

Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16

September 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 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.

- Judy Sare Nursery School
 - Calvary Church
-

Region 16 Provider Supports



Bucks County Directors Network

The Bucks County Directors' Network meetings are the best way to stay connected to all things Early Childhood! Each month, Quality Coaches and partner agencies from across the county and state deliver news and updates. Participating directors find great value in having the opportunity to network. During these gatherings, there is always time to have meaningful conversations with other professionals who share the same passion, vision, and challenges in meeting the demands of providing high-quality childcare. Quality Coaches are there to talk about STARS, OCDEL news, grants, training opportunities and much more. Representatives from a wide variety of agencies routinely discuss topics that include certification regulations, early intervention, mental health services, staffing, and recruitment.

If you have never been to a Bucks County Directors' Network meeting, maybe it's time to give it a try! Meetings are held monthly and rotate between in-person and virtual. New participants will be entered into a raffle to win something special.

Our next meeting will be held at Children's Village in Doylestown, on Wednesday, September 17th at 1:00 PM. Our topic for September is "Provider Self Service." Our Provider Specialists will discuss how to use and maintain your profile on PSS. Please go to the Coaches' Calendar to register.

Quality Coach Community Days and Virtual Office Hours

Your Quality Coaches are here for you! Community Days are scheduled to assist directors who may have questions, need encouragement, or are looking for new ideas. Coaches will meet you in a friendly and nurturing environment to encourage progress towards your unique goals. 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.

- [Coaches 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.

2025 ELRC Fall Conference

Registration is open for the Fall 2025 conference titled "*Building Your Toolbox*". Sessions will focus on Social and Emotional Development and Quality Classroom Practices. \$15 per person 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*

*Health & Wellness Center
847 Easton Rd
Warrington, PA 18976*

Building Your Toolbox - Supporting the Social and Emotional Needs of the Children in Your Classroom

ELRC Region 16 Fall Conference

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

Registration
required on PD
Registry
Event #385080

- First session will begin promptly at 9:00 am. Late arrivals will be turned away.
- Open to all childcare classroom staff and directors from ELRC Region 16
- 6 hours of PQAS training (must be present for full training to receive credit)
- \$15 per person

- 8:30-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-12:00 Tools for Your Toolbox (Part 1)
 - Learn what is needed to create a high quality early education classroom. How can you effectively implement these strategies into your classroom? Although specific strategies will be given, there will be emphasis on tailoring these approaches to current students' needs.
- 12:00-12:45 Lunch Provided
- 12:45 - 3:45 Tools for Your Toolbox (Part 2)
- 3:45 - 4:00 Wrap Up

Health & Wellness Center
847 Easton Rd
Warrington, PA 18976

- \$15/participant includes lunch and 6 hours of Professional Development
- Conference registrations will be first come, first served.
- Participants must attend the full day to receive PD hours.



WWW.CSCINC.ORG

This conference is funded by the Preschool
Development Grant and the Office of Child
Development and Early Learning



Questions?
Email estair@cscinc.org

\$1000 Scholarship for Early Childhood Educators

The Bucks County Chapter of PennAEYC is honored to announce the Pat Miiller Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 award for early childhood teachers and staff who are advancing their education. This scholarship celebrates the life and legacy of our dear friend and early childhood education giant, Pat Miiller, who was a tireless champion for training and education to uplift the workforce.

Pat Miiller was more than a colleague; she was a guiding light in early childhood education. She dedicated her life to championing training and education, always believing in the power of a skilled, supported workforce to change children's lives.

The Pat Miiller Memorial Scholarship carries forward her vision by helping the early childhood community to pursue their education and reach new heights in

their careers. Through every scholarship awarded, her legacy of passion, advocacy, and care continues to inspire.

Whether you're enrolling in college courses, working toward your Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, or preparing for the CDA assessment, this scholarship can help cover your educational costs.

- [Pat Miiler Scholarship Application](#)

Apply by November 7th to be considered!

Race for Resources

Lace up for a cause at the Race 4 Resources on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Bucks County Community College and Tyler State Park!

Whether you're sprinting through the 5K, strolling the 1-mile Family Walk, or exploring the Service Provider Vendor Expo, there's something for everyone—kids included!

This high-energy, family-friendly event supports the Autism Cares Foundation, whose programs empower individuals with autism and other social and cognitive disabilities to thrive in everyday life through skills training, social enrichment, and community integration. From face painting and moon bounces to gourmet bites from Outback, Carrabba's, and Bonefish Grill, it's more than a race—it's a celebration of inclusion and opportunity.

Click [here](#) to register.



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 16](#)
- [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

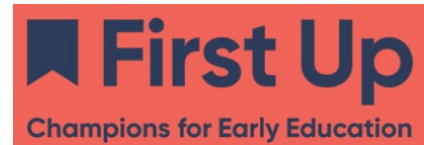
On Sept 1st, School-age children will revert back to the part-time, school year rate. Please be sure to check your September invoice to make sure all of your School Age children flipped to the part-time, blended rate and that their schedules are correct.

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.



2025 Market Rate Survey

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 16](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc16@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

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