

Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 12

July 2026

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

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

Region 12 Updates



*The ELRC offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd.
Wishing you and your family, a safe and healthy
holiday!*

Region 12 Provider Supports

Director's Network

Our Director's Network this month will be held on Tuesday, July 21st, at 1pm. We will be joined by Lisa Ruffner and Teresa Romano from the ECE Professional Development Organization. They will be leading a discussion on the Professional Development Organization (PDO) opportunities when thinking about moving your staff up the Career Pathway and how you can access for information for your staff. 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.

RRT Toolkit Training

ELRC Region 12 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 12 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.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 12:30pm - 2:30pm
ELRC Region 12 Office
820 S. Washington Ave. 1st Floor
Scranton, PA
Event ID 401508

Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 5:00pm - 7:00pm
ELRC Region 12 Office
820 S. Washington Ave. 1st Floor
Scranton, PA
Event ID 401483

Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 10:00am - 12:00pm
Pike County Library
119 E. Harford St.
Milford, PA

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.

Community of Practice

Monthly Communities of Practice are available to all program leadership and staff. These 30-minute sessions are held via Microsoft Teams and focus on helping program staff effectively utilize resources to strengthen the social and emotional climate of their classrooms using the Rapid Response Team Social Emotional Toolkit.

Join us this month to take a look at triggers that may cause children's challenging behaviors. CoP will be held on July 16th at 1:00 pm or 6:00 pm.

Click [here](#) and scroll down to the Community of Practice chart for the link as well as upcoming sessions!

Good Things are Happening

Building Blocks Learning Academy is now open in Scranton. Some Early Learning Resource Center-Region 12 staff stopped in during the Open House to check it out. It surely did not disappoint!



If you would like for ELRC staff to visit your program's special event, please contact your Quality Coach and we might just drop in!

ELRC Updates



OCTOBER 12, 2026



REGION 11 & 12 CONFERENCE



8:15AM - 4:00PM

Hilton Scranton 100 Adams Avenue Scranton, PA 18503

From Stress to Success: Practical Strategies for Social Emotional Growth

This conference is focused on practical strategies for supporting children with challenging behaviors in early learning environments. This engaging event will provide research-based approaches, real-world tools, and collaborative learning opportunities designed to strengthen staff confidence, improve classroom climate, and promote positive social-emotional development.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED ON THE PD REGISTRY

EVENT ID: 401510

**\$10/PARTICIPANT INCLUDES LUNCH
AND 6 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

First session starts promptly at 8:45.
Late arrivals will be turned away.

Participants must attend the full day
to receive PD hours.

No Refunds. Registration may be
moved to another staff person
with approval.

Session registration will be sent to
participants.

Open to all childcare classroom
staff and directors from ELRC
Regions 11 & 12.

**8:15 – 8:45**

REGISTRATION

**8:45 – 10:45**

SESSION 1 BREAKOUTS

- Developmental Considerations for Childcare Providers
- Relationship Based Floor Time
- Part 1: Becoming Trauma Aware
- Creating High Quality Outdoor Learning Environments

**11:00 – 1:00**

SESSION 2 BREAKOUTS

- Sensory Considerations for Childcare Providers
- Teaching During Freeplay
- Part 2: Becoming Trauma Informed
- Natural Materials in the Classroom

**12:30 – 1:00**

LUNCH PROVIDED

**2:00 – 4:00**

SESSION 3 BREAKOUTS

- Using Positive Language to Improve Child Behaviors
- From Chaos to Calm: Transforming Transitions
- Part 3: Toward Trauma Proficiency
- Communication Building with Families


WWW.CSCINC.ORG

Conference is funded by the Preschool
Development Block Grant and the Office of
Child Development and Early Learning.



QUESTIONS?

Email
mgunshannon@cscinc.org



CCW Reminders



Outstanding Invoices

Providers must submit all outstanding invoices for May and June 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 received by 7/30. **Invoices received beyond 30th will not be paid.**

School Age Flip

The School Age Flip occurred on June 15. As a reminder, providers who have accepted the blended rate have been paid a higher part-time rate which includes 25 full-time days throughout the school year. This accounts for any gaps that may have occurred between your local school district end date and school age flip date.

