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## Community Services for Children

### Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11

### September 2026

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

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

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## Region 11 Updates

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The ELRC offices will be closed on Monday, September 7th for Labor Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 8th.

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### Welcome New Providers

The Early Learning Resource Center would like to welcome the following new programs to our region! We look forward to working with you. ELRC staff are here to assist with your participation in Child Care Works, Keystone STARS, and to provide you with local resources and referrals.

- Elianny Daycare, Hazelton
- Little Bear Learning Center, Drums
- Bloom and Grow ELC, Bloomsburg

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### Region 11 Provider Supports

## Director's Network

The Region 11 Director's Network Roundtable meets monthly to share ideas and resources and to build partnerships in the childcare community. Each meeting will include a Community of Practice for leadership. Topics will focus on strategies for reducing suspension and expulsion, classroom management, and behavior management through the lens of the director.



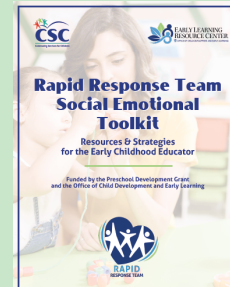
**We hope you will join us for our next meeting, Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for "Strong Start for a Successful Year".** Also, guest, Karel Zubris, will give a brief overview of the [Penn State Extension Nutrition Program](#). Click [here](#) for details and to join the discussion.

## Quality Coach 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 Fall 2026. Registration required on the PD Registry.

**Thursday, September 24, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**The HUB at Mulberry Mill, Conference Room**  
**160 West 6<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**Event ID 403541**

**Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**ELRC Region11 Office**  
**41 South Main Street**  
**Wilkes-Barre, PA**  
**Event ID 404515**

**Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 5:00 pm – 7:00 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 September 17th 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!

## Community Resource Spotlight

***Pennie's 2027 Open Enrollment ~ November 1 to January 15***



Pennie offers health coverage from the top health insurance companies in Pennsylvania. You can also get personalized help from a Pennie-certified professional at no cost to you. The open enrollment period is Nov. 1, 2026, to Jan. 15, 2027.

You must enroll during the open enrollment period to have coverage for the year. If you have a qualifying life event, such as loss of health coverage, marriage, change of residence, or many others, you can enroll during a special enrollment period.

How to enroll?

1. Preview. Use the plan comparison tool, see plans in your area and within your budget.

2. Apply. Gather your household information and visit the shopping checklist at [pennie.com/learn/how-to-enroll](http://pennie.com/learn/how-to-enroll).
3. Shop. Filter and compare health plans by needs and cost.
4. Pay. Your coverage will not begin until you pay your first month's premium. For most health plans, you can make your first payment at the same time that you enroll.

Enrollees can find in-person support and schedule an appointment at [pennie.com/find-local-help](http://pennie.com/find-local-help).

## ELRC Updates

### Registration Now Open!

This conference has almost reached 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](http://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](mailto:mgunshannon@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 Northampton).



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 [ecisneros@cscinc.org](mailto:ecisneros@cscinc.org)



## CCW Reminders



### 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.

Please remember to check your invoices monthly for accuracy.

### Head Start & PKC Verification

PreK Counts & Head Start Providers, please remember to submit the PreK Counts/Head Start Verification form for all CCW children enrolled in wrap around care. Notify your Provider Specialist of any schedule changes.

- [PKC Verification Form - Region 11](#)
- [Head Start Verification Form](#)

### 40 day Absences

Children receiving CCW funding are allowed up to 40 days of absence a year and they reset every year on July 1st.

Absences can accumulate quickly if children do not attend on their scheduled days. If you notice a child missing many days, please direct them to contact their Family Specialist to discuss options for changing their schedule. This may prevent the child from accumulating excessive absences and losing their funding.

### 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](#)

### Rapid Response Team Tip of the Month

#### *Two Tips to Help Prevent Challenging Behaviors*



#### **Give Choices to Prevent Power Struggles**

Offering children simple choices throughout the day can help reduce challenging behaviors by giving them an appropriate sense of control. Instead of saying, "It's time to clean up," try, "Would you like to put away the blocks or the cars first?" Both choices still lead to the same goal, but the child gets to have a say in how they get there.

