Look What’s in This Week’s Edition

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  - Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 School Year
  - Family Newsletter – December 2017

Here are some important dates to remember

December 2017

- 25 Christmas Day
- 25, 26 Northeast Regional Key Offices CLOSED
- 26 Kwanzaa Begins

January 2018

- 1 New Year’s Day
- 1 Northeast Regional Key Offices CLOSED
- 4 National Spaghetti Day
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- 15 Northeast Regional Key Offices CLOSED
- 18 Winnie the Pooh Day
- 19 National Popcorn Day
Happy Holidays

May the Holiday season fill
Your home with joy,
Your heart with love,
And your life with laughter.

The Northeast Regional Key
staff join in wishing you a
wonderful Holiday Season and
a happy New Year!

Siyheda     Allison      Vanessa     Amber     Jori     Dana
Ivy     Mary Jo     Aubryn     Sheri     Rochelle     Nancy
Raine     Shannon     Dolores     Beth     Claudia     Kathy     Leah
Sandra     Angie     Schelly     Liz     Masha     Kim     Susan
2017-2018 Conversation with the Key

Do you have questions for the staff at the Northeast Regional Key?

Here is a chance to talk with the Regional Key Staff and get your questions answered!

This is open to anyone in any county.
These are your calls… there is no agenda, it is led by you and your questions.

The Conversations with the Key will be held via Conference Call so you don’t have to leave your program and travel.

Mark your calendars with these dates!

Please register for these Conference Calls. If we need to cancel the call we will notify you via email and if possible we will make a call to all folks registered.

NEXT Call – January 18, 2018 – 9:30 am to 10:30 am – Register TODAY!!
February 15, 2018 – 9:30 am to 10:30 am
March 15, 2017 – 9:30 am to 10:30 am
April 12, 2018 – 9:30 am to 10:30 am
May 17, 2018 – 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Register for one or all!

How do you join Conversation with the Key?

1st Register to attend at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/20172018ConvWithKey
2nd on the day of Conversation With the Key Call:
Conference Call Number: 605-468-8003
Participant Code: 157031#

2017-2018 Merit and ERA Grant Applications
NOW AVAILABLE!!

The grant applications for the 2017-2018 Merit and ERA Awards are now available. Contact your Quality Coach to see if you are eligible to receive a grant.

Copies of the grant applications are located on the CSC website in the Resource and Reference Library under Grants at:
http://www.cscinc.org/providers-practitioners/northeast-regional-key/resources-reference-library/grants/
or contact your Quality Coach for an electronic version.

PLEASE NOTE:
All final expense reports must be received no later than March 31, 2018
**STAR 3 and STAR 4 Base Payment Rates Increasing**

As part of OCDEL’s continuing commitment to support high quality child care, effective January 1, 2018, OCDEL is increasing base payment rates for STAR 3 and 4 child care providers to the Maximum Child Care Allowance (MCCA) for those providers whose private rates meet or exceed the MCCA.

MCCAs are based on the age of the child, the county where care occurs, the unit of care (full-time or part-time), and the type of provider (child care center, group childcare home, family child care home rendering service).

STAR 3 and 4 providers should be receiving a letter in the near future from their local Child Care Information Services (CCIS) Office to inform them of the possible increase to their base payment rates and to provide instructions as to what needs to be done in order for the increase to take effective.

In order for the increase to the base payment rate to take effect, STAR 3 and 4 providers must submit their published rates to their local CCIS agency.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agency.

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**Navigation Networks**

**Coming to a Location Near You!!**

Be part of a small learning community with other providers from your community where you can receive technical assistance, resources, and professional development to help you through the Keystone STARS Standards.

Check out the list of upcoming Navigation Network Meetings included in the Key Connection email or on the CSC Website in the Learning Communities section of the Resource and Reference Library.
New Vendor for Digital Fingerprinting and What It Means for You

The Commonwealth of PA has started using IDEMIA as their new vendor for digital fingerprinting. IDEMIA is not accepting registrations and completing Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprinting for Pennsylvania agencies.

