



Community Services for Children Family Connection Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 12 June 2026

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

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Region 12 News

Please note that the ELRC offices will be closed on Friday, June 19th for the Juneteenth federal holiday and Friday, July 3rd.

Child Care Works Reminders

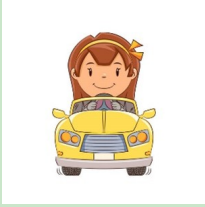
If your children receive CCW funding, here are a few reminders as we move into the summer months:

- If your child is returning back to care or has changed providers for the summer, please reach out to your Family Specialist to report this change.
- CCW funding does not cover "drop-in" care. Your child must be enrolled with a provider and have a set weekly schedule.
- CCW children are allowed up to 40 days of absence per year. If you are close to that limit, know that this count will reset on 7/1/26. Please note that absences can accumulate quickly, especially over the summer months if you don't take your children on their scheduled days for care.



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. We look forward to seeing you there!

Click [here](#) to see the [flyer](#) for upcoming dates and locations.

Agency for Community EmPOWERment Early Learning Program



ACE of NEPA, offers preschool programming for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years and is FREE to eligible families. They are located throughout Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna, and Pike counties. Their programs run Monday through Friday between the set hours of 8am to 3pm depending on location.

Early Head Start

Offers for children aged 6 weeks to 3 years:

- Home Based programming - a Parent Educator completes a 1 ½ hour weekly visit in your home with child and parent utilizing the Parent As Teachers curriculum.
- Center Based programming- offers working parents or those wanting to return to the workforce 7 scheduled hours of care per day.

Head Start/PreK Counts

- Center Based programming 6 ½ scheduled hours per day for children aged 3 to 5 years old.

Click [here](#) to Apply now and see if you are eligible. You can also call the main office at 570-963-6836 and ask for a member of the enrollment team.



Weekly Meal Boxes *Sun Meal Kids*

Free weekly meal boxes for children 1–18 years old are being provided by Sun Meal Kids. Fresh, delicious meal packages for children who are at home and not receiving meals in camp or from another site are eligible. There are no income nor registration requirements. Each box contains 5-7 servings of breakfast and lunch for each child.

- Click [here](#) to see the attached flyer for additional details.

Disabilities Acceptance Through Literature

Summer Book Study

The Arc of PA's [Include Me Disabilities Acceptance Through Literature Summer Book Study](#) for children ages 5-8 is coming up in July. Think of it as a virtual book club! They will mail out 3 physical copies of the books they will cover and have a read along at each meeting. They also have plenty of guided, interactive activities for the kiddos. It is a great way to build up a family's library at no cost!



- Click [here](#) for more information.

Virtual Parent Cafe

Parent Cafés are guided group meetings where parents come together to talk, share, and support each other. Parents learn ways to keep their families strong. These cafés are for Pennsylvania families in Early Intervention or Home Visiting programs.

- Click [here](#) for more information.

Competence and Confidence

Partners in Policymaking Early Intervention



Free leadership development training for families of children receiving Early Intervention Infant/Toddler or Preschool services. Participants will learn about the Infant/Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention (EI) system, connect with other families and build skills to advocate for their family and others.

Applicants should have a child between the age of birth-five who is currently receiving Pennsylvania Infant/Toddler or Preschool EI services, have a desire to advocate for themselves and others and can commit to participation in all 8 sessions.

- Click [here](#) for more information.

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:



Parenting Corner

Rapid Response Team

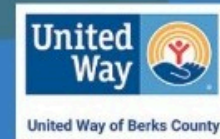
Rapid Response Team is a short-term intervention designed to support children who may be experiencing challenging behaviors in the early learning setting. This team observes the child at the child care facility and will offer strategies to the teacher and parent. If appropriate, referrals to community resources and services are shared with the family and provider as well.



If you have concerns that your child may be suspended or expelled from child care and could benefit from the Rapid Response Team supports, you can begin the referral process here: [RRT Referral](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

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



Why is Play Important?

Play is central to your child's learning and development. When your child plays, it gives them many ways and times to learn.



