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## Community Services for Children

### Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 13

### September 2026

Serving Berks & Schuylkill Counties

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

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## Region 13 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.

- Fun Place Family Daycare LLC
- My First Path in Life Child Care
- Ducklings Early Learning Center
- YMCA Child Development Center at Williams Valley
- KCE Champions at Conrad Weiser West
- KCE Champions at Conrad Weiser East

- Right at School at Daniel Boone Area Intermediate
- Right at School at Daniel Boone Area Primary

## Region 13 Provider Supports



### Director 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 September, our topic is Strategies to Start the School Year Right. Join us virtually on 9/15/26 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 - September](#)

### 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 September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 1 pm we will be discussing Strategies to Start the School Year Right in Your ECE Classroom. Encourage your teachers to attend! See flyer for more details and to register.

- [Community of Practice Flyer - September](#)

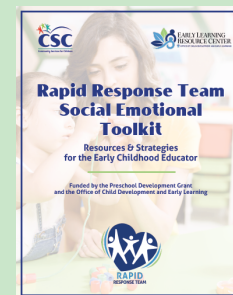
### Provider Team Monthly Calendar

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 Fall 2026. Registration required on the PD Registry.

**Tuesday, September 22, 2026 – 6:00pm-8:00pm – Event ID: 402064**  
at ELRC 13 (1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604)

[Click here to register](#)

**Saturday, September 26, 2026 – 10:00am-12:00pm – Event ID: 404170**  
at ELRC 13 (1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604)

[Click here to register](#)

**Thursday, October 8, 2026 – 6:00pm-8:00pm – Event ID: 404171**  
at ELRC 13 (1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604)

[Click here to register](#)

**Thursday, October 22, 2026 – 6:00pm-8:00pm – Event ID: 402065**  
at ELRC 13 (1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604)

[Click here to register](#)

**Saturday, October 24, 2026 – 9:00 am-11:00am – Event ID: 404499**  
at ELRC Region 13 (2335 West End Avenue, Pottsville, PA 17901)

[Click here to register](#)

**Monday, November 2, 2026 – 12:00pm-2:00pm – Event ID: 404172**  
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, November 17, 2026 – 6:00 pm-8:00pm – Event ID: 404501**  
at ELRC Region 13 (2335 West End Avenue, Pottsville, PA 17901)

[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](#)

**Tuesday, December 15, 2026 – 6:00 pm-8:00pm – Event ID: 404502**  
at ELRC Region 13 (2335 West End Avenue, Pottsville, PA 17901)

[Click here to register](#)

**Monday, December 21, 2026 – 12:30pm-2:30pm – Event ID: 404175**  
at ELRC 13 (1138 Rockland Street, Reading, PA 19604)

[Click here to register](#)

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## 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.

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## 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!

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## **The Berks Early Chare & Education Council Annual Retreat Free Workshop**

Using Play to Support Children's Expression and Social-Emotional Learning  
In this workshop, participants will explore how play serves as a powerful tool for supporting young children's social-emotional development. Participants will learn how children use play to communicate, express emotions, develop a sense of control, strengthen emotional regulation, and build the skills needed to recognize and cope with strong feelings. The workshop will also examine practical, relationship-based strategies for preventing and managing challenging behavior by setting developmentally appropriate limits during play in ways that are both supportive and empowering. Participants will learn how to use these strategies during play and generalize them throughout the daily routine to promote self-regulation across settings. Powerful photographs, video examples, and real-world case anecdotes will be shared to illustrate key concepts and enhance learning.

**Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

Berks County Intermediate Unit

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Registration deadline is 9/17. See [flyer](#) for more information and to register.

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The United Way of Berks County will be offering free professional development on **Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**. See this [flyer](#) for details. Registration begins September 1<sup>st</sup>.



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## **ELRC Updates**

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### **Registration Now Open!**

This conference is expected to reach capacity. Register today to reserve your spot!



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 [edcsneros@cscinc.org](mailto:edcsneros@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 13](#)
- [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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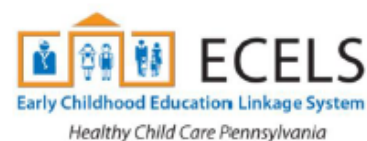
## DID YOU KNOW?

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 13

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

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