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## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16 June 2026

Serving Bucks County

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### Region 16 Updates

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*Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Friday, June 19th for the Juneteenth federal holiday.*

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#### Region 16 Provider Supports

##### Director's Network

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. County and state partners share announcements, updates, and ways to support children, families, and staff. Best of all, participating directors get a chance to network and have meaningful conversations with others who share common experiences.

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

- [Directors Network flyer](#)



##### 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 innovative 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.

- [Coaches Calendar](#)



## Bucks County Director's Network

During May's in-person Director's Network Meeting, Program Quality Assessors hosted an engaging Program Observation Instrument (POI) Book Club. Directors explored the nine observation tools available to support early

childhood programs in assessing quality, reflecting on practice, and fostering continuous improvement. The session inspired thoughtful discussion and meaningful conversations about how these tools can be effectively used across a variety of program settings.

A special thank you to the PQA Team for sharing their expertise and providing valuable insights to our directors, and to Children's Village for graciously hosting us!

## RRT Toolkit Training

ELRC Region 16 Quality Coaches have been leading RRT Toolkit Trainings across the region. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to network and share experiences. All participating childcare programs received a resource book and USB drive containing social emotional resources for their programs. If you have not already attended one of the trainings, check out the upcoming dates below.



Attendees have shared this feedback:

*"Grateful we attended the RRT ToolKit Training — it's always beneficial to be in a room with other providers, talking through practical strategies and realistic situations. It is especially nice to be able to walk away with a tool we can implement immediately. Our staff are already pulling documents from the toolkit to use in their classrooms to help to prevent challenging behaviors."*

*"Thank you for your time and the great resource book. This is definitely going to be the next few staff meetings at all of our locations and the videos will also be part of staff training. Our focus this year is getting back to that INTENTIONAL TEACHER!! and this training really will help pull that all together"*

*"I wanted to drop an email about the RRT- social emotional toolkit. This is AMAZING!!!! The information you all put together in this resource is outstanding! My 2 Pre-K teachers that were there yesterday couldn't wait to tell me all about it."*

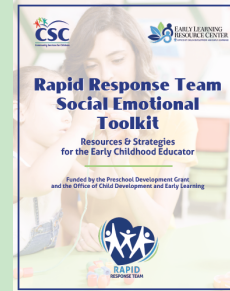
## Rapid Response Team Toolkit Free Professional Development

All Region 16 providers are invited to attend the FREE, 2-hour PD, "Rapid Response Team Social Emotional Toolkit." This training will support providers to

identify social-emotional skill gaps, and how to apply proactive, relationship-based strategies to prevent challenging behaviors.

Attendees will be given a RRT Toolkit (one per facility) full of resources to use with classroom staff.

These trainings will be offered throughout the Summer 2026. Registration required on the PD Registry.



Monday, June 8, 2026, 10:00-12:00 pm  
TLC Childcare Center  
19 S 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Perkasie, PA 18944  
Event ID 398942

Thursday, June 11, 2026, 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Emilie Christian Day School  
7300 New Falls Road  
Levittown, PA 19055  
Event ID 398208

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
ELRC Region 16 Office  
333 N. Oxford Valley Road Suite 402-403  
Fairless Hills, PA 19030  
Event ID 399001

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Kiddie Academy Plumsteadville  
6190 Keller's Church Rd.  
Plumsteadville, PA 18949  
Event ID 398649

Once a program has attended this training, they along with their program staff, will be invited to attend a monthly Community of Practice.

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## Rapid Response Team

### ***\*\*Update for the 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.

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## Teacher Appreciation Celebrations

Early Childhood professionals were honored throughout the county during Teacher Appreciation Week. The ELRC wishes to recognize the hundreds of childcare staff who work tirelessly to provide enriched and outstanding experiences for our youngest learners and their families. Many thanks to those programs who shared their celebrations with us. Click [here](#) to see the highlights!

## Prevention Day Wellness Day

The annual Prevention Day & Wellness Fair brought together community partners dedicated to health, wellness, and family support. The ELRC was excited to be part of it! Quality Coach Stephanie Ferber and Family Specialist Malika Aslanova connected with attendees, shared helpful resources, handed out goodies, and highlighted all the important work ELRC does to support families and early childhood education in Bucks County.



## ELRC Updates

# SAVE THE DATE

## ELRC Child Care Provider Conference

 Date October 12, 2026	 Time 8:00-3:00	 Place Ballroom at Hampton Square
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More information coming soon!



## CCW Reminders

### Co-payment Delinquencies

- It is important to report delinquent CCW co-payments timely to the ELRC. Per Appendix A of the ELRC Certified Provider Agreement, providers must report a delinquent co-payment to the ELRC on the business day following the day the co-payment becomes delinquent. For



example, if a co-pay is not paid by Friday for that service week, the delinquency must be reported on your next business day, which is typically Monday.

