

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16 December 2025

Serving Bucks County

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

Region 16 Updates

Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1st. We wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season!

A graphic with the text "Warm Winter Wishes" in a cursive font, surrounded by small blue snowflake icons.



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.

- PA Childcare Network

- The Discovery Preschool of Warrington
- New Creations of Life

Region 16 Provider Supports



Bucks County Directors Network- Come Out and Join Us!

The Bucks County Directors' Network meetings are the best way to stay connected to everything that is happening in the early childhood community. Quality Coaches are there to talk about STARS, OCDEL news, grants, training opportunities and much more. While county and state partners share announcements, updates, and ways to support children, families and staff. And, maybe best of all, participating directors get a chance to network and have meaningful conversations with others who share common experiences.

So, if you've 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. Our next Directors Network meeting will be virtual on **Wednesday, December 17th at 1:00**. Please see the flyer for a registration link.
JOIN US . . . GET INSPIRED ... NETWORK . . . LEARN . . . SHARE!

- [Directors Network flyer - December](#)

Quality Coach Community Days and Virtual 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. Maybe join a cohort to focus on your Continuous Quality Improvement goals. You might want to meet your coach out in the community to talk about what is on your mind. Or, if you prefer, check out Virtual Office Hours. Please see the Coaches' Calendar for a variety of connection options and for locations, dates and times.

- [Region 16 Coaches' Calendar - December](#)

Community Resources

Free Training Opportunities

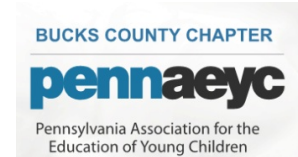
The Bucks County Chapter of PennAEOYC is offering six in-person, ECE training sessions for Early Childhood educators. No registration is required and PQAS hours will be given. Participants do not have to attend all classes to receive credit. December's topic in Doylestown is Behavior Management Techniques. This month in Levittown the topic will be Curriculum Implementation. Please see the flyer for details.

- [Lower Bucks Training Series](#)
- [Doylestown Training Series](#)

Gift Drive for Children and Teens

Are you looking for a way to support children and youth in your community? Do you know a family in need that would benefit from being able to receive gifts for their children this holiday season? Family Service is collecting donations of unwrapped gifts thru December 9, 2025. Families will be able to come in to receive gifts throughout the month of December. Please see the flyer for more details and for contact information.

- [Holiday Gift Drive](#)



Bucks County Blood Drive

Looking to make a difference in the lives of others? Consider donating blood to the American Red Cross. Donations of blood are always in high demand, and shortages are widespread. State Senator Steve Santarsiro and State Rep. Perry Warren are hosting a blood drive on December 16, 2025, at the Bucks County Community College in Newtown. Please share the attached flyer with families.

- [Blood Drive](#)

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.

Rapid Response Team Grants Update

Community Services for Children is deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to implement a Rapid Response Team approach in collaboration with OCDEL. Unfortunately, due to changes in federal funding, OCDEL will no longer be able to support the RRT initiative in the same capacity. CSC is committed to the support of childcare providers and families and is working on ways to continue this service in some capacity. Continue to refer to this Provider Link newsletter for updates to the RRT program.

ELRC Updates

CCW Reminders



Provider Agreement

- Per the Child Care Works Provider Agreement, the owner of the child care facility is not eligible for subsidized child care for their own child if that child will be cared for in the same facility.
- If the provider employs a subsidy parent or caretaker, the provider must ensure that the parent or caretaker/employee is not paid to care for their own subsidized child(ren). This means the parent or caretaker/employee may not be assigned to their child's classroom and they may not be

assigned to supervise their child(ren).

- It is important for all providers to be mindful of their licensed capacity. This includes both the private pay and subsidized enrollments. Appendix H of the Provider Agreement lists the capacity and providers sign that they will remain in compliance at all times. Failure to stay within the capacity may impact the status of your certificate of compliance.

Contact Information

- Please keep all contact information current with the ELRC. Reach out to either your Quality Coach or Provider Specialist if there are any changes to your email, phone number, or contact person.

Direct Deposit

- If you have not signed up to receive your CCW payment through direct deposit, please consider doing so. You will receive your payments faster and never have to worry about checks getting lost in the mail! You can complete the request using the Direct Deposit form below or reach out to your Provider Specialist.
- [CSC Direct Deposit Form](#)

2025 Market Rate Survey

ENDS December 8th!

Providers are being asked to complete the 2025 Child Care [Market Rate Survey](#). If you have not done so already, please note this important opportunity ends on 12/8!



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.

Want to know more? OCDEL Bureau of Certification has released a Podcast to discuss the benefits of the Market Rate Survey and how it directly affects child care providers. Listen [here](#).

STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards

Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Award payments will be issued to all providers who have accepted the award in the month of December. The

intent of the award 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.

