



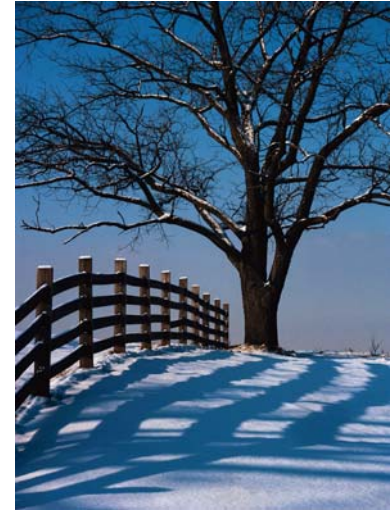
Thursday Notes from the Northeast Key  
a program of CSC, Inc.



January 14, 2010

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Northeast Key News

**Second Friday Conference Call**



**Mark your calendar for the Second Friday Conference Call**

February 12, 2010 – 10:00 am to 11:00 am

March 12, 2010 – 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

April 9, 2010 – 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

May 14, 2010 – 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

June 11, 2010 – 8:00 am to 9:00 am

If you have suggestions for a topic to discuss please feel free to email your suggestions to [bgambone@cscinc.org](mailto:bgambone@cscinc.org). To register for these conference go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Second\\_Friday\\_Conference\\_Call](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Second_Friday_Conference_Call) and complete the information in the survey. You can register for one or for all of the Second Friday Conference Calls. Once you have registered you will receive an email prior to the call which will give you the Call-In Number and Pin.

As of right now standard long distance charges apply when joining the Conference Call. We are in the process of exploring other options to help alleviate this cost to you. We hope we will be able to find an option that will work for you and our budget.

## Quality Circle Meetings

### The Northeast Key Invites you to a Quality Circle Meeting

We have had some fantastic ideas from the Early Learning and School Age directors and staff in the past. They have all helped guide the design of our services. Let's get together to share your ideas, suggestions and recommendations on how we can better meet your needs. Tell us what you think about Professional Development, Technical Assistance, STARS preparation activities, newsletters and more. Contribute to our plan for next year! Choose from an a.m. or p.m. session.

#### Lehigh Valley

February 8, 2010 – 9:00 am to 10:30 am  
Or  
February 8, 2010 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 am

Community Services for Children, Inc.  
Fowler Building  
1520 Hanover Avenue  
Allentown, PA 18109

#### Lackawanna County

February 4, 2010 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Or  
February 5, 2010 – 9:00 am to 10:30 am

United Way Building  
Lower Level Board Room  
615 Jefferson Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18510

**\*\* For more information, please see the attached Quality Circle Meeting Flyers (Lehigh and Lackawanna). This information will also be on the website under the Thursday Notes section. \*\***



**Way To Go!!**



Join us in giving a BIG **“WAY TO GO!!”** to the following programs who achieved the following STAR levels from October 1, 2009 to January 8, 2010.

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following programs for moving up to a STAR 1**

- Berks County –** Daisy Day Care  
Freedom Valley YMCA Hereford Elementary
- Bucks County -** Christian Day School of Trevoise  
Hope Lutheran School  
The Goddard School, Newton  
Crossroads Country Day School
- Lehigh County -** Luz Paniagua  
The Devine School  
Kantner Family Day Care  
Treehouse Childcare Center
- Luzerne County -** Kidz Korner
- Monroe County -** New Beginnings Day Care Center
- Northampton County -** Lehigh Kidz Academy
- Wayne County -** Joyful Noise

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following programs for moving up to a STAR 2**

- Berks County -** YMCA Early Childhood Center
- Bucks County -** La Petite Academy  
Teddy Bear College  
Sandra Wallace Family Child Care Home  
Kid Time LLC  
KinderCare Learning Center 221  
KinderCare Learning Center, Newton
- Lehigh County -** Active Learning Centers, LLC  
Next Level Corp.  
World of Imagination