Try offering two choices that are both acceptable to you. Choices can be especially helpful during transitions, clean-up, getting ready to go outside, or other times when a child frequently refuses or becomes upset.

#### **Keep Them Busy Before Behaviors Begin**

Sometimes challenging behaviors happen when children are waiting, bored, or unsure of what to do next. Pay attention to the times when behaviors are most likely to occur and plan simple ways to keep children actively engaged.

For example, during a transition, try a quick game of I Spy, a movement activity, a song, or give the child a "helper job." Being proactive and providing something meaningful to do can often prevent a behavior before it starts.

### Supports for Spanish Providers



#### **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> is Hispanic Heritage Month.**

Move beyond simply celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with food, flags, or famous people. Teachers can create opportunities for children, families, and educators to see Hispanic and Latino cultures as part of everyday learning and community life, as well as other cultures represented in the classrooms. Consider:

- Inviting children and families to share something meaningful about their own family traditions during a show and tell.
- Invite families into the classrooms to read a book, teach a traditional game, etc. Explore books and music related to the Hispanic culture.
- Have conversations around identity and diversity.

**Sept. 23rd: ECE Latinos Roundtable** – 1pm, online *En Español*

ECE providers can gather virtually to hear updates regarding state funding opportunities, advocacy resources and more! Among our attendees are ELRC Quality Coaches, higher ed partners, and other professionals in the field. Click [here](#) to register.

## Strengthening Business Practices

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance is offering a curriculum series, ***Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs***. The training content and activities are designed to strengthen child care providers' foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations.



The series began in August but will run throughout the year. Click on the flyer below to register.

### **Module 1 - Budgets, Projections & Planning**

September 28 - 1:00-3:00 pm

### **Module 2 - Financial Reports & Internal Controls**

September 10 - 6:00-8:30 pm (Spanish)

October 12 - 1:00-3:00 pm

### **Module 3- Marketing Your Program**

September 17 - 6:00-9:30 pm (Spanish)

November 16 - 12:00-3:00 pm

### **Module 4- Recruiting and Retaining Staff**

September 24, 6:00-9:00 pm (Spanish)

December 16, 12:00-3:00 pm

For future module offerings, click on this flyer

**[2026-2027 Business Practice Registration Flyer](#)**

## 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).

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## PA Out of School Time

*Healthy Eating & Physical Activity Program*

Join this informational webinar on September 17th from 11:00 am to noon. This webinar will focus on healthy eating, professional development events, resources and technical assistance opportunities.

Click [here](#) for the flyer and registration QR code.

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## Registration Now Open: 2026 Early Childhood Education Summit

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).

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## DID YOU KNOW?

In the first year, babies hear all the sounds needed to speak their native language. The more books read to them during the first year, the better they will be able to talk.

## 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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## Healthy Childcare Champions Program

Healthy Childcare Champions Program provides childcare facilities actionable, low-cost, eco-friendly strategies and supplies to reduce environmental hazards, aiming to create a healthier, toxic-free environment for children to learn and play. Click [here](#) to view the flyer for more information.

To request materials, complete this interest form and someone will be in touch with you. [Healthy Childcare Champions Program Interest Form](#)

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## Oral Health Tip

### *Brush, Book, Bed: A Nighttime Routine*

Please share this oral health information with families.

1. **Brush** - Each night, help your child brush their teeth. Young children need help with brushing to do it well. Have your child spit out any extra toothpaste. Do not rinse with water; the little bit of toothpaste left behind is good for teeth.
2. **Book** – After brushing, find a comfortable spot and read a book with your child. Reading aloud will help with your child's language development and social-emotional skills. You can also make up stories, sing songs, or use silly voices while you enjoy spending time with your child.
3. **Bed** – Sleep is very important. Keeping a regular bedtime and having a predictable bedtime routine can help your child wind down at the end of the day.



For more information, visit: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/oral-health/Pages/Brush-Book-Bed.aspx> .

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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 11

Community Services for Children | [elrc11@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc11@cscinc.org) | [www.cscinc.org](http://www.cscinc.org)

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