Before going to get your digital fingerprinting done at an IDEMIA fingerprinting location you must pre-register by going to www.identogo.com.

How to Pre-Register for Fingerprinting
2. Enter your zip code into the box labeled Find the nearest IdentoGO Center.
3. Select the location most convenient to you. (You will have a chance to change this later in the process).
4. Click Schedule an Appointment located in the blue box on the right-hand side of the page. An appointment is not required, but it is recommended.
5. Click on Digital Fingerprinting on the lower left side of the page.
6. Enter the appropriate code from below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Code</th>
<th>Applicant Type</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>OCDEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1KG6ZJ</td>
<td>DHS Volunteer</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Unpaid individuals who are not included in the regulatory ratio in</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>child care and other early learning programs. The Volunteer</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>employment purposes.</td>
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<td>1KG738</td>
<td>Child Care Services/Program</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Child Care Center and Group Child Care Center/Home Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employee or Contractor</td>
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<td>operating under 55 PA Code Chapters 3270 or 3280.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1KG74S</td>
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<td>Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Family Child Care Home Staff operating under 55 PA Code Chapter 3290.</td>
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<td>Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Early Learning Programs such as Family Center, Head Start, or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Children</td>
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<td>Home Visiting.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Non-staff persons who reside in the residence where child care</td>
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<td>Licensed Child Care Home</td>
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After selecting the Service Code:
1. Select Schedule or Manage Appointment on the new screen.
2. Complete the fields for your name and contact information. Then click on Next until all registration pages are complete.
3. Select the Location and Time if scheduling an appointment. Appointments are not required, but are recommended.
4. Select which documents you plan to use on the day of your appointment. Make sure you have them when you go for your fingerprinting.
5. Payment is due at the time of fingerprinting. When pre-registering, indicate what form of payment you will be using at the fingerprinting site.
6. Money order, certified check, cash or credit card are accepted. Certified checks and money orders can be made payable to MorphoTrust.
7. IMPORTANT! When you go to be fingerprinted, you will receive a receipt with your name, amount paid, and authorization number printed on the receipt. The receipt includes the date and time you were fingerprinted. The authorization number that prints on the receipt is the number that you can use to check their status on the IdentoGO site. This receipt can also be used as verification that you have applied for your FBI clearance.

Those without internet access can call 1-844 321-1201 to pre-register for fingerprinting.
**Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers**

This online resource from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides information to help family members and caregivers interact positively with children. It provides proven answers to common challenges so moms, dads, and caregivers can help two- to four-year-olds grow up happy and healthy. Read free articles, watch videos, and practice exercises for building positive relationships with kids.


**Bilingual Babies Listen to Language**

A recent research study from Princeton University (August 7, 2017) found that bilingual infants can process dual languages quickly and correctly as early as 20 months of age just by listening. The study also revealed that infants can quickly detect when the language is switched in mid-sentence, called "code switches", as regularly experienced in bilingual communities; and "toddlers naturally activate the vocabulary of the language that is being used in any particular setting." https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/08/170807155145.htm

**10 Routines That Can Strengthen an Adult-Child Relationship**

Researchers remind us that we need five positive interactions to each negative interaction to keep a relationship healthy. Here are ten that don’t add time to your day, but do add connection.


**Study Proves That Cuddling Babies Early (and Often) Has Huge Benefits**

Check out this article to learn more about how early skin-to-skin contact can support improved neurodevelopment, higher IQ, and lower rates of aggression. Skin-to-skin contact can even make certain medical procedures less painful for infants, and has particular benefits for babies who are premature. https://www.babble.com/parenting/cuddling-babies-study-benefits-touch/

**Toddlers Begin Learning Rules of Reading and Writing at Very Early Age, Study Finds**

New research from Washington University in St. Louis suggests that children as young as 3 already are beginning to recognize and follow important rules and patterns governing how letters in the English language fit together to make words. Learn more at https://source.wustl.edu/2017/07/aczoaallzu/

**Cognitive Learning Begins at Birth: Take Part in Infants and Toddlers’ Brain Development**

This article highlights tips and advice from experts engaging and applying cognitive practices to support early brain development. http://www.cdacouncil.org/council-blog/905-cognitive-learning-begins-at-birth

**How Caregivers Can Boost Young Brains**

Ordinary back-and-forth interactions between a caregiver and child — called "serve and return" — can shape brain architecture in powerful ways, creating a strong foundation for future learning. Here are five simple ways for parents, caregivers, and early educators to practice these interactions.