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following programs for moving up to a STAR 3**

- Bucks County -** Right Steps Day Care  
All My Children Child Care/Learning Center
- Lackawanna County -** YMCA of Carbondale  
YMCA of Carbondale School Age Child Care Program
- Lehigh County -** Y2Kids Child Care Center  
Children First Group Home  
Care-A-Lot Land Child Care
- Luzerne County -** ABC Kiddie Kampus, Inc., Pittston

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following programs for moving up to a STAR 4**

**Berks County -** Touching the Future II, LLC  
**Bucks County -** Rainbow Academy for Little Scholars  
**Lehigh County -** Lehigh Valley Child Care at Muhlenberg  
Lehigh Valley Child Care at Western Salisbury School  
Kurious Kids Children’s Center (New York Street)  
Kurious Kids Children’s Center – SOTH  
Kurious Kids Children’s Center II  
**Northampton County -** Lehigh Valley Child Care – Fowler Center on Main Street  
**Schuylkill County -** A Step Ahead, LLC

Learning Communities

**Learning Communities are back!**

The Learning Communities provide Directors an opportunity to meet other Directors that are using the STAR Standards to enhance the quality of their Early Learning/School Age Program. Learn from other Directors and pick up tips on how to integrate the standards into your daily practices.

Check the schedule under the Learning Communities section on the website to see when there will be one in your area. If you have a topic you would like covered in a Learning Community, please contact your STARS Manager.

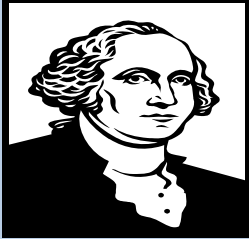
Visit the Learning Community section on the website for a list of future meetings.

**Have you Heard About Good, Better, Best**

Pennsylvania’s Continuous Quality Improvement Guide to “Best Practices” for continuous quality improvement in Keystone STARS. This optional tool will assist programs in meeting the targeted standards at a level that is the best fit for them. It allows programs who are not planning to move up a STAR level at present to consider how to make improvements and continue to commit to continuous quality improvement.

The tool will be introduced at Learning Communities throughout the region.  
Watch for the Learning Community Announcement Coming Soon!

## Presidents Day Conference

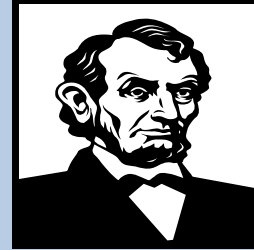


**Monday, February 15, 2010**

**8:30 am to 3:30 pm**

**Fee: \$20.00 (Lunch included)**

Registration deadline: February 1, 2010



There will be two mini-conferences in Bucks County on President's Day.  
One is at the **Intermediate Unit** and one at **Holy Family University**.

### **Bucks County Intermediate Unit**

705 North Shady Retreat Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901

### **Holy Family University**

One Campus Drive  
Newtown, PA 18940

Receive 6 Hours of Professional Development  
Act 48 Hours available for additional fee

**\*\* For more information and for registration information, please see the attached 2010 President's Day Conference flyers (Doylestown and Newtown). These flyers will also be on the website under the Professional Development section. \*\***

## Professional Development At A Glance

**\*\*We have attempted to pull all of the Professional Development Events on the PA Keys website that are taking place January 18, 2010 to February 21, 2010. To view this list, please see the Professional Development Section on the CSC Website or visit [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) to see a complete listing of all upcoming Professional Development Events and to Register \*\*** We have also heard your suggestions and have included the Knowledge Area and Competency Level for each of the events. Hope you find this format helpful.



## CSC's Institute for Child and Family Development

### Language-based Approaches to Teaching Children with Autism Dr. Vincent Carbone

Friday, February 19, 2010

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Holiday Inn Conference Center, Fogelsville

Community Services for Children, in conjunction with a half dozen public and private organizations, is planning a full-day conference on autism, February 19, 2010, at the Fogelsville Holiday Inn. Keynote speaker is Dr. Vincent Carbone, a nationally-renowned speaker, author, and developer of approaches to teaching children with autism.