Adverse Action Notification

When a family has become ineligible to continue with CCW funding, an Adverse Action (AA) is issued. Providers will also receive a copy of the AA. Please confirm receipt of this AA notification with the family and discuss next steps with them. You must wait to take action (change in fee collection, ending care, etc.) until the date on the notice, not the date the notice was received.

Payment Schedule 2026-2027

The CCW Payment schedule for 2026-2027 has been released. Please download a copy and take note of invoice due dates and payment dates.

[2026-2027 Payment Schedule](#)



CCSRR Grant - Final Expense Reports DUE!

All unspent funds from the CCSRR grant were due back to the ELRC by 6/30. If you have not returned funds, you are in non-compliance and should report this to your Quality Coach immediately.

Final Expense Reports must be returned **no later than July 31st**.

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.

Rapid Response Team Tip of the Month

Biting in Young Children



Biting is a common behavior among toddlers and young 2-year-olds. While challenging for adults, most children outgrow it as they develop self-regulation skills and receive calm, consistent support.

Why Children Bite

- Exploring sensations and cause-and-effect.
- Communicating needs, frustration, anger, or discomfort.
- Imitating others.
- Coping with stress, changes in routine, or sensory needs.
- Acting impulsively due to limited self-regulation skills.

Prevention Strategies

- Maintain age-appropriate expectations.
- Create quiet spaces for children to regroup.
- Reduce crowding and provide adequate space.
- Keep routines predictable.
- Use positive guidance and teach appropriate behaviors.
- Offer safe sensory alternatives, such as cold washcloths.

When Biting Occurs

Respond calmly, support both children involved, and teach alternative ways to communicate and manage emotions. Practice these skills during calm moments.

If Biting Persists

Work collaboratively with families to identify patterns, triggers, and effective strategies. With consistent, developmentally appropriate support, most children learn safer ways to express their needs and feelings.

To learn more, check out the entire article. [Responding to Biting in Early Childhood Settings](#) Devereux Center for Resilience.
More resources: [Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers: A Strategy Guide for Early Childhood Professionals, Second Edition](#).

Keystone STARS Tip of the Month

STAR Movement

Summer months bring a good opportunity to focus on some goals you may have set for yourself over the school year. College students are back to help out, attendance can be lower with family vacations and older age groups are out of the facility taking part in fun field trips and excursions.

Use this time to work on your ERS self-assessments, begin organizing child files for the Fall, schedule staff to take some trainings on assessment tools or curriculum. If you set a goal to achieve the next STAR level this year, reach out to your Quality Coach who can help you access tools and resources to make the movement process smoother for you. Higher STAR level programs are able to receive a higher subsidy reimbursement amount, called a STAR add-on and may be eligible for higher grant amounts when grants become available this school year.



Summer Camp Survival Tips for School Age Care

Summer has school age children attending programs for much longer period of time. This change in schedules can bring some new challenges. Click [here](#) for some quick reminders for School Age staff to have a safe and fun summer!

PD Registry App

The new PD Registry App is now available for Apple and Android devices, making it easier than ever for early learning professionals to manage their professional development on the go.

With the app, users can:

- Upload documents directly from their phone camera or files
- Access and manage their PD Registry anytime

The app is free to download in the App Store and Google Play. Designed with Pennsylvania early childhood educators in mind, this new tool helps save time so they can stay focused on what matters most—supporting children and families.



Annual Child Care Immunization Survey

The PA Department of Health (DOH) is sending out the **Annual Child Care Immunization Reporting Survey** to all licensed child care providers to meet the immunization reporting requirements outlined in **28 Pa. Code § 27.77 (a)(4) Immunization requirements for children in child care group settings**.

The DOH is asking that all licensed child care providers complete and submit the survey [Annual Child Care Immunization Survey 2026](#) by **August 31, 2026**.