Baby Talk is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features high quality, readily available, and free resources. To join the listserv, send an email with no message to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu

Highlighting indicates resources that are available in English and Spanish. Past issues are archived at http://fpg.unc.edu/resources/baby-talk-archive. To suggest resources, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu
Governor Wolf Announces Grant to Support Quality Early Learning Professionals

Harrisburg, PA – Governor Tom Wolf today announced a $1.4 million grant to increase the quality of Pennsylvania’s early childhood learning professional workforce.

The Higher Education, Early Child Care, and Community-based Partnership Working to Implement Innovative and Sustained Pathways grant will enable early childhood education staff to participate in and complete a credit-bearing Child Development Associate (CDA), associate degree, bachelor degree, and/or Pennsylvania PreK-4 teacher certification.

“My administration is committed to expanding access to quality pre-kindergarten programs so our children have a positive start to their education,” said Governor Wolf. “Having educated and knowledgeable early childhood educators creates quality classrooms, supports positive relationships with children, and advances the argument for increased compensation - early childhood teachers make an average of $9-$12/hour, even with a degree.”

The competitive grant, made available through Pennsylvania’s Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, will support currently employed early childhood educators pursuing higher education. Drexel University, Carlow University, and Shippensburg University were successfully funded to build cross-systems partnership opportunities to identify and reduce barriers to access early childhood education degrees for currently employed early childhood educators.

“Studies show children benefit most when their teachers have high levels of formal education and specialized early childhood professional preparation,” said DHS Acting Secretary Teresa Miller. “One indicator of high-quality programs is the employment of a teaching staff that has the educational qualifications, competencies, and professional commitment necessary to promote young children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interests.”

The grant will provide seed funds to create an internal support system that encourages the educational process of future early childhood education professionals.

“Pennsylvania has been exploring ways to increase the number of high-quality, effective teachers in classrooms across the commonwealth, from pre-K to postsecondary, and this grant program only enhances those efforts,” said Secretary of Education Pedro A. Rivera. “This opportunity will benefit not just the childhood education staff who take advantage of it, but also all the students they will teach in the years to come.”

Shippensburg University will create a Center for Early Childhood Education, designed to support those working in the field, archive important resources, and communicate regulatory requirements and current trends long after the grant work has been completed.

Drexel University will replicate the nation’s first early childhood education apprenticeship model and assist teachers to be matched with Institutes of Higher Education through an innovative website. This project will establish a sustainable regional partnership, raising the quality of early childhood programs and contributing to the professionalization of the early childhood workforce throughout Berks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties, and statewide with online programs.

Carlow University will establish an innovative learning hub, serving as the nexus of professional development, career and certification focused workshops, lending library of materials and resources, and a collaboration of value-added components between organizations.
Governor Wolf Announces Grant to Support Quality Early Learning Professionals (Cont.)

The grant is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Human Services Office of Child Development and Early Learning and the Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education.

In December 2013, Pennsylvania won a Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant of $51.7 million. This grant builds upon Pennsylvania's successes to provide more at-risk children, such as children living in low-income families, English language learners, children with disabilities and developmental delays, and children experiencing homelessness, with high-quality early learning opportunities to close the achievement gap.

For more information about the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, visit the PDE website at www.education.pa.gov.

Families looking for a high-quality early learning program can visit www.findchildcare.pa.gov.

LIHEAP Applications Open

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat. In addition to the LIHEAP cash program, households experiencing a heating crisis may be eligible for additional benefits through the LIHEAP crisis program. Visit the PA Department of Human Services website for additional details and brochures to share with the families you serve.

