



Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 12

September 2025

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

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

Region 12 Updates

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



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.

- Barnyard Buddies Daycare LLC, Jermyn PA
 - Wee Wons INC, Tobyhanna PA
-

Region 12 Provider Supports



Director's Network Meeting

Please join us for our Director's Network on Tuesday, September 30th at 1:00 PM. We will be discussing the CQI Grant 3.0. If you are eligible for this grant, the meeting is very important. We will review the fine print in the application and discuss ways in which you can spend the funds and any other questions you may have. Click [here](#) to register and view the flyer.

Community of Practice for Teachers

We will be holding a Teachers' Community of Practice on September 23rd at 1pm. The topic this month is explaining the why behind developmental screenings. We will also look at strategies and best practice to ensure screenings are useful and informative! Bring your developmental screening tool and let's discuss! If you work at a program that doesn't currently complete one, that's ok! Come ready to learn about how you can use it in your classroom to improve children's learning experience! Please share this opportunity with your teachers! We look forward to a great discussion. Click [here](#) to register and view the flyer.

Provider Team Monthly Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 12 Provider Team 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 needed supports. Click [here](#) to view this month's calendar.

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.

2025 ELRC Fall Conference

Registration for the Fall 2025 conference in Scranton is

currently full. However, we do have another opportunity for providers in ELRC Regions 11 & 12. We are able to invite you to participate in the Region 14 conference (this conference has a higher capacity). Sessions will also focus on Social and Emotional Development and Quality Classroom Practices. This FREE conference will include 6 hours of professional development, a catered lunch, and resources!



Please consider sending all staff to this valuable learning opportunity.

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

*Lehigh University, Iacocca Center
111 Research Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18015*



Many Teachers, One Mission: Finding Strength Together

ELRC Region 14 Fall Conference

**October 13, 2025
8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

- 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 Region 14
- 6 hours of FREE PQAS training (must be present for full training to receive credit)

**Registration
required on PD
Registry
Event #385827**

- 8:30-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-10:00 Keynote: The Importance of an Early Childhood Educator
- 10:15-12:00 Breakout Session 1. Select from the following courses:
 - Effective Classroom Interventions
 - Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) in a Nutshell
 - Attitudes & Beliefs: Early Intervention
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch & Appreciation Activities
- 1:00-2:45 Breakout Session 2. Select from the following courses:
 - How Can Trauma Affect the Classroom
 - How to Have Hard Conversations
 - Finding Your Marigold
- 3:00-4:00 Self Care for Teachers

Lehigh University - Iacocca Center
111 Research Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18015
Park in the lots adjacent to the Iacocca Center.
There will be no charge for parking.

- Once registered, participants will receive an email to select breakout sessions.
- Conference registrations and breakout sessions will be first come, first served.
- Participants must attend the full day to receive PD hours.

This conference is funded by the Preschool Development
Grant and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning
and Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

Questions?
Email estair@cscinc.org



Salvation Army Holiday Programs

Help Bring Joy to Local Children and Families



As a childcare provider, you see firsthand how much a little love and support can mean in a child's life. This holiday season, we invite you to partner with the Salvation Army's Angel Tree and Thanksgiving Food Drive programs to make a meaningful difference for families in our community.

The Angel Tree program ensures that children in need receive gifts of clothing and toys—items that brighten spirits and help every child feel remembered and valued. The Thanksgiving Food Drive provides families with the essentials for a warm holiday meal, helping ease the burden many parents face during the season.

Your support—whether through donations, organizing a collection, or simply spreading the word—can bring comfort and joy to those who need it most. Get involved today: Sponsor an Angel Tree child, collect non-perishable food items, or connect with your local Salvation Army to learn how your center can participate. Together, we can help make the holidays a little brighter for every child.

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders



Head Start & PKC Verification

PreK Counts & Head Start Providers, please remember to submit the PreK Counts/Head Start Verification form for all CCW children enrolled in wrap around care. Notify your Provider Specialist of any schedule changes

- [PKC Verification Form - Region 12](#)
- [Head Start Verification Form](#)

Schedule Changes

At the end of summer and the start of the new school year, we usually see an increase in enrollment changes, withdrawals, transfers, and schedule changes. Please take a few minutes to compare your August and September invoices with your records and report any discrepancies to your Provider Specialist as soon as you become aware. Doing so will help us to process your payment accurately and timely.

40 day Absences

Children receiving CCW funding are allowed up to 40 days of absence a year and they reset every year on July 1st.

Absences can accumulate quickly if children do not attend on their scheduled days. If you notice a child missing many days, please direct them to contact their Family Specialist to discuss options for changing their schedule. This may prevent the child from accumulating excessive absences and losing their funding.

SA Flip

On Sept 1st, School-age children will revert back to the part-time, school year rate. Please be sure to check your September invoice to make sure all of your School Age children flipped to the part-time, blended rate and that their schedules are correct.

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



Sept. 15th – Oct. 15th is Hispanic Heritage Month.

Sept. 18: ECE Latinos Roundtable – 1 PM. Spanish ECE providers can gather virtually to hear updates regarding state budget and resources for their programs. Registration [link](#).

Sept. 25: Getting Ready for Kindergarten (2 virtual sessions) –

- 1:30pm. Click [here](#) to register
- 6:30pm. Click [here](#) to register

Oct. 15: ECE Fellowship Info Session (virtual) – 7 PM. Click [here](#) to register.

