



Director's Notes

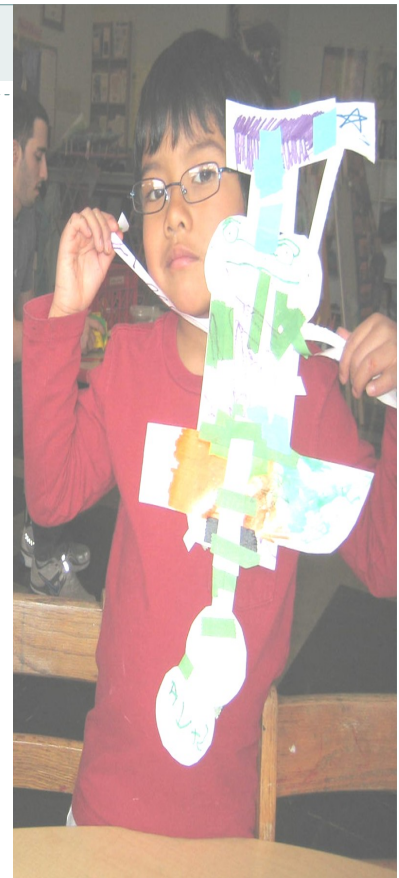


This is the 6th annual Pennsylvania One Book, Every Young Child campaign. One Book, Every Young Child is Pennsylvania's sixth collaborative project using the vehicle of "One Book, One State" program to highlight the importance of early literacy development.

This year volunteer readers will read the featured book, [Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job](#) by Stephen R. Swinburne to children within The Early Care and Education settings. This engaging book explores various occupations using simple text and colorful photographs. [Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job](#) encourages young readers to guess which shoe matches the job.

During the Week of the Young Child (WOYC), April 10-16, 2011, readers are invited to read within Early Care and Education programs. What a wonderful opportunity to read to some of the Commonwealth's youngest learners!

To learn more about the PA One Book events and activities, log onto www.paonebook.org



ECL: Early Care Investigation

What are the resources and supports that are available to child care providers in the state of Pennsylvania?

What is going to happen to these supports since there has been a change in state government?

COME TO THIS 2 HOUR Workshop to get answers to these questions and many more.

Central Regional Key is hosting 3 workshops to look at available resources, supports and changes for the upcoming year.

IN THIS SECTION

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- STARS Technical Assistance
- School Age
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CAMBRIA COUNTY

April 14, 2011

1:00-3:00 or 6:00-8:00

West End School

317 Power Street

Johnstown, PA 15906

Register at

www.pakeys.org

RSVP by April 7, 2011

CENTRE COUNTY

April 27, 2011

2:30-4:30 or 6:00-8:00

Toftrees Conference Ctr

One Country Club Lane

State College, PA 16803

Register at

www.pakeys.org

RSVP by April 21, 2011

UNION COUNTY

April 28, 2011

1:00-3:00 or 6:00-8:00

Union County Gov't Center

155 N 15th Street

Lewisburg, PA 17837

Register at

www.pakeys.org

RSVP by April 21, 2011



STARS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- "For years I hesitated in using the STARS TA for fear of being bothersome. Recently we had two TA Specialists spend time at our center, and may I say that I really wish I would have taken advantage of this service sooner! My staff loved picking their brains about room arrangements and ERS criteria. They learned so much, and it was just a great way to have a fresh pair of eyes view our day to day routines and offer suggestions! I HIGHLY recommend other STARS participants to call TA and have them visit their facility- they will **not** be sorry!"
*-Jen Enterline
Director, Busy Little Beavers*
- [Link to TA Application](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

- [Updated contacts](#)

STARS

- The CQI workgroup has finalized the CQI Website. There is a place for Director's to tell their story about CQI and CQI Resources which will share how we are creating better outcomes for children.

<http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=CQI>

- **ERS Cancellation Policy**

ERS assessments are an important component of Pennsylvania's quality early learning initiatives. Facilities renewing a STAR level, moving to a higher STAR level and/or providing PA Pre-K Counts are expected to be operating at all times at the level of quality described in the STARS standards and/or PA Pre-K Counts performance standards including the ERS standard. Facilities are expected to cooperate with PA Key ERS Assessors to establish a window for assessments that is in keeping with the STARS renewal date, request for movement to higher star level and/or PA Pre-K Counts expectations. All facilities are expected to be prepared to accept a window and proceed with the assessment.

Postponing assessments, requesting changes to the assessment window and canceling assessments have negative impacts on the overall implementation of the Commonwealth's early childhood programs.

A facility that delays or cancels an assessment, reschedules an assessment window, or denies access at the time of a previously scheduled ERS assessment without just cause might still participate in an ERS assessment. Prior to the visit and/or window being rescheduled and completed, the facility will be charged and must pay \$700 per day for each day that was cancelled, rescheduled or denied unless just cause is established. Some examples of unforeseeable circumstances that could justify postponement of a scheduled ERS assessment include, but are not limited to, a facility or medical emergency, removing the teacher from the class and/or emergency weather closings. However, should OCDEL determine that there is not just cause for delaying or cancelling assessments and/or assessment windows, the PA Key will send an invoice for the financial costs associated with rescheduling (\$700 per assessment). Until this invoice is paid, no subsequent ERS assessment will be rescheduled. Additionally, sites requesting delays in windows without just cause or refusing a scheduled visit will not be considered a priority assessment and will fall to the bottom of the assessment wait list. Consequences might include a drop in STAR level or PA Pre-K Counts non-compliance, which could result in funding reductions.