Family Newsletter

The December 2017 Edition of the Family Newsletter is NOW AVAILABLE!!!

The winter season is upon us. Now is the time to start thinking about winter safety and how to keep your family safe and warm during this season. Learn some winter safety tips for your family as well as some fun activities you can do during this winter season and more!

Spread the word… Post this newsletter for your families to see!

Get a copy of the newsletter at https://www.cscinc.org/wp-content/resource_pdfs/Family%20Newsletter%20-%20December%202017.pdf or by going onto the CSC website at www.cscinc.org under the Family Corner section of the Northeast Regional Key section. We have also included a copy of the Family Newsletter at the end of this newsletter.
Technical Assistance Services and Keystone STARS Programs

Have you taken advantage of STARS Technical Assistance? If you are a Keystone STARS program, you have access to FREE on-site services! There are a variety of services and supports available for you:

**STARS Technical Assistance:** If your goal is to move STAR levels and you would like assistance with specific Keystone STARS Standards, you can request free, on site consultation. The TA Consultant will contact you and set up a time to meet with you. You can decide what goal you would like to work on for example you may want to create or update your Family Handbook to meet the Keystone STARS Standard for Partnerships with Families and Communities (FC.2.4). The TA Consultant can provide resources and supports to create or revise your handbook. You could have one or more goals to work on in order to meet higher STAR levels. Currently, there are openings for STARS TA, so put your request in now!

**School Age Technical Assistance (SAC TA):** If you have a school age classroom or are a school-age only program you can request a SAC Consultant to come to your program to provide you with support to improve the quality of your program. You may wish to revise your daily schedule, or enhance the quality of your science or math activities for children of mixed ages or you may want to update your school age curriculum to meet STARS Standards. If there are any Keystone STARS Standards you need to meet in your school age program, the consultant can support you with those goals!

**Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC):** If you are enhancing your health and safety policies or procedures, you can request for a Child Care Health Consultant to come to your program and assist you with these goals. She can work with you on specific procedures such as; diaper changing, hand washing, sanitizing and disinfecting materials and furnishings. She can also tour your facility and provide recommendations for safe sleep practices or safe storage of toxic materials. Currently there are openings for this technical assistance service, but act quickly and apply today!

**Infant Toddler Project:** If you would like to enhance the quality of your infant and/or toddler classrooms you can request on site consultation services with an Infant/Toddler Consultant. She can assist you in meeting your goals by creating an Action Plan with you and by providing you with resources. You may want to address staff interactions with children, family involvement, curriculum, transitions, daily schedules or activities and the environment? Maybe there is an area of the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS) you would like to address? There will be openings available in February 2018, so apply today to get on the Waiting List for these services!

**Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH):** If you have a young child in your program who is having consistent behavioral issues such as hitting, biting or self-regulation issues, you can request for an ECMH Consultant to come to your program and work collaboratively with the director, teachers and family to identify how to support the child. The program and the family submits applications for this free service. Contact the NE Key to discuss your concerns and we can determine if this service will meet your needs and the needs of the child.

**After School Quality Project (SAC ASQ):** If you are interested in participating in a unique continuous quality improvement process for your school-age program, this technical assistance service is for you and your program! This service is free of charge and provides you with a wealth of resources and the steps to assess your program from various perspectives. You will learn a team approach to quality improvement and you will receive valuable NIOST (National Institute of Out Of School Time) resources to use within your program. This technical assistance opportunity fills quickly, so call today if you are interested in applying in the New Year!
OCDEInclusion and Suspension/Expulsion Timeline

There are two OCDEL Announcements that are effective July 1, 2017 and apply to all OCDEL Bureaus and programs. These announcements connect deeply with the shared values and vision across all OCDEL initiatives and programs. The timeline below can help you plan how you can support the families, children and staff in your program. The timeline information below has been taken directly from the OCDEL Inclusion and Suspension/Expulsion Timeline announcement.

