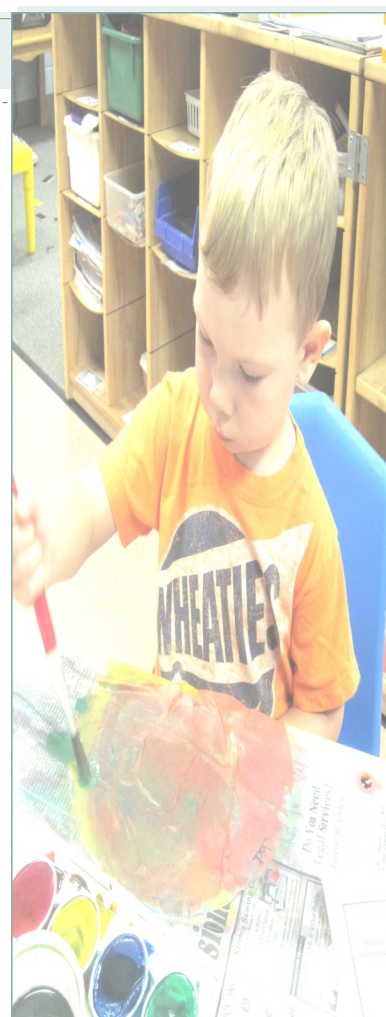




# Director's Notes

## STARS

- In the past, almost every year, we have changed **STARS Managers** due to reasons such as: increase or decrease in counties, increase or decrease in STARS providers, new staff, etc. In this edition under the CRK contacts there is a link to the listing of STARS Managers and their assigned programs. Although this may be a change for some of you, the benefit to all programs is an experienced cross-trained staff to assist you in continuous quality improvement. In the next few weeks, expect a letter of introduction from your STARS Manager.
- In the Activities for Direct Care Giving Staff section of this edition, **The Children's Learning Center at Penn College in Williamsport**, is being featured. They have shared carnation, volcano and body letter activities. Check them out! If your program would like to be a part of this learning community, contact Michele Johnson at [mljohnson@stepcorp.org](mailto:mljohnson@stepcorp.org).
- The **Family Day Care Home (FDCH) STARS Standards** were revised and deployed in March. These standards will be used for designation. All FDCH that are designated a STAR 2 – 4 will require an onsite designation this fiscal year. The standards can be downloaded from the PA Keys website at [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) or by contacting your STARS Manager.
- The **Keystone STARS Grants** structure has changed this year to include a new category, Very Small. This category is for Center based early learning programs with 1-12 Full Time Equivalencies (FTE). For additional information, contact your STARS Manager.
- The **Keystone STARS Grants** awards requests must be submitted within 15 days of your designation or renewal. Many programs received lower amounts because the FTE tool had expired and a new tool produced lower percentages.
- The **Keystone STARS Grants** awards funds must be spent and receipted within 90 days of the agreement and the final expense report must be completed, signed and submitted within 100 days. If you require a budget revision, this must be requested on the budget revision form and approved in advance of any purchase. If you have any questions, contact your STARS Manager.
- **Reminder for STAR 3 and 4 programs:** The first data entry point for the Early Learning Network is 10/15/10.



### IN THIS SECTION

- STARS
- Professional Development
- Early Childhood Mental Health
- School Age Project



## STARS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Not Applicable this edition

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Save The Date:** The Central Regional Key Professional Development Conferences will be held in Lycoming County (Genetti Hotel and Conference Center) November 12 and 13; Centre County (Toftrees) March 11 and 12. Watch for conference flyers in September and January.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH

- The Central Regional Key welcomes **Mary Domino-Wilson** full-time as an Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

- Not Applicable this edition

## SCHOOL AGE PROJECT

- The **SAC Task Force** will be working on a professional development track at the Spring Conference. Watch for information in upcoming newsletters.

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*Kind Regards,*

*Ricki Ellen Klopp, Program Manager*

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