Play also helps your child:

- build confidence
- feel loved, happy and safe
- understand more about how the world works
- develop social skills, language and communication
- learn about caring for others and the environment
- develop physical skills.

To continue reading about play and why it is important, click [here](#).

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 Katie Fries a registered play therapist and owner of [All of You Therapy, LLC](#). She walks listeners through the ways to meet a child's emotional needs. Click [here](#) to listen.



Child Development

What Does Quality Early Childhood Education Look Like?

Quality early childhood education is much more than preparing children for kindergarten. It creates a strong foundation for lifelong learning, healthy relationships, and future success.



A Quality Program will Demonstrate:

- Warm and Responsive Relationships: Quality programs focus on building positive relationships between children and caring adults. Teachers get to know each child's personality, interests, strengths, and needs. Children learn best when they feel safe, valued, and supported.
- Learning Through Play: Young children learn by exploring, creating, questioning, and playing. In a quality classroom, you will see children building with blocks, pretending in dramatic play areas, creating art, reading books, investigating science materials, and engaging in hands-on activities that promote learning across all developmental areas.
- Safe and Engaging Environments: High-quality programs provide clean, organized, and welcoming spaces where children can learn and grow. Materials are accessible, age-appropriate, and designed to encourage exploration, independence, and creativity.

- **Individualized Learning:** Every child develops at their own pace. Quality educators observe children's progress, celebrate their achievements, and plan activities that meet children where they are developmentally. Learning experiences are adapted to support each child's unique strengths and needs.
- **Strong Family Partnerships:** Families are a child's first and most important teachers. Quality programs build respectful partnerships with families through regular communication, shared decision-making, and opportunities for involvement. When families and educators work together, children benefit.
- **Supporting the Whole Child:** Quality early childhood education focuses on more than academics. Children are supported in developing social skills, emotional regulation, problem-solving abilities, language and communication skills, physical development, and self-confidence.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Quality programs are committed to ongoing growth. Teachers participate in professional development, reflect on their practices, and use current research and best practices to provide the best possible experiences for children.

What Families Can Look For

When visiting an early childhood program, ask yourself:

- Do children appear happy, engaged, and secure?
- Are teachers interacting positively with children?
- Is learning happening through play and exploration?
- Is the environment safe, clean, and welcoming?
- Does the program communicate regularly with families?
- Are children's individual needs and interests respected?

High-quality early childhood education helps children develop the skills, confidence, and curiosity they need to thrive in school and in life. Together, families and educators can create meaningful learning experiences that support every child's growth and success.

Resource & Referral

Kids Bowl Free

EVERY DAY, ALL Summer Long!

- Unlock a Summer of Fun, Laughter, and Lasting Memories - All at No Cost
- 2 Free Games Every Day - Enjoy a daily dose of fun and excitement.
- Family-Friendly Activity - Perfect for making memories together.
- Click [here](#) to find a bowling center near you!



Free Mom Hugs

Free Mom Hugs is a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community through love, visibility, and advocacy. Founded in 2015, the organization mobilizes volunteers to offer encouragement, education, and simple acts of compassion—like hugs—to ensure everyone feels accepted and valued.

To get involved, visit their website to find a local chapter, volunteer opportunities, or upcoming events, or follow them on social media to stay connected and show

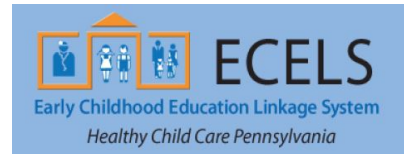
support.

Click [here](#) to find a local chapter!

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.

Water Safety

Summer is here! Many of us like to cool off during the hot summer days in pools or at the beach. It is important to understand the dangers bodies of water pose and some tips to make it a safe and fun experience for all.

Active Supervision. Never assume that because there are a lot of adults around, someone is watching your child. Determine who will be watching and remain close to your child the entire time they are in and around water, without being distracted. Download this [Water Watch Card](#) so it is clear who is currently responsible for the children in and around the water.

Learn CPR. You never know when you'll need it. If nothing else, it will give you peace of mind. Check with your child care provider for agencies in your area who offer CPR.