1. Inclusion of All Children in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania
2. Reduction of Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania

The Northeast Regional Key has created a section on the CSC Website under the Resource & Reference Library titled “Inclusion and Suspension/Expulsion Info”. In this section you will be able to find the above announcements, complete timeline, supporting information, and additional articles the Northeast Regional Key has developed around this topic.

December 2017:
Think about the professional development you and your staff have accessed over the past six months. Are there more supports you need? Different information? A deeper dive into one specific topic? Please let OCDEL know! All programs will receive an on-line survey to ensure OCDEL is meeting your needs.

February 2018:
December’s survey results will be shared with the field, along with the proposed new resources and supports that will be developed during spring/summer 2018.

March 2018:
Please join OCDEL for a webinar from Early Intervention Technical Assistance on how to use a new online course, Collaborating for Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood. This innovative course is designed to be taken by Early Intervention and early childhood partners working through the online course together. Let’s think together about how to best support all children! Information about the webinar will be sent out in the PA Early Ed News. Subscribe to the PA Early Ed News at http://bit.ly/2dyEwsP.

July 2018:
Please join us in welcoming our new Early Learning Resource Centers (ELRCs)! The ELRCs are your one stop for supportive resources and connecting children and families to resources to support their ability to find and stay in a high-quality early learning program. Information on connecting to your local ELRC will be announced through the PA Early Ed News.
We have heard from many of you that this has been a very useful tool in helping you locate Professional Development on the PD Registry. Use the key words in the titles on the Calendar to look up Professional Development for you and your staff.

Check out this week’s Professional Development Calendar with events from December 25, 2017 through March 31, 2018.

To Register for events go to the PD Registry at www.pakeys.org

Child Care Health Advocate Course
Spring 2018

The Child Care Health Advocate course (EARL 160) is offered by Northampton Community College is an online, 3 credit hour online college course taught over 15 weeks for directors, lead teachers and family child care providers. Health advocates are early childhood practitioners who see to it that their program integrates best practices in health, safety and nutrition, even though they may not perform those practices directly themselves. The course is intended to enable students to meet Standard 1.3.2.7 in Caring for Our Children 3rd edition, the national health and safety standards for early care and education. The students learn to assess, identify, prioritize and implement current health and safety standards in the programs where they work.

This course continues to receive accolades from all the enrolled students. It offers a unique opportunity for directors and lead teachers to acquire academic credit that may be applicable toward college degrees. Since 2007, faculty members who are health professionals and child care health consultants have taught this course as an ongoing collaboration between Northampton Community College and the PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Pediatrician, Susan Aronson, MD wrote and regularly updates the curriculum. “Dr. Sue” participates in the online weekly discussions and in the 7 live interactive sessions offered during the course.

** See the NCC Health Advocate Spring 2018 flyer on the CSC Website in the Resource and Reference Library, Professional Development section. **
PD Registry New Users & Conference Issues

We are currently experiencing two issues in the PD Registry:

- The PD Registry is currently encountering an error for new users creating a profile. This problem results in new users not having access to the Registry.
- Additionally, the system is currently encountering an error with course approvals and scheduling events.

We are actively working on resolving both issues. Once this is fixed, all new users will have access to the Registry and we will be able to process all pending courses.

If you have questions, please contact registry@pakeys.org

PD Registry Transition Tips!!

Did you take the first step towards the new registry? The new system launches in February 2018!

1. **Update Your Profile**  
   Make sure your profile information is accurate, especially your email address! Click on the PA Keys Portal button on the left menu.

2. **Attach Yourself to a Facility**  
   Attach yourself to the child care facility or facilities where you are currently employed. If you are not employed with a child care facility, select other organization. This can also be updated by clicking PA Keys Portal on the left menu.

3. **Use Course Catalog Credits**  
   As of December 31, 2017, all course catalog credits must be used to purchase courses. If you think you are unable to use the credit, send an email to registry@pakeys.org for a refund.

4. **Complete Online Courses**  
   If you are enrolled in an online ITERS or ECERS course, complete the course by December 31, 2017. Other less common online courses also need to be completed by this date.

