



Community Services for Children

Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 16

September 2026

Serving Bucks County

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

Region 16 Updates

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



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.

- Lifespan School Age and Summer Camp
- New Scholar Academy

Region 16 Provider Supports

Director's Network

The Bucks County Directors' Network is a valuable opportunity to stay informed and connected with the early childhood education community. During these meetings, Quality Coaches share updates on STARS, OCDEL initiatives, grants, professional development opportunities, and other important resources. County and state partners also provide announcements, program updates, and information designed to support children, families, and staff.



Beyond the updates, The Bucks County Directors' Network meetings offer a chance to build relationships, exchange ideas, and engage in meaningful conversations with peers who understand the unique opportunities and challenges of leading an early childhood program.

If you have not yet attended a Bucks County Directors' Network meeting, we encourage you to join us. Meetings are held monthly and alternate between in-person and virtual formats, making it easy to stay connected and engaged.

September (In Person): Leading Through the Seasons: Creating a Culture of Outdoor Learning

How can we create a culture where outdoor learning is embraced in every season? In this session we will explore weather friendly practices, how Pennsylvania regulations apply to outdoor play, and the important role leadership plays in supporting meaningful year-round outdoor experiences. Participants will discover practical strategies for navigating weather, addressing barriers, and embracing all-weather outdoor learning.

- [Directors Network flyer](#)

Quality Coach Community Days and Office Hours

Need support? Your Quality Coaches are here to help. Join a Community Day to ask questions, gain new ideas, and connect with peers; or contact your coach directly to schedule a one-on-one meeting for personalized support. Check the Coaches' Calendar for Community Day details and/or coach contact information. Rapid Response Team Community of Practice

On September 17th, Quality Coach Stephanie Ferber will have an RRT Communities of Practice focusing on Calm Down Space Set Up. This session will explore the tools and resources available to help create a successful Calm Down Area. Participants will learn not only how to select and organize appropriate tools and materials, but also how to effectively introduce, teach, and implement a Safe Place so it becomes a meaningful support for children's emotional regulation.

- [Region 16 Coaches Calendar](#)

Rapid Response Team Toolkit Free Professional Development

All Region 16 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 15, 2026, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM
Life Span Day Care
2460 John Fries Highway
Quakertown, PA 18951
Event ID 404169

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.

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

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!

United Way



Do you have families who are struggling to make ends meet? Are you looking for ways to support the basic needs of the families in your care? The United Way of Bucks County is bringing its HELP Center and headquarters together under one roof on Edgely Road. This is a centralized place where families can connect with the resources and the support they need, all in one location. United Way is focused on helping families who are employed but still struggle to make ends meet and fall through the gaps of traditional assistance programs. Please feel free to share this [flyer](#)!

BCHIP (Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership)

Many families struggle to access the immunizations required to attend childcare and public school. Here's an opportunity for you to bring this service to your program and ensure that all children have access to the vaccines they need. BCHIP and Springfield Pharmacy will bring immunization clinics directly to your program. Services are available for uninsured, underinsured, and insured students, making it easier for families to stay up to date with their children's immunizations. Programs interested in hosting a clinic can contact Rebecca Connor at rconnor@bchip.org or 267-291-7876.

- [B Chip Vaccine Clinics flyer](#)

Race 4 Resources

Join Autism SM Cares Foundation for the 19th Annual Race 4 Resources on Saturday, September 19th, at Bucks County Community College. Walk, run, cheer, or simply show your support to celebrate the community and raise resources to empower children, teens, and adults with autism and other social and cognitive disabilities.

- [Race for Resources](#)

ELRC Updates

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 16](#)
- [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](#)

ELRC 16 Provider Conference has reached capacity. However, there are limited spaces available at the Lehigh University conference. Registration is required on the PD Registry. Don't miss out on this excellent professional development opportunity for your staff!



OCTOBER 12, 2026



REGION 14 CONFERENCE



8:15AM – 4:00PM

Lehigh University, Iococca Center 111 Research Drive Bethlehem, PA 18015

The Power of Relationships, Environments & Intentionality

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: 401348

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

Welcome 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 Region 14 (Lehigh & Northampton Counties).



8:15 – 8:45

REGISTRATION



8:45 – 10:00

Welcome & Keynote

- The Power of Me



10:00-12:00

SESSION 1 BREAKOUTS

- Bridging Connections
- 5 I's of Individualization
- Outdoor Education



12:00 – 12:45

LUNCH PROVIDED



1:00 – 4:00

SESSION 2 BREAKOUT

- The Power of Relationships, Environments & Intentionality

OR



12:45 – 2:15

SESSION 2 BREAKOUT

- Rapid Response Team Toolkit
- Big Emotions



2:30-4:00

SESSION 3 BREAKOUTS

- Teaching During Free Play
- Rapid Response Team – Family Engagement


WWW.CSCINC.ORG

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


QUESTIONS?

 Email estair@cscinc.org

 early childhood education
COLLABORATIVE

 EARLY LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTER
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING


Community Services for Children

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. 15th – Oct. 15th 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

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.

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.

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.

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](#).

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](#)

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> .

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 16

Community Services for Children | elrc16@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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