



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



January 28, 2010

Today's Edition:

- ✓ **Northeast Key News**
  - Second Friday Conference Call**
  - Quality Circle Meeting**
  - Northeast Key Outcomes**
  - Help Rename Thursday Notes**
  - MetroAction Small Business Institute**
- ✓ **Learning Communities**
- ✓ **Professional Development Activities**
  - Professional Development At A Glance**
  - Keystone College**
  - Improving Program Quality through Self-Study**
  - Nutrition And Physical Activity Self Assessment for Child Care**
- ✓ **Early Childhood Mental Health**
- ✓ **Partners Corner**
  - Children's Coalition of the Lehigh Valley's Family Policy Summit**



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

#### Bucks County

March 4, 2010 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Tabor Children's House  
601 New Britain Road  
Doylestown, PA

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

## Northeast Key Outcomes

The Northeast Regional Key Outcomes for 2008-2009 are now available!

You can find a copy on the website under the Thursday Notes section.

Look for NE Key 08-09 Outcomes Brochure

## Help Rename Thursday Notes

# Enter to WIN!!!



**WIN!!**

The Northeast Regional Key is looking to rename our “Thursday Notes” and we’d like to hear from you!

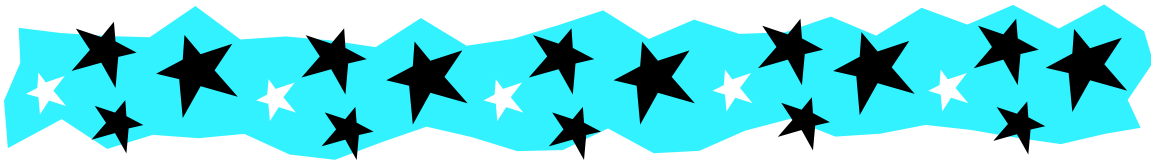
Got an idea?

Send us your ideas by completing the attached “Rename Thursday Notes Form”.

If your name is selected, you will win a **FREE** two-hour professional development at your site for up to 30 staff!

Send your ideas to Beth Gambone at [bgambone@cscinc.org](mailto:bgambone@cscinc.org) or fax your “Rename Thursday Notes Form” to 610-432-5700 attention Beth Gambone by February 19<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking forward to hearing your wonderful thoughts!



## MetroAction Small Business Institute

Child care providers who own their own business often face obstacles and challenges in operating a successful business. MetroAction has a program call the Small Business Institute which can assist child care providers understand how to better operate their growing businesses. In addition to learning key business skills, child care providers can now earn professional development credits necessary in Pennsylvania as MetroAction is PQAS certified!

And now, MetroAction is offering scholarships for three lucky providers to attend for free!

MetroAction will soon begin accepting applications for their Small Business Institute Scholarships. Applications for three scholarships will be accepted from February 1, 2010 through March 5, 2010.

Visit [www.MetroAction.org](http://www.MetroAction.org) <<http://www.metroaction.org/>> for more information.

**\*\*We have included the MetroAction SBI Guidelines and Instructions and the Metro Action SBI Application on the website under the Thursday Notes section. \*\***

## 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.

## Professional Development Activities

### **Keystone College**

**Keystone College has classes forming for the following:**

Child Development Associate (CDA) Coursework

Director Credential Coursework

Director Credential Renewal Coursework

Register NOW, space is limited!



\*\*Check out the Keystone College flyers for more information on these classes and how to register. The flyers are available 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 February 1, 2010 to March 7, 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.



## Improving Program Quality through Self-Study

NAEYC's newest full-day accreditation workshop debuted at the 2009 Annual Conference & Expo.

Now, Improving Program Quality through Self-Study is being offered at NAEYC Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Join NAEYC staff for a full-day workshop focused on using the Self-Study process to guide quality improvements for your early learning program. This workshop is designed for early learning practitioners with some or no prior knowledge of the NAEYC Accreditation process. Over the course of the day, we will:

- Outline the 4 Steps of the NAEYC Accreditation process
- Clarify the purpose of Self-Study as a path to quality improvement
- Share practical advice on planning and structuring the Self-Study
- Identify resources available to support a reflective period of Self Study

This interactive workshop features hands-on, small-group activities and opportunities to network with peers. As a participant, you will receive a copy of NAEYC's Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria publication and an exclusive participant manual. A sample tool-kit of NAEYC Accreditation marketing materials will also be provided.