Next Steps:

- Payments will be made in the same manner in which you receive your CCW payment (paper check or direct deposit). You will receive a copy of the direct deposit slip if that is your method of payment.
- Providers must save all documentation and receipts of expenses for grant funds used during the spending window of July 1, 2025 and March 13, 2026.
- Providers must complete their Final Expense report

For full details of allowable expenses, please see the [Announcement ELRC #25-03, 2025-26 Keystone STARS Continuous Quality Improvement Awards](#).

Supports for Spanish Speaking Providers



Dec. 18, from 1-2pm: [ECE Latinos Roundtable](#)
Mesa Redonda para Educadores Hispanos. Click here for [Meeting Registración](#). Únete a una conversación informar con otros proveedores de cuidado.

Dec. 16, from 12:30 - 2:30pm: [Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition \(SEPECC\)](#). Click here for [Meeting Registración](#).
Come hear from OCDEL, DHS and special guests. *Traducción en Español y horas PQAS"

First Up is also accepting applications for the next cohort of the ECE Advocacy Fellowship. Please see the [Spanish flyer](#) or [English flyer](#) for more information and apply online here: [ECE Fellowship Application](#) cohorts start in January! There will be an English and Spanish cohort.



Rapid Response Team Tip of the Month *Children Receiving Outside Services*

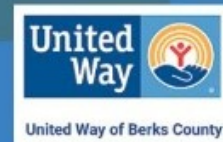
Children may already have services in place before they even enroll in your program. It is important to review your Family Handbook policies and make sure you have requested a copy of any IEP/IFSP from families. Discuss at enrollment meetings that the purpose of obtaining a copy of the IEP is to understand the needs of the children, review the goals and keep communication open with the family and service providers.

Teachers and program leadership should be included at IEP/IFSP meetings so that progress and challenges can be discussed and strategies created to meet the child and family needs.

When submitting a referral for a child who already has services in place, please include details of these service providers, with parental permission, as part of your referral.

DID YOU KNOW?

Babies learn best
face-to-face, not
from screens.



Strengthening Business Practices

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance is offering a curriculum series, *Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs*. The training content and activities are designed to strengthen child care providers' foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations.

The series began in September with a module on Budgets, Projections and Planning. You can still join in on the other modules. Click on each title to register:

[Recruiting and Retaining Staff](#)

Monday December 8
12:30pm - 3:30pm

[Budgets, Projections, and Planning](#)

January 13, 2026
9:30am - 11:30am

[Financial Reports & Internal Controls](#)

January 20, 2026
9:30am - 11:30 am

Marketing Your Program

January 27, 2026

9:30am - 12:30pm

For future module offerings for Center & Family-Based providers, click on this flyer

- [2025-2026 Business Practice Registration Flyer](#)

For an overview of sessions offered, click on this flyer:

- [Business Practices for Child Care Programs](#)

Learning Standards for Early Childhood Now Available in Spanish

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning is excited to announce that the 2024 Infant, Toddler, and Pre-Kindergarten Learning Standards for Early Childhood are now available in Spanish! This resource is a valuable tool to support the learning and development of our youngest learners.



Providing this key resource in Spanish will better support Early Childhood educators, professionals, and families across the Commonwealth who communicate primarily or more comfortably in Spanish.

You can now view, download, and print the complete documents directly at the [Pennsylvania Key website](#).

Certification Podcast

Policy for Transferring Care Between Child Care Facility and School

In this episode, Ruby Martin, Director of the Bureau of Certification Services, and Chris Loos, Bureau of Certification Services Division Chief, discuss the most recent announcement regarding transferring care between Child Care facilities and schools.

Listen here: [Episode 8: Announcement C-25-03: Policy for Transferring Care Between Child Care Facility and School](#)

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](#).

Managing Stress During the Holidays

8 Difficult Holiday Situations That Make Some Kids Anxious. This article discusses why children struggle with holidays and how we can help them reduce their anxiety, allowing them to participate in some way in all the fun holiday activities.



Managing Holiday Anxiety in Young Children . Learn more here to understand why children might experience some anxiety during the holidays and simple ways that we can be prepared to help a child remain self-regulated and not become overstimulated so that everyone can enjoy the busyness and fun of the holiday season.

14 Tips for Managing Sensory Overload During the Holidays . Guidance for schools and families to prepare children for overstimulating events. What is sensory overload, and who experiences sensory overload? How can we reduce sensory overload in ourselves and others? Everyone experiences sensory overload at times. This article offers valuable tips and tricks to help you and your children stay sensory-centered, allowing everyone to enjoy the holidays together.

Talking to Children about Visiting the Dentist

Children need to visit a dentist or dental clinic to keep their teeth and mouth healthy. If children have regular dental visits, the dentist and dental hygienist can take care of their teeth and find oral health problems early. Having regular dental visits also teaches children to value good oral health. Click [here](#) for more information and for tips to share with families about preparing their child to visit the dentist.



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

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