The following resource materials have been provided to help with reviewing immunization records and completing the **survey**:

- Links to childhood immunization schedules from nationally recognized medical associations: **American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, or American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**

All schedules include the same recommendations regarding childhood vaccinations:

- **Vaccine Identification document**

Immunization Tracking Worksheets

- **PA Child Care Reporting Worksheet Printable (PDF)**
- **DOH Child Care Tracking Worksheet (Excel)**

The tracking worksheets do not need submitted – they are only a tool to help you organize the information needed to complete the survey.

Please send any questions you may have to RA-DHImmunize@pa.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children who read succeed!
They are better behaved, have
better school attendance, feel
more confident and capable in
school.

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](#).



Preventing Children from Being Left in Vehicles

Every year, children are injured or lose their lives after being left in hot vehicles. Even on mild days, the temperature inside a parked car can rise rapidly, creating life-threatening conditions within

minutes. Both child care providers and parents play a critical role in preventing these tragedies.

Strategies for Child Care Providers

To ensure children are safe during summer field trips or other outings, establish clear transportation procedures for every trip.

- Conduct a head count before departure, upon arrival, and before leaving the vehicle. Use a written attendance log and verify that every child has been accounted for.
- Perform a thorough vehicle check after each trip. Walk to the back of the vehicle and inspect every seat, including under blankets and behind seats.
- Consider placing a reminder item, such as a clipboard, attendance sheet, or staff bag, in the rear of the vehicle so drivers must walk through the entire vehicle before exiting.
- Train all staff on transportation safety policies and emergency procedures. Create a culture of accountability where staff members remind and support one another in following safety protocols.

Support parents in developing these habits as well. Schedule daily attendance checks and immediately follow-up when a child expected at the program does not arrive. Post or distribute helpful flyers like this one:

CDC Issues Recall for Infant Formula: ***Infant Botulism Outbreak Linked to Powdered Infant Formula***

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a recall for powdered infant formula.

On June 13, 2026, Nara Organics recalled all Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula. Nara Organics infant formula is a powdered formula sold at Target retail stores, Target.com, and Nara.com.

Per the CDC, please follow the following instructions:

Do not use recalled infant formula. If you have unopened cans of Nara Organics infant formula, throw them away or return them. If you have an opened can of Nara Organics infant formula, see guidance from the CDC.

Wash items and surfaces. Wash items and surfaces that may have touched the recalled formula using hot soapy water or a dishwasher.

Seek care if your infant becomes ill. Seek immediate medical care if your infant consumed Nara Organics infant formula and has any of these signs or symptoms of infant botulism: poor feeding, loss of head control, difficulty swallowing, or decreased facial expression.

Report information to the FDA. To report a complaint or adverse event (illness or serious allergic reaction), visit the FDA's Safety Reporting Portal. If your child has signs or symptoms of infant botulism, seek medical attention **before** using the portal.

For additional details, please see the [release from the CDC](#).



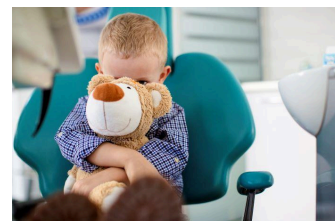
Tick Safety

What should childcare providers do when they find a tick on a child?

Department of Human Services Certification recommends that if a childcare provider finds an embedded tick, they should immediately contact the child's parent or guardian so that next steps can be determined quickly. This is consistent with regulation 132(a). It is advised that a provider does not remove a tick unless there is written authorization by the parent and the provider has received the appropriate health and safety training to do so. Following proper technique for tick removal can be challenging; even with proper technique, heads can stay attached and need to be dug out, which can be difficult.

Oral Health Tip ***Finding a Dentist***

Did you know that tooth decay is the number one chronic disease for children but can be prevented and managed with good oral care? Oral care starts during pregnancy, and dental visits should begin by a child's 1st birthday.



For help finding a dentist use the following links:

- Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center:
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/finding-dental-clinic-your-child>
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry – Find a Pediatric Dentist:
<https://www.aapd.org/publications/find-a-pd/>
- American Dental Association – Find a Dentist: <https://findadentist.ada.org/>
- Pennsylvania Dental Association: <http://www.padental.org>
- Find Dentists Accepting Medical Assistance: <http://www.InsureKidsNow.gov>

Article Credit: HeadStart.gov

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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