

## Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13 August 2026

Serving Berks & Schuylkill Counties

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

### Region 13 Updates

***Please note the ELRC Region 13 offices will be closed for staff in-service on Monday, August 17th. Quality Coaches will be available remotely should you have any questions.***

#### 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:

- Andrew Child Care Center
- Tools 2 Learn Child Care

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

- Patton Avenue Learning Center
- Little Genius Day Care



#### Region 13 Provider Supports

##### Director's Network

The ELRC 13 Directors' Network meetings are a great way to stay connected! Each month we meet to reflect on relevant early childhood topics, share updates, and reflect



on the leadership role. In August, our topic is Falling into Fall. Join us virtually on 8/18/26 at 1 PM for meaningful conversations, the opportunity to collaborate, and to inspire each other. See flyer for more details and to register.

- [Directors Network Flyer](#)

### Community of Practice

Quality Coaches offer a short virtual learning session each month for classroom staff. These opportunities are aimed at exploring new skills and strategies to enhance the learning experience for children. Each month a different topic is the focus of the session and idea sharing. On August 25<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm we will be discussing transitioning into the fall. Encourage your teachers to attend! See flyer for more details and to register.

- [August Community of Practice Flyer](#)

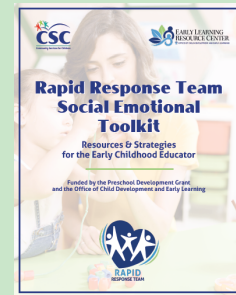
### Regional Calendar

Check out our calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities and professional development opportunities.

- [Region 13 Calendar](#)

### Rapid Response Team Toolkit Free Professional Development

All Region 13 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.

**Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – 12:00pm-2:00pm**

**Event ID: 400214**

**at Wilson SD Child Care-Berkshire Height  
711 North Wyomissing Blvd, Reading**

[Click here to register](#)

**Friday, August 21, 2026 – 10:00am-12:00pm**

**Event ID: 402176**

**at Riverview Christian Early Learning Center  
3301 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Rd, Reading**

[Click here to register](#)

**Tuesday, August 25, 2026 – 6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Event ID: 402063**

**at ELRC 13 1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604**

[Click here to register](#)

**Tuesday, September 22, 2026 – 6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Event ID: 402064**

**at ELRC 13 1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604**

[Click here to register](#)

**Tuesday, October 21, 2026 – 6:00pm-8:00pm**  
**Event ID: 402065**  
**at ELRC 13 1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604**  
[Click here to register](#)

**Tuesday, November 17, 2026 – 6:00pm-8:00pm**  
**Event ID: 402066**  
**at ELRC 13 1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604**  
[Click here to register](#)

**Tuesday, December 1, 2026 – 12:30pm-2:30pm**  
**Event ID: 402067**  
**at ELRC 13 1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604**  
[Click here to register](#)

## **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!

## **ELRC Updates**

**Registration Now Open!**



OCTOBER 12, 2026



REGION 13 CONFERENCE



8:30AM - 4:00PM

Penn State Schuylkill Campus 63 University Drive Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

# The Early Childhood Behavior Intensive

presented by Five Ives

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: 401592**

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

First session starts promptly at 9:00.  
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 prior approval.

Open to all childcare classroom  
staff and directors from ELRC  
Region 13.  
(Berks & Schuylkill Counties)



**8:30 – 9:00**

## REGISTRATION



**9:00 – 11:00**

## SESSION 1 & 2

- The Brain Beneath the Behavior
- Beyond Behavior Charts



**11:00 – 12:00**

## SESSION 3

- Live Case Practice



**12:00 – 1:00**

## LUNCH PROVIDED



**1:00 – 4:00**

## SESSION 4, 5 & 6

- Culture Before Curriculum
- Team Application Lab
- Culture That Holds



[WWW.CSCINC.ORG](http://WWW.CSCINC.ORG)

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



**QUESTIONS?**

Email [aruch@cscinc.org](mailto:aruch@cscinc.org)





12 De Octubre, 2026



Conferencia De La Region 14



8:00AM – 12:30PM

Community Services For Children, 1520 Hanover Ave, Allentown PA 18109



# Fortalecimiento del Desarrollo Socioemocional y las interacciones positivas

Esta conferencia se centra en estrategias practicas para apoyar a los niños con conductas desafiantes en entornos de aprendizaje Temprano. Este evento dinamico ofrecera enfoques basados en investigaciones, herramientas practicas para aplicar en situaciones reales y oportunidades de aprendizaje colaborativo, diseñadas para fortalecer la confianza del personal, mejorar el ambiente del aula y promover un Desarrollo socioemocional positivo.



Se Requiere Registrarse En El PD REGISTRY

ID DEL EVENTO: 401485

Evento totalmente gratuito con 4 horas desarrollo profesional.



La Bienvenida comienza Puntualmente a las 8:30 am.



No se le permitira la entrada a quienes lleguen tarde.



Los participantes deben de asistir durante toda la jornada para recibir las horas de Desarrollo profesional.



La conferencia sera presentada en español



Abierto a todo personal de Cuidado infantil y a los directores de los programas de la region 14 del ELRC (Condados de Lehigh y Northhampton).



8:00 – 8:30

Registrarse



8:30 – 10:30

Comprension del Desarrollo Socioemocional



10:30-12:30

Interacciones Positivas Ante Conductas Desafiantes



WWW.CSCINC.ORG

Esta conferencia es financiada por el Preschool Development Block Grant, La oficina de Desarrollo infantil Y Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC)



PREGUNTAS?

Email [edsneros@cscinc.org](mailto:edsneros@cscinc.org)



## 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 Time*

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:

- [Keystone 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](mailto: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](http://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](#).

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## 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.

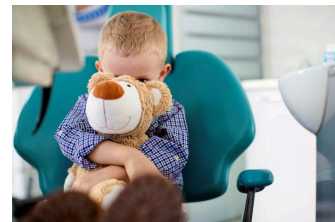
Please send any questions you may have to [RA-DHImmunize@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHImmunize@pa.gov).

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## 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](#))

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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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Visit ELRC Region 13

Community Services for Children | [elrc13@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc13@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

Connect with us



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

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