- Please note, delinquencies can only be reported for co-payments. Delinquencies regarding additional fees your program charges must be handled privately with the family. If you are aware that a family is currently under adverse action, please urge them to resolve this as soon as possible in order to maintain their eligibility and prevent any disruptions in care.
- When delinquent co-pays are resolved, please notify us, or report on Provider Self Service, so we can satisfy the client's adverse action. When families are seeking to transfer enrollments, an ELRC Family Specialist will contact you to verify if that family is current with their co-payment before authorizing the transfer.

### **June Invoices**

All providers must submit their June invoice no later than July 30th. While other months allow for a 60 day window to submit invoices, due to the close of the ELRC fiscal year, all invoices must be closed out by the end of July. Invoices received beyond July 30th may not be paid.

### **School Age Flip**

The ELRC is preparing for the change in schedules for school-age children over the summer months. The school age flip from part-time to full-time for all eligible school age enrollments and eligible PKC and Head Start children, will take place on **June 15, 2026**.

You will receive an email from the ELRC with instructions on how to review and update your summer, anticipated attendance.



### **Child Care Staff Retention & Recruitment Grant - FER**

All CCSRR grant requests have been paid out to providers.

### **Policy Reminders:**

- Providers must pay retention awards to staff within 45 days of receipt of payment from the ELRC.
- Awards must be paid through payroll with appropriate taxes withheld.
- Recruitment awards must be spent or returned to the ELRC by June 30th.
- Final Expense Reports will be due by July 31st.

### **Staff Employment Changes:**

- Staff who have given notice when the program receives their payment, must be paid their award.
- Staff who have left employment prior to the receipt of award from the ELRC, provider may move those funds into the recruitment award to pay a sign on bonus for the staff replacement (cannot exceed number of recruitment slots).

### **Grant Closures:**

- Once you have paid all retention and recruitment funds, please complete the Final Expense Report which you can download [here](#). Please complete ALL sections highlighted in yellow. Return the completed expense report to your Quality Coach.
- If you have to return funds because staff have left employment and/or you haven't been able to use the recruitment funds, complete the [Final Expense Report](#) and return the document with your payment to:

*Community Services for Children, Inc*

## Supports for Spanish Speaking Providers



Thursday, June 18 – 1-2pm: ECE Latinos Roundtable.

Join an informal conversation with other caregivers and ELRC representatives.

\*\*This meeting is delivered in Spanish.

Click here for the [Meeting Registration](#).

## Rapid Response Team Tip of the Month *Engaging Children with Social and Emotional Challenges*



- **Build Trust and Safety:** Children with social-emotional difficulties often need a predictable, safe environment where they feel heard and respected.
- **Creating a Safe and Nurturing Environment:** Establish a consistent daily routine, create a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and foster positive relationships between caregivers and children.
- **Encouraging Emotional Expression:** Provide opportunities for children to express their emotions in healthy ways, encourage open communication, and teach them emotion words.
- **Teaching Emotional Regulation:** Help children manage and respond to their emotions in a healthy way by creating a safe space, teaching them to use positive language, and using art and play as tools for emotional expression.
- **Support Social and Emotional Skills:** Incorporate social-emotional learning (SEL) strategies such as:
- **Emotion Labeling:** Help children identify and name feelings (How are you feeling?)
- **Role-Playing:** Practice social scenarios to build communication and conflict resolution skills.
- **Mindfulness and Regulation Tools:** Use breathing exercises, calming corners, or sensory activities to help self-regulate.
- **Promoting Empathy and Social Skills:** Encourage children to practice empathy and social skills through guided play, storytelling and role playing.
- **Addressing Challenging Behavior with Empathy:** Approach challenging behaviors with empathy, curiosity and care, and modeling emotional literacy and social-emotional learning.
- **Foster Relationships:** Encourage positive relationships with adults and peers. Pair children with supportive caregivers, use group activities that promote cooperation, and model respectful interactions. For children with attachment challenges, spend extra time building one-on-one connections.
- **Collaborate with Families:** Involve parents or guardians in understanding the child's behavior and in planning supportive strategies. Share observations, celebrate progress, and work together to create a cohesive approach between home and childcare.

Sources: [virtuallabschool.org](http://virtuallabschool.org)

<https://www.ed.gov/media/document/feelings-teacherspdf-89404.pdf>

## Children Experiencing Homelessness

As the school year comes to a close, some children may be experiencing housing insecurity. Here are some strategies to help families over the summer months adjust to the changes in routine:

### Plan for Summer Gaps

- Survey parents to ask about needs or concerns - food, clothing, diapers, formula, shelter/housing, etc.
- Reach out to community partners to determine where to refer families over the summer.

### Prioritize Enrollment for Families Experiencing Homelessness

- Connect with the local educational agency for referrals of young children experiencing homelessness.
- Ensure that homeless families are prioritized for services per federal guidance.

### Make Your Program Accessible

- Update enrollment forms and housing questionnaires to ask about living situations that may qualify as homeless.
- Translate information about homelessness into languages commonly spoken in your community.

### Support Smooth Transitions to K-12

- Provide warm handoffs to school district homeless education liaisons.
- Share information to help school districts identify children and plan services.