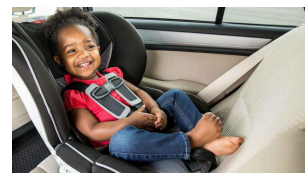
Swim/survival skills lessons. Necessary survival skills include floating and treading water, exiting safely, enter and resurfacing, breath control, and the ability to move to safety. Local YMCAs or your community pool will often offer swim lessons for children.

Bright Bathing Suits. The color of your child's bathing suit can determine how easy it is to see them when they are in the water, especially in an emergency situation.



The Dangers of Leaving Children in a Hot Car

Leaving a child in a parked vehicle, even for a few minutes, can have tragic consequences. On warm days, the temperature inside a car can rise rapidly, becoming dangerously hot within minutes. Children's bodies heat up much faster than adults', making them especially vulnerable to heatstroke, dehydration, brain injury, and even death.



Many incidents occur when a caregiver becomes distracted, experiences a change in routine, or mistakenly believes the child has already been dropped off. These situations can happen to anyone, making prevention essential.

Steps to Prevent Leaving a Child Behind

1. Place an important item in the back seat such as a purse, briefcase, phone, or employee badge, so you must check the rear seat before leaving the vehicle.
2. Always look before you lock. Make it a habit to open the back door and check every seat before walking away.
3. Set reminders. Use smartphone alarms, calendar alerts, or vehicle reminder systems when traveling with a child.
4. Communicate with caregivers. If someone else is expecting the child, ask them to call if the child does not arrive as scheduled.
5. Keep vehicles locked when parked to prevent children from entering unattended.
6. Act immediately if you see a child alone in a vehicle. Call emergency services and take appropriate action if the child appears to be in distress.

By creating simple routines and staying alert, parents and caregivers can greatly reduce the risk of leaving a child in a hot car and help keep children safe.

Preventing Window Falls

With nice weather comes the urge to open windows and let the fresh air in. It's the perfect time to take a moment to check that those open windows are safe and secure when children are in your home. While active supervision is an important

step in preventing falls, it only takes a second for an accident to occur. Here are a few additional steps you can take to help prevent window falls:



- Only open windows that are out of a child's reach. Make sure there is no furniture nearby that a child can climb on to access the window.
- Install window guards or stops to prevent windows from opening more than 4 inches. Screens keep bugs out, but they are not designed to keep a child in.
- Use window locks to prevent children from opening windows.
- When possible, open windows from the top rather than the bottom.
- Keep play areas away from windows.

Taking a few simple precautions can make a big difference in keeping your children safe while still enjoying fresh air at home. For more information and additional tips, visit [National Safety Council](#).

Oral Health Tip

Getting to Know Me Dental Form



Getting to Know Me
Information for Your Child's Dental Office

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

Family Engagement

June Activity Calendar for Families

Spending time together as a family offers many opportunities for learning, exploring, and making memories. Here are some special days in June and ways to celebrate while engaging with your child(ren).



June 18: International Picnic Day – Have a picnic with your child/ren at a local park, on the balcony, or in your backyard.

June 19: Juneteenth – Read age-appropriate books with your child/ren about Juneteenth and talk about the importance of the holiday.

June 21: Summer Solstice – Take your child/ren on a nature walk, do a summer nature scavenger hunt, and talk about the changing seasons.

June 21: National Selfie Day – Take silly selfies with your child/ren and create a photo album together.

June 23: National Pink Day – Dress up in pink and have a tea party with your child/ren.

June 24: National Pralines Day – Learn all about pralines and make pralines together.

June 25: National Strawberry Parfait Day – Make a delicious strawberry parfait with preschoolers, featuring layers of yogurt, fresh strawberries, and granola.

June 27: National Sunglasses Day – Have child/ren create their own sunglasses using paper plates, markers, and pipe cleaners.

June 29: National Camera Day – Teach child/ren the basics of photography and head outdoors and have them take pictures of their favorite things.

Source: <https://homeschoolsuperfreak.com/activities-for-the-month-of-june/>

Visit ELRC Region 12

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Connect with us



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