

Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 August 2026

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Columbia, Montour, Luzerne and Wyoming Counties

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Region 11 Updates

Keystone STAR Movements

The following programs have demonstrated their commitment to quality by moving to a higher STAR level from April through June 2026.

Congratulations to the providers who have moved to a STAR 2:

- Happy Kids Daycare
- Little Lights Daycare

Congratulations to the providers who have moved to a STAR 3:

- Jenny Kids Family Daycare, LLC
- Hazleton Integration Project

Congratulations to the providers who have moved to a STAR 4:

- Bumblebee Preschool
- Hazleton YMCA Early Learning



Region 11 Provider Supports

Director's Network *POI Virtual Speed Dating!*

Have you ever wondered what other Program Observation Instruments (POI) might reveal about a learning environment? This is your chance to find out!



Join us for an afternoon of exploration as we introduce a variety of POIs through short, engaging sessions. You'll have the opportunity to "meet" tools you may not have used before, ask questions, and discover how different observation instruments can provide new perspectives on teaching, learning, and program quality.

Whether you've been using the same POI for years or you're simply curious about what else is out there, this session is an opportunity to broaden your understanding, uncover new insights, and consider how different observation tools can support continuous quality improvement in your program.

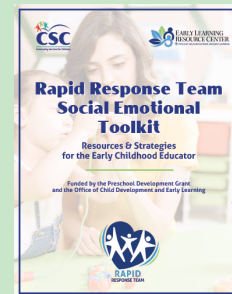
You may just find a new favorite—or at the very least, leave with a fresh perspective and ideas you can put into practice. Click [here](#) to view the flyer and register.

Provider Team Monthly Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach 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 support needed. Click [here](#) to view this month's calendar.

Rapid Response Team Toolkit Free Professional Development

All Region 11 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 & Fall 2026. Registration required on the PD Registry.

Saturday, August 1, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Hazleton Integration Project

225 East 4th Street

Hazleton, PA

Event ID 400866

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

ELRC Region11 Office

41 South Main Street

Wilkes-Barre, PA

Event ID 400867

Thursday, September 24, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

The HUB at Mulberry Mill, Conference Room

160 West 6th Street

Bloomsburg, PA

Event ID 403540

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

ELRC Region11 Office

41 South Main Street

Wilkes-Barre, 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 discuss how intentional planning can reduce children's challenging behaviors. CoP will be held on August 20th 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!

Celebrating 20 Years!

Congratulations to **Discover the World Children's Center Inc.** as they celebrate **20 years** of providing quality early childhood education to children and families in our community. With **three thriving locations**, a caring and **dedicated staff**, and a continued commitment to creating **fun, engaging, and educational experiences**, Discover the World Children's Center Inc. has made a meaningful and lasting impact over the past two decades. We celebrate their many accomplishments and wish them continued learning, growth, and success for many years to come!



ELRC Updates

Registration Now Open!

This conference has already reached 50% capacity. Register today to reserve your spot!



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



1:00 – 2:00

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



EARLY LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTER
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING



Community Services for Children

CCW Reminders



The ELRC financial books have been closed for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Payments cannot be made on invoices for care prior to July 1.

School Age Flip - Back to School

The ELRC is preparing for the change in schedules for school-age children. The school age flip from full-time to part-time for all eligible school age enrollments, will take place on **Tuesday, September 1st**. This will affect your attendance reporting and payments. Watch for correspondence from the ELRC regarding your School Age Fall enrollments.

The ELRC appreciates your support in communicating changes in schedules for your CCW enrolled families as well. Please remind them to contact their Family

Specialist with any changes to schedules. In addition, please check the August & September invoices and make any necessary corrections to schedules.

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 PAST DUE!

All Final Expense Reports must have been returned to your Quality Coach by 7/31. If you have not completed your report, your program is now in non-compliance.

Please reach out to your Quality Coach immediately to avoid noncompliance reporting to OCDEL.

Rapid Response Team Tip of the Month

Making the Most of Waiting Tim

Waiting can be challenging for young children, especially during transitions, mealtimes, or while waiting for a turn. Instead of simply asking children to "wait," keep them engaged with simple activities that make the time enjoyable and purposeful.



Try:

- Finger plays or songs
- "I Spy" games
- Counting objects in the room
- Stretching or movement activities
- Quiet conversation prompts
- Simple breathing exercises
- Rhyme or guessing games

For example, while waiting to wash hands before lunch, children can sing a favorite song, count the friends in line, or look for objects of a certain color. During transitions, try simple conversation starters or guessing games to keep children engaged. These small activities can reduce frustration, support language and social development, and help transitions run more smoothly.



Updating COMPASS

Providers are encouraged to regularly review and update their program details in **Provider Self-Service (PSS)**. Keeping information current, such as contact details, hours of operation, ages served, and program features, ensures families can easily find and connect with a program when searching online.