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## The Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

CACFP is a federal program, administered by the PA Dept. of Education, that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children enrolled in participating child care centers and child care homes. In PA, only 36% of child care providers participate in this valuable program. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, check out the [PA Dept. Of Education's website](#). Additional resources are also listed below. Click on the name of the resource to go to the website.



### [National CACFP Association](#)

The National CACFP Association monitors federal changes to CACFP policy and provides tools and training to sponsors and participants.

### [CACFP PA Storymap](#)

The CACFP PA Storymap was developed by Child Care Aware America. This Storymap includes participation rates, food desert locations and more.

### [Home Grown Childcare](#)

Home Grown is a national organization that supports family child care homes. Home Grown is regularly working on better understanding how CACFP functions and what can be changed to make it more accessible for all

### [CACFP Expert: Alana Jones' CACFP Webinars](#)

Reinvestment Fund has three recorded community webinars hosted by Alana Jones, a CACFP Expert, that are available for all child care providers to view.

### [Child Nutrition Toolbox](#)

PDE's training website. An account is required to access all features and resources. This website includes mandatory and additional trainings, it also has some resources for documentation and CACFP management.

## Provider Support Line

Childcare providers with ELRC agreements can now reach out to the Provider Support line. This is a safe space to share any questions, concerns, or gratitude regarding an ELRC experience.



Before reaching out regarding issues, first contact the ELRC to attempt to resolve your concerns. OCDEL supports providers with matters that cannot be resolved directly with the ELRC.

Calls to this direct line to OCDEL are welcomed Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at 717-346-0042 or 1-844-675-6349.

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## New Community of Practice and Subgrant Opportunity

Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) is pleased to invite applications for the Family Advocacy Subgrant and Community of Practice. CCAoA seeks to partner with five community-based child care organizations to empower families as active, effective advocates positioned to deliver compelling messages that can drive policy action among decisionmakers by utilizing Vroom®, a research-based tool sharing the science of early brain development, to drive narrative change and build the capacity of families as child care advocates.

- A “[Fillable Proposal Application](#)”. This Word document must be completed and submitted as your proposal response
- The “[RFA For Family Advocacy Subgrant and Community of Practice](#)”. This PDF document must be reviewed prior to completing the “Fillable Proposal Application” as it outlines the full proposal details and requirements.

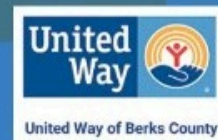
In order to be considered, proposals must be completed and emailed to CCAoA at [FamilyAdvocacyRFA@usa.childcareaware.org](mailto:FamilyAdvocacyRFA@usa.childcareaware.org) by 5:00PM ET on FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026. Proposals received after this deadline will be disqualified.

Please submit any questions to [FamilyAdvocacyRFA@usa.childcareaware.org](mailto:FamilyAdvocacyRFA@usa.childcareaware.org).

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

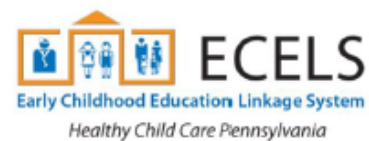
**Playtime with  
you beats any  
app or video.**



## 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 newsletter 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](#).

ECELS has compiled a master list of emergency preparedness resources for ECE programs. This collection includes practical, evidence-based tools such as

webinars, training modules, printable guides, articles, videos, fillable PDFs, and developmentally appropriate activities for young children, along with resources to share with families. Covering national and regional content, it helps Pennsylvania ECE programs plan, prepare for, and respond effectively to emergencies while supporting the safety of children and staff.

Find All ECELS Resources [here](#).

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## Summer Safety Tips

As the weather heats up, we can ensure a safe and fun summer with these practical tips:



### Sunscreen

- Sunscreen must be provided by the parent and labelled with the child's name. Check for expiration dates too! It should be a broad-spectrum sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher to prevent sunburn.
- Apply at least 15-30 minutes before going outside.

### Outdoor Safety

- Avoid outdoors between the peak hours of 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. If you do go outside, seek a shady area or invest in shade structures for your playground.
- Use the [Child Care Weather Watch](#) to help decide if it is safe for children to be outside.

### Hydration and Heat Exhaustion Prevention

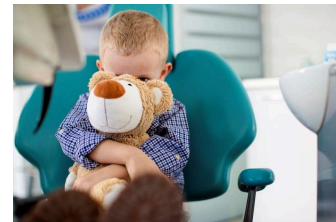
- Provide frequent water breaks when outside during hot weather
- Make sure water is accessible at all times
- Encourage parents to send their children in light colored clothing

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## Oral Health Tip

### *Communicating with Your Dentist*

Before visiting a dentist, it is very helpful if a child's parent or guardian completes this form: [Getting to Know Me: Information for Your Child's Dental Office](#).



The form gathers information about the child's ability to cooperate during dental visits. It also includes suggestions about approaches that might work best for the child. This information will help the dental office staff understand and meet the child's needs.

Please share this form and information with the families in your program.

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Want to add staff or other members of your team to this newsletter? Email [estair@cscinc.org](mailto:estair@cscinc.org) and specify which Regional Newsletter you would like. Requests will be added to next month's distribution.

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