5. **Complete Course Evaluations**  
   Complete any course evaluations by December 31, 2017 to ensure proper credit for the course is awarded.

6. **Print Transcripts**  
   Your transcripts will transfer into the new system, but if you anticipate needing these files before then, either print a copy, or save an electronic version for your records before January 15, 2018.

7. **Save Professional Development Plans**  
   In the new PD Registry, professional development plans will be available by early summer. In the interim, print or save an electronic version of your current Professional Development Plan before January 15, 2018. Current professional development plans will no longer be available after the February 2018 transition.

   To stay up to date, subscribe to the PA Early Ed News.

   Do you have questions? Get answers! E-mail registry@pakeys.org or call 1-800-284-6031.
School-Age Professional Development

Links to Learning Foundations

This 6 hour course supports practitioner’s understanding of the role of afterschool in providing complementary supports to ensure developmental progress of children. Participants learn how to guide curriculum planning in afterschool and how to link activities to learning standards and quality standards. The content also explores theme and project-based learning and how they are beneficial to children in after-school programs.

For school-age programs only, this course meets the Keystone STARS professional development requirement for learning standards.

Participants can receive an additional 4 hours of Professional Development for participating in Technical Assistance and Coaching after completing the course.

Register on the PD Registry at www.pakeys.org

Cost: $21.00
The price includes the book!

Where: Moppets on Mullberry
35 Fox Chase Drive
Towanda, PA 18848

When: Saturday, January 27, 2018
9:00am—3:30pm

Please bring a bagged lunch!
ONSITE PERSONALIZED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAR 3 AND STAR 4 PROGRAMS!

NEW OFFER for Keystone STARS 3 and 4 Early Learning and School Age Programs!

The NE Key is taking requests for onsite professional development that would enhance the quality of your program. Are you looking for a specific topic that would enhance the quality of your program? Would you be willing to open this training to other teachers? Call today and find out how you can access specific professional development topics for you and your staff! Two of your staff can be FREE!

Don’t Miss Out!

You Can Request Onsite Professional Development to Enhance the Quality of your Program!

Act now to be accepted for this opportunity!

Contact the NE Key for Details!

CSC/NE KEY
1520 Hanover Ave
Allentown, PA
610-437-6000 ext 7970
www.cscinc.org

CONTACT THE NE KEY TODAY!
Invites You to Attend the Infant Mental Health Breakfast Network Meeting

**Purpose:** To provide a trans-disciplinary forum to gain the knowledge and skills of observation, assessment and intervention with infants, toddlers and families and to explore and reflect together about the infant mental health field.

**Who:** Susan Woodhouse, Ph.D. – Lehigh University

**Topic:** “The CARE Project – Caregiving, Attachment, and Regulation of Emotion: Links between Maternal Sensitivity and Infant Physiological Regulation”

Originally designed to address critical gaps in research that have impeded efforts to improve intervention and address mental health disparities for diverse, urban, and low SES infants, Dr. Woodhouse will share her latest research findings on the links between mothers’ caregiving and 6-month-old infants’ regulatory capacities, along with implications for intervention work.

**When:** Friday, January 5, 2018 from 8:30 am – 10:00 am

**Where:** Lehigh University
Mountain Top Campus
Iacocca Hall – Room E104
Bethlehem, PA
610-703-8590

A light continental breakfast will be provided

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 3, 2018 to mmastriani@cscinc.org

Parking is available.

*Inclement Weather Policy: You will receive an email if the breakfast is cancelled*
Where afterschool professionals and leaders gather to get inspired, connect, learn and share!

NAAANNUULLAARRIINNNTT  CCOONNVVEENNNTTIIIOONN
MARCH 18-21, 2018
ATLANTA, GA
NAAWEB.ORG/CONVENTION
COME TO NAA CONVENTION AND LEAVE SAYING,
"I’VE FOUND MY PEOPLE!"

