take you the interactive map where you can use the sidebar on the left to view indoor venues, outdoor venues, and/or restaurants. You can click on the icons to get more family-relevant information. Click [here](#) for the map.



## Last Few Weeks of Free Meals

The last few weeks of free meal boxes for children from Sun Meal Kids are here. Fresh, delicious meal packages for all children, 1-18-year-old, who are at home and are not receiving meals in camp or from another site. There are no income requirements, no registration required. Each box contains 5-7 servings of breakfast and lunch for each child.



- [Tuesdays](#) until 08/21/25 from 4pm-7pm located at CGI United, 159 Pocmount Lp, Bushkill, PA 18324
- [Thursdays](#), until 08/23/25 from 4pm-7pm at St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish, 5112 Pocono Pines, PA 18350

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## 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:



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## 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)*

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## 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](#)
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## Child Development

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### 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.

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## Oral Health

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

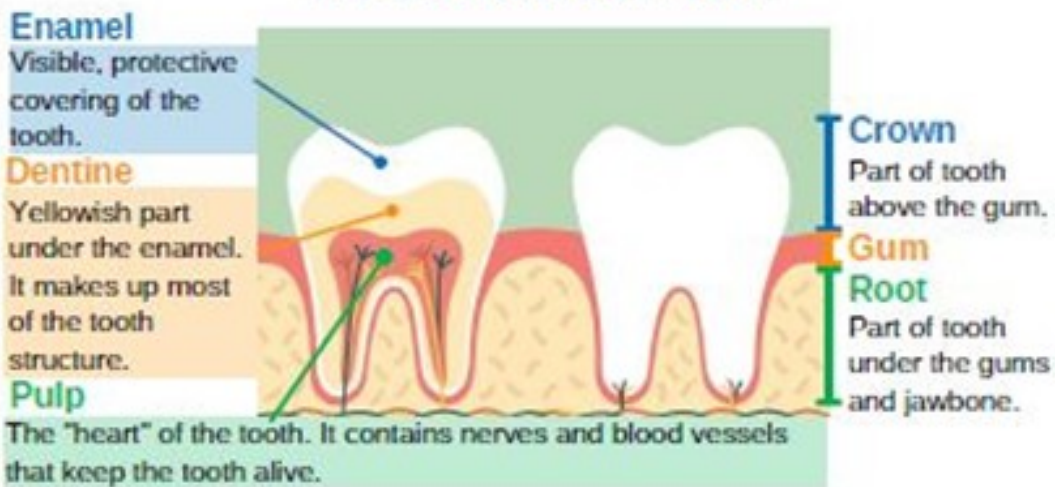
The infographic, courtesy of [Kids Smiles](#), shows us these parts and how they come together to form our teeth.

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

# Discover Your Teeth



## TOOTH ANATOMY



## 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 12

Community Services for Children | [elrc12@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc12@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

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

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