Why it matters:

- Increase visibility: Accurate listings make it easier for families to discover programs.

- Build trust: Up-to-date information helps families feel confident in reaching out.
- Support informed choices: Families rely on the COMPASS search tool to compare options and find the best fit for their needs.

What providers should check:

- Phone numbers and email addresses
- Operating hours and enrollment availability
- Services offered and ages served
- Program descriptions and special features

Taking a few minutes to review and update information in PSS can make a big difference in connecting with families seeking quality child care. Update information today and help families find an early learning program!

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.

CDA Credential Programs Starting!

New CDA cohorts are beginning this fall and sponsored by the Professional Development Organization at PASSHE. Click on the flyers below to view the different options:

- [Lackawanna College](#)
- [Northampton Community College](#)



Outdoor Interaction Pilot Program

The Program Quality Assessment team is excited to launch an innovative pilot program exploring the rich educator-child interactions that occur in outdoor learning environments. Early childhood programs are invited to participate, regardless of whether they currently use the CLASS assessment tool. During a scheduled visit, participating programs will receive an additional observation focused on capturing meaningful interactions that naturally occur outdoors.



This pilot is not a new assessment tool and is not intended to evaluate programs or impact CLASS scores or Keystone STARS ratings. Instead, it is an opportunity to gather valuable insights into how curiosity, problem-solving, language

development, and child-led discovery unfold beyond the classroom walls. Together, we hope to inspire new conversations about the role of outdoor learning and recognize the powerful teaching and learning that happens every day in the outdoor environment.

Interested programs, please contact Leah Zabari at leazab@pakeys.org.



Announcement ELRC #26-02: Program Using an OCDEL-Approved Alternate Pathways

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Bureau of Policy and Professional Development, has released [**ELRC Announcement #26-02, Requirements for Program Using an OCDEL-Approved Keystone STARS-Alternate Pathways**](#). This Announcement provides information on the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Approved Alternate Pathways in Keystone STARS, including requirements for such programs.

If you are STAR 3 or 4 program who uses one of these alternative pathway methods for designation, please reach out to your Quality Coach to discuss next steps.

Early Bird Registration Now Open: 2026 Early Childhood Education Summit

Early Bird Registration is now open for the 2026 Early Childhood Education Summit, offering attendees a chance to save a spot at Pennsylvania's premier event for early learning professionals.

From October 18-21, 2026, hundreds of educators, program leaders, family child care providers, advocates, and policymakers will gather at The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center in State College to learn, connect, and be inspired.

This year's theme, *Building Bright Futures*, recognizes the incredible work done every day to shape children's lives and strengthen communities across Pennsylvania.

Register at www.earlychildhoodsummit.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children who receive early childhood education are 25% more likely to graduate high school and four times more likely to complete a college education.

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](#).

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)**

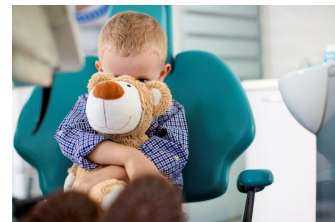
The tracking worksheets do not need to be submitted – they are only a tool to help you organize the information needed to complete the survey.

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

Oral Health Tip

First Aid for a Child's Oral Injuries

Injuries to the head, face, and mouth are common in young children. Even when adults do their best to keep children safe, oral injuries can happen. Most oral injuries happen when young children are learning to walk. The top front teeth are injured most often. Check out this [flyer](#) and the tips below for more information.



Tips to help you know what to do for common oral injuries:

- Tongue or lip injured. Clean the injured area. Press a clean washcloth on it to stop bleeding. Keep the child's head up and facing forward to prevent choking. Put ice, wrapped in a clean washcloth, on the area to reduce swelling. If bleeding doesn't stop after 30 minutes, the child should be taken to see a dentist or doctor right away. If the dentist or doctor is not available, the child should be taken to the nearest urgent care center.
- Tooth chipped or cracked. Clean the injured area. The child's dentist or an urgent care center should be contacted right away. Have the child rinse with

- water, if possible. If there is bleeding, press a clean washcloth on the gum around the tooth to stop it.
- Tooth knocked out. The child's dentist should be contacted right away. Do not try to put a baby tooth back into the mouth. Clean the injured area. If there is bleeding, have the child bite on the area with a clean washcloth for 15 to 30 minutes to stop it.
 - Tooth knocked loose, moved, or pushed into gum. If a child's tooth has been knocked loose, moved forward or backward, or pushed into the gum, the child's dentist or an urgent care center should be contacted right away. Have the child rinse with water, if possible. Press a clean washcloth on the gum around the tooth to stop bleeding.
 - Toothache. If a child has a toothache, it is likely that the tooth has a cavity. The child needs a dental appointment as soon as possible to find out what the problem is and get treatment.

Article Credit: HeadStart.gov ([Oral Health](#) | [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 11

Community Services for Children | elrc11@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

Connect with us



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

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