Light Breakfast, Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Registration closes Thursday, February 11, 2010.

**When:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

**Where:** NAEYC Headquarters, 1313 L Street NW, Washington, DC, 20005

**FEE: Full Day Workshop Registration**

NAEYC Member Rate - \$199.00

Non-NAEYC Member Rate - \$249.00

**RSVP:** Thursday, February 11, 2010 by going to

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,P1,D48D4DFD-4C83-4F67-9E3F-7FFE4E68F1F8>

## Nutrition And Physical Activity Self Assessment For Child Care

### Pilot Project









#### Keystone STARS Providers!

*Are you looking for a professional development opportunity that involves strengthening your leadership skills and supporting staff through a self-assessment and reflection process? Would you like to become a mentor for other child care centers?*

The Keystone Kids Go! workgroup is in search of early childhood programs interested in participation in this wellness assessment pilot project. Programs must be a Keystone STARS provider.

The pilot project will be implemented to gather feedback from programs throughout the state as to the relevance of the NAP SACC self-assessment and intervention, as well as the user friendliness of the tool. Pilot participants will be asked to:







-  Implement the NAP SACC tool in their program
-  Identify two or three areas of strength and two or three areas for improvement
-  Set and implement achievable goals for program improvement
-  Participate in Professional Development webinars as applicable
-  Complete the pilot feedback instrument
-  Participate in focus groups to share feedback from the experience

#### Consultants and Technical Assistance!

*Are you looking for an opportunity to enhance your consultant skills in the areas of children's nutrition and physical activity? If so, please consider this professional development opportunity for Consultants/Technical Assistants.*

The Keystone Kids Go! workgroup is in search of Consultants/Technical Assistants who are interested and willing to provide support as requested to programs in need. An online orientation webinar and learning module will be offered to those interested in providing consultation/technical assistance.

The pilot project will be implemented to gather feedback from programs throughout the state as to the relevance of the NAP SACC self-assessment and intervention, as well as the user friendliness of the tool. Pilot programs will be asked to:

-  Implement the NAP SACC tool in their program
-  Identify two or three areas of strength and two or three areas for improvement
-  Set and implement achievable goals for program improvement
-  Participate in Professional Development webinars and connect with local resources as applicable
-  Complete the pilot feedback instrument
-  Participate in focus groups to share feedback from the experience

Individuals interested in participating in the Pilot Project need to respond by February 4, 2010.

For more information about the project and who to contact, see the Keystone STARS Provider Pilot Project Flyer and Consultant-TA Pilot Project Flyer under the Professional Development section on the website.

## Early Childhood Mental Health



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

## Partners Corner

### Children's Coalition of the Lehigh Valley's Family Policy Summit

All community members are invited to attend the Children's Coalition of the Lehigh Valley's Family Policy Summit to be held on Thursday, February 18 from 8 am to 10 am at Moravian College, Hauptert Union Building-UBC Rooms. The Summit serves as an opportunity for you to:

- Listen to the following guest speakers discuss the impact of Governor Rendell's proposed 2010-2011 state budget on early childhood education, public education, and child welfare

Mr. Ron Cowell, President of The Education Policy and Leadership Center

Mr. Todd Klunk, Secretary for Pennsylvania's Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Mr. Charles Songer, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators Group

- Learn about the key issues advocates must consider during the budget season
- Network with other advocates interested in children's issues

If you are interested, please R.S.V.P. directly to Carol Obando-Derstine, Executive Director of the Children's Coalition of the Lehigh Valley at: 610-868-2805 or [ed@childlv.org](mailto:ed@childlv.org). You may also register on their website at [www.childlv.org](http://www.childlv.org) in the Upcoming Events section.

*Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who need help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.*

*~Albert Schwitzer*

Would you like to receive positive quotes like this every day? Simply go to

<http://www.positivepress.com/saving/subscription.php3> to subscribe and you will receive by email your daily positive quote.