Join us and 2,000 members of our community for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration: special events, workshops, daily keynotes, and an interactive Learning Expo all designed to meet the needs of the developing professionals and emerging and current leaders of afterschool.

REGISTER TODAY AT NAAWEB.ORG/CONVENTION

DID YOU KNOW?

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS save on convention registration PLUS enjoy monthly PD resources, leadership advice, subscription to NAA’s AfterSchool Today magazine, professional training and consulting services, and FREE Virtual Convention! $99/year. Details at naaweb.org/membership
**Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 School Year**

It’s hard to believe that Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is almost here. Some schools have already started or will be starting to register Kindergarten Students for the coming year. Below is a list of School Districts who’s Kindergarten Registration is starting soon.

**This is not a complete list of School Districts. Keep checking for updates to the list.**

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<td><a href="http://www.beth.k12.pa.us">www.beth.k12.pa.us</a></td>
<td>5 on or before 10/1/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Online Registration Beginning</strong></td>
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<td><strong>January</strong> 2018 at <a href="http://www.beth.k12.pa.us">www.beth.k12.pa.us</a></td>
<td><strong>Online Registration</strong> 2018 at <a href="http://www.beth.k12.pa.us">www.beth.k12.pa.us</a></td>
<td><strong>Online Registration</strong> 2018 at <a href="http://www.beth.k12.pa.us">www.beth.k12.pa.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.boyertownasd.org">www.boyertownasd.org</a></td>
<td>5 on or before 9/1/2018</td>
<td><strong>Online Registration</strong> 2018 at <a href="http://www.boyertownasd.org">www.boyertownasd.org</a></td>
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<td>East Stroudsburg Area School District</td>
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<td>Pleasant Valley School District</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.pvbears.org">www.pvbears.org</a></td>
<td>5 on or before 9/1/2018</td>
<td><strong>March 12 – April 17, 2018</strong>  <strong>Please complete the online portion of the registration process prior to your appointment. Registration gateway portal is located at <a href="https://regportal.pvbears.org/">https://regportal.pvbears.org/</a>.</strong>  <strong>Please complete the online portion of the registration process prior to your appointment. Registration gateway portal is located at <a href="https://regportal.pvbears.org/">https://regportal.pvbears.org/</a>.</strong></td>
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<td>Pocono Mountain School District</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.pmsd.org">www.pmsd.org</a></td>
<td>5 on or before 9/1/2018</td>
<td><strong>Start Registration Process</strong> <a href="https://www.pmsd.org/domain/41">https://www.pmsd.org/domain/41</a>  <strong>Start the student registration process online by going to <a href="https://www.pmsd.org/domain/41">https://www.pmsd.org/domain/41</a> or by contacting the Student Registration Center at 570-839-7121, Ext. 40400</strong></td>
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<td>Stroudsburg Area School District</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.sburg.org">www.sburg.org</a></td>
<td>5 on or before 9/1/2018</td>
<td><strong>Appointments will begin on January 8, 2018</strong>  <strong>Appointment Required</strong>  <strong>Registration Packets forms are on the School District website at <a href="http://www.sburg.org">www.sburg.org</a> on the Parents section under Registration.</strong></td>
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Baby Its Cold Outside

The winter season is upon us. With the temperatures dropping and the threat of nasty weather we need to be sure that we are well prepared to ensure our family is safe and warm during this season. The last thing we want to do is to wait until we are faced with severe weather to start thinking about what we need to keep our family safe. There are a few simple things you can do now to make sure you and your family are well prepared, safe and warm. Check your homes to make sure you have a first aid kit, battery operated radio, bottled water, candles, flashlights, unperishable food, and warm blankets in case the electricity goes out. Also now is a good time to check your cars even if you aren’t planning a trip out of town with your family make sure you have a travel bag in the car with warm clothing (gloves, hats, etc.), bottled water, flashlight, first aid kit, shovel, phone charger, and blankets or sleeping bag in case you get stuck out on the road. You can never be too safe or prepared when it comes to dealing with the uncertainty of the winter weather. Make winterizing a fun family activity and get the kids involved in gathering supplies together.