Autism is a complex disorder of the central nervous system of unknown cause and without cure. It is considered one of the major health problems of the current era with estimates running as high as one child in 150 falling within the autism spectrum.

Individuals with autism generally have three defining characteristics: problems with social interactions, impaired verbal and non verbal communication, and a pattern of repetitive behavior with narrow, restricted interests. Autism may appear with mild symptoms in which a child has some difficulty with social nuances, making friends and behaving appropriately to very severely involved children whose verbal skills are slim to none or seem to be living in a world of their own. Sometimes infants seem to be developing normally and suddenly show symptoms of autism. For instance, a child may be walking and talking normally for their age at 18 months and suddenly stop talking all together.

For a conference of this caliber, professionals typically must travel a distance. For parents, such a conference is usually out of the question due to time, travel and cost. Conference fees have been set to accommodate both. The professional fee is \$75; parent fee is \$20.

A multidisciplinary panel of experts on the topic will also be featured. Continuing education credits will be available for teachers, social workers, and psychologists. A resource fair will be available for parents. The other organizations helping to develop the conference include: ARCH of Lehigh Valley, The Autism Society of America Lehigh Valley Chapter, Glenn Koch & Associates, Lehigh-Carbon Intermediate Unit #21, Lehigh County Early Intervention, and Northampton County Early Intervention.

For more information, contact Gregory Edwards, 610-437-6000, ext 2106; gedwards@cscinc.org.

**\*\* For more information, please see the Autism Brochure under the Professional Development section on the website. \*\***





NE Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants are available to help you with children at your site. For more information about the project or to speak with one of our consultants please call:



**1-800-528-7222 or 610-437-6000**

Mary Jo Mastriani, extension 2320

Berks, Bucks, and Lehigh Counties

Kelly Miller, extension 2302

Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties



### **January ECMH Conference Call!!**

The ECMH Conference Call-In, usually held the third Wednesday of every month, is rescheduled to January 27<sup>th</sup> at the same time, 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

This month's topic will be "Collecting Clues About a Child's Challenging Behaviors"

Please feel free to join us.

The call-in number is

**1-218-862-1000**

(Please note the call-in number has changed)

**Access Code: 157031#**

(Standard Long Distance Charges Will Apply.)



**\*\* Please see the ECMH January Conference Call flyer under the Early Childhood Mental Health section on the website\*\***

## Benefits of Child Care

Child Care Exchange – December 15, 2009

A major new study on the economics of early learning found that investing in childcare provides the greatest economic benefit of all sectors of the Canadian economy. This study, reported on the [CUPE](#) website found that...

- Investing \$1 million in childcare would create 40 jobs: at least 43% more jobs than the next highest industry and four times the number of jobs generated by \$1 million in construction spending.
- Every dollar invested in childcare increases the economy's output (GDP) by \$2.30. This is one of the highest GDP impacts of all major sectors.

The study, led by well-respected economist Robert Fairholm, also analyzed a number of other social and economic impacts of childcare and estimated the level and impact of workforce shortages of childcare workers. Some of these other findings are:

- Positive child outcomes and benefits are strongly related to the quality of the childcare service. However, parents have a difficult time judging quality. This points to the need for well-regulated publicly-delivered childcare services.
- Low rates of pay and poor working conditions have led to high turnover among childcare providers. This has contributed to immediate workforce shortages of childcare workers averaging over 5,000 per year in recent years.
- The social benefits — and the government revenues — from more childcare workers are greater than both the costs of training and current childcare subsidy levels.

The net national economic cost of these immediate shortages is estimated at over \$140 million for the period from 2001 to 2007. The shortage of childcare workers also held back parents from entering the workforce. In total, it meant a loss of almost 50,000 person years of employment for childcare workers and parents during this period.