First Up's ECE Advocacy Fellowship, is designed to educate, connect, and support emerging leaders who are passionate about driving positive change in early childhood education. Recruitment has begun for this 2026 program. To better serve our diverse community, this program will be offered in English and Spanish, please see flyers:

- [ECE Fellowship \(Spanish\)](#)
- [ECE Fellowship \(English\)](#)

Oct. 16: ECE Latinos Roundtable – 1 PM. Spanish ECE providers can gather virtually to hear updates regarding state budget and resources for their programs. Registration [link](#).

Rapid Response Team Tip of the Month

Kindness Tree

The ELRC has been running Communities of Practice for staff and program leadership. One of the strategies recently shared during a Community of Practice was creating a classroom "Kindness Tree". This tree supports social-

emotional development by showing the children all the ways, big or small, that they are kind to others. The Kindness Tree creates a visual reminder of how the children show kindness every day. Celebrate kindness, appropriate social interactions, and meeting classroom expectations to positively reinforce the behavior you want to see in the classroom. Promoting kindness and celebrating when children demonstrate appropriate social skills helps to build relationships and creates a positive classroom culture.



Instructions:

Step 1: Use paper to create a tree display. Pre-cut leaves, apples, or whatever you want to use to write down the act of kindness.

Step 2: Whenever you see a child being kind and/or meeting behavior expectations, write down on the leaf what they did. Children can draw a picture of what they did on the leaf too.

Step 3: It is a BIG deal! Announce the addition of a new kindness leaf to the tree. Share what the child did to earn the leaf. As a whole class, praise the child for their kindness.

Step 4: Post the leaf on the tree. ***Leaves earned do not get removed from the tree if negative behavior occurs***

Step 5: Share the good news with the child's family. Encourage the child to show their family his or her kindness leaves. Share the news with families at pick up or in your communication app.

STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards!

Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Award acceptance letters will be sent to eligible STAR 2, 3 & 4 providers in mid-September. The intent of the Awards is to improve, support, and recognize the quality of Pennsylvania's early learning and school-age programs that are invested in the Keystone STARS Program.

Providers in ELRC Regions 11,12, 13, 14 & 16 will be emailed their acceptance letter. If you are expecting a letter but do not receive it by the end of September, please reach out to your Quality Coach.

Providers should complete their acceptance letter and email back to elrc-ksgrants@cscinc.org. All acceptance letters must be returned by December 1, 2025.

For full details, please see the [Announcement ELRC #25-03, 2025-26 Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards](#). This Announcement contains important information regarding general provider eligibility requirements, a policy eligibility exception for STAR 1 programs, special consideration for STAR 2 and 3 programs, award amounts, allowable expenses, ineligible expenses, processes and a timeline.

ECE Summit

Early Bird registration has been extended to 9/10/25 for the annual Early Childhood Education Summit at State College. This year the Summit will be held on October 19-21. The Summit is an opportunity to discover trends in best practices, network with peers and learn about state and national policies.



Visit <https://earlychildhoodsummit.org/> for the agenda and registration information.



Providers will be asked to complete the 2025 Child Care Market Rate Survey between September 8 and December 8, 2025.

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is required to collect up-to-date tuition information from all licensed providers every three years. This survey helps OCDEL set child care subsidy payment rates that are reflective of the private pay market. Even if your program doesn't accept subsidies, your information is still important. When all providers complete the survey, the data gives a more accurate picture of child care tuition rates across Pennsylvania.

Why your participation matters:

- The results help set payment rates for child care subsidies over the next few years.
- When more providers respond, rates are fairer and reflect real tuition rates.
- It supports policies that better reflect the real structure and value of child care services statewide.
- It strengthens the case for public investment in child care for everyone.
- If you don't respond, decisions may be based on other programs that don't reflect your rates.

Watch for your survey this month!

Free Professional Development

Little Conversations, Big Connections

Join OCDEL and Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA) on September 10, 2025, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm for a webinar designed for early childhood educators who work with children and aim to foster high-quality, responsive interactions throughout the daily routine.



The session focuses on practical strategies to support children's social, emotional, and language development during key moments of the day in and out of the classroom, including circle time, free play on the playground or at the park, lunch and snack times, on walks, during water-based activities, and more.

PQAS Credit hours, Infant Toddler hours, and ACT 48 hours are available for this webinar.

[Click here to register!](#)

Certification Vodcasts

A Tiered LIS is a Licensing Inspection Summary that includes a directed Plan of Correction requiring more than one step to come into compliance for one area of regulatory non-compliance. The [Tiered Inspection Summary video](#) will walk you through the process of completing your Tiered LIS. Please reference the [Tiered POC Tip Sheet for Providers PDF](#) as an additional resource.

Vodcasts and others regarding important information about operating a child care facility can be found [here](#).

Keep an eye out for an upcoming session on the Market Rate Survey!

School Age Credential Program Enrolling for Fall 2025



Northampton County Community College is currently enrolling for their Fall 2025 School Age Credential. Tuition Assistance is available for those who qualify. Instruction is done remotely and students will earn 9 college credits at the completion of the program.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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.

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

Oral Health

The Importance of Caring for Baby Teeth

Healthy mouths are important, especially for babies and young children.

- Poor oral health can cause children to have problems eating, speaking, and learning.
- Baby teeth are important because they hold space for adult teeth.

A healthy mouth is important for overall health.

- Cavities can be painful and lead to infections and other health problems.
- Cavities can be prevented with proper oral care.



Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with families about the importance of caring for baby teeth.

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 12

Community Services for Children | elrc12@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

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