Winter Safety Tips

There is no way around it, the cold days of winter have arrived. Make sure your family is safe and warm this winter season by following these winter safety tips.

Layer It – make sure your children are warm when they go outside especially if they are going to be out in the cold for an extended period of time. Dressing them in layers will ensure they stay warm and dry. For babies and small toddlers it is suggested that you dress them in one or more layers of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.

Bring Them In – while outside playing, if your kids get wet and/or cold make sure they know to come inside to get warm and dry. Sometimes kids don’t want to stop playing because they are having too much fun, so be sure to keep an eye on them. If you need to bring them in for a short time it’s worth it in the long run.

Don’t Put the Sunscreen Away – a lot of people think that they only need to use sunscreen during the summer, but it should be used all year round. The sun’s rays can still cause sunburn during the winter months especially when the sun is reflecting off the snow. So, before your kids go out and play make sure you lather them up.

Nosebleeds – sometimes children can suffer from minor winter nosebleeds do to the dry air. If your child suffers from nosebleeds they may benefit from a cold air humidifier in their room and the use of saline nose drops to help keep their nose moist.

Keep a Watchful Eye – while out in the cold make sure you keep an eye out for danger signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Signs of frostbite are pale, grey or blistered skin. Most commonly on the fingers, toes, ears and nose. If you see signs of frostbite get inside and put the affected area in warm water (not hot). Signs of hypothermia are shivering, unusual clumsiness, and slurring of speech. If you see signs of hypothermia call 911 right away.

Source:
How do I know my child is in a quality child care program?
Ensuring our children are in a quality child care program while we are working is important to every parent. They want a place where their child is safe, well cared for and where their child can grow and prosper. So, how can you tell your child is in a quality program? Here are a few steps you can take and questions to ask to ensure the program you selected is the right program for your child.

★ Take time to talk to your child’s teacher on a daily basis.
★ If your child is old enough, talk to them about how their day was and what is happening in their class.
★ Visit and observe your child in care at different times of the day.
★ Stay involved in your child’s activities at the child care program.
★ Network with other parents to see how their experience has been.
★ Asked to stay informed about your child’s growth and development.
★ Observe how the teachers speak to other children.
★ Do the staff communicate daily with parents about their child’s progress?
★ Are there small group sizes to ensure the adult-to-child ration is met at all times?
★ Are the children engaged in learning activities that are appropriate for their developmental stage?

Keystone STARS is a continuous quality improvement program. Programs involved in Keystone STARS meet a certain set of standards that make a difference in the quality of the program. If you have questions about Keystone STARS, talk with the Director of your program.

**Count the STARS!**
The higher the STAR level, the higher the quality.

Fun Winter Activities
Just because it’s cold outside doesn’t mean that you can’t have fun. Whether it be indoors or outdoors there are a lot of fun activities for the whole family. Here are a few ideas to get you started and the best part is they don’t cost a lot of money.

★ Build a fort – turn your living room into a fort using some blankets and pillows.
★ Go on a Scavenger Hunt – either inside or outside, come up with some items for your children to find.
★ Bake cookies – you and your kids will have fun making the cookies and everyone will enjoy eating them when they are all done.
★ Have a Pajama Party – on snowy days when you are stuck inside, have a pajama party and break out the hot chocolate and games.


Learning is Everywhere!
In December we are learning in the car or on the bus. There are so many things to see and do while driving either in the car or on the bus! Here are some things you can do with your children while driving that can help them learn:

**Infants:** Talk about the different noises you hear and the things that you see. Make up silly songs about things along the way.

**Toddlers:** While out and about have your child identify people and things they see along the way. Provide them with books about travel that they can read in the car or on the bus.

**Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarteners:** With your child make up silly songs about things you see as you are traveling. Talk about the street signs you see and have them tell you what they mean.

For more ideas go to the Learning is Everywhere Activity Guide on the PA Promise for Children website at http://papromiseforchildren.com/help-your-child-grow/learning-is-everywhere/