For more information, see ELS/KS-09 #04, which is available at www.pakeys.org.

- Please note all programs must have an email by June 30, 2011.
- Hope you are enjoying your weekly emails from your STARS manager. We would love to hear your comments.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH

- Applications are always accepted!
- [Link to CRK EMCH Fact Sheet and Application](#)

SCHOOL AGE PROJECT

- Registration deadline is fast approaching for the April 9th SAC Conference with nationally renowned School Age experts, Mike and Chelsea Ashcraft. Get your registrations in by April 1st. Remember for every five registrations your program receives five complementary registrations. Call Patty Cohick, Claudia Hunold or Terri Matthews for details.
800-346-3020 [Link to Brochure](#) and [Registration Form](#)
- **Spotlighting Positive Youth Development Building Our Youth for the Future**
April 14, 2011 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Live Video Conference / Allentown, Erie, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Mill Hall, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and York
Plan now to attend *Spotlighting Positive Youth Development*. This event will increase awareness and constructive attitudes about Positive Youth Development among key state public and private leaders to inform policy decisions and practice on the state and local level. Participants will engage in onsite discussions on key issues and will develop action plans that foster and improve Positive Youth Development in their communities.
Downlink site locations, details and online registration will be available March 14, 2011 at www.PSAYDN.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Help.....Professional Development (Training)

It is our goal that when you register and attend professional development (training) funded through our office that it is an opportunity to learn and grow both professionally and personally. The workshops/classes offered are instructed by Pennsylvania Quality Assurance System (PQAS) credentialed individuals with education and expertise in the knowledge area of instruction. The class is designed to maximize your learning experience by using adult learning principles. This occurs through active participation from attendees through individual and group activities and question and answer opportunities. We learn from the instructor and each other. All the experiences together make the class a success.

It is within the instructors locus of control to determine whether a person receives a certificate. Additionally, registrants must attend the entire class to obtain a certificate.

- **SAVE THE DATE:** Family Home Day Care Conference June 24 & 25



THE INFANT TODDLER PROJECT

Central Regional Key has just added a new program-The Infant Toddler Project. We are excited to be able to offer this targeted technical assistance to programs in our region. The goal of the program is to enhance the provision of high quality services to very young children and their families with particular emphasis on relationship-based practices within STAR 2 facilities.

Central Key is currently in the process of selecting the first 10 programs for the "pilot" phase. The Infant Toddler Specialist will work with these 10 programs for approximately 6 months. Then a new group of 10 programs will be selected for the next phase.

Here are some general details of this new program:

- 25-50 hours of consultation over a 6 month period
- Two visits per month to a selected infant/toddler classroom within a program
- Assessment of the social-emotional environment
- ITERS guided practice
- Creation and implementation of an Action Plan that will include goals and targets as well as strategies for sustaining change after the consultation is complete
- Referrals for professional development (PQAS hours)
- PQAS hours (up to 6 total hours) for times spent working on action plan goals
- Resources and materials

For further information, contact Shannon Cohick, Infant Toddler Specialist at 1-800-346-3020 x 9735. [Link to Infant Toddler Project Brochure](#)

Important Message from the PA Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Certification Services

As a result of several recent incidents, the Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Certification Services would like to remind the child care community of the potential harm of illicit drug activity on a child care facility premises to the children receiving care at a child care facility. Using or dealing illicit drugs in a child care facility or on the child care facility premises is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Please be aware the Department's regulations at §20.71(b)(1) states: "The Department may deny, refuse to renew or revoke a certificate of compliance if a legal entity, owner, operator or staff person has been convicted of a felony." This certainly could include drug related offenses. §20.71(b)(2) states: "The Department may deny, refuse to renew or revoke a certificate of compliance if a legal entity, owner, operator or staff person has been convicted of a crime involving child abuse, child neglect, moral turpitude or physical violence." §20.71(b)(4) states "The Department may deny, refuse to renew or revoke a certificate of compliance if a legal entity, owner, operator or staff person has evidenced drug or alcohol addiction within the past year, which shall be determined and documented by a licensed physician."

Please be aware the Department's regulations for family child care homes at 55 Pa. Code §3290.12(d)(1) states: "The Department may deny, refuse to renew or revoke a certificate of compliance if a legal entity, owner, operator or staff person has been convicted of a felony." This certainly could include drug related offenses. §3290.12(d)(2) states: "The Department may deny, refuse to renew or revoke a certificate of compliance if a legal entity, owner, operator or staff person has been convicted of a crime involving child abuse, child neglect, moral turpitude or physical violence." §3290.12(d)(4) states "The Department may deny, refuse to renew or revoke a certificate of compliance if the person evidences drug or alcohol addiction within the most recent 12-month period that is determined and documented by a physician or CRNP."

The Department's regulations at 55 Pa. Code §3270.32(c), §3280.32(c), and §3290.32(c), relating to suitability of persons in the facility states: "The operator may not allow an individual to enter the facility if the operator knows that the individual has been convicted or is awaiting trial on charges involving a crime of child abuse, child neglect, physical violence or moral corruptness."

In addition, §3270.21, §3280.20 and §3290.18 relating to general health and safety states: "Conditions at the facility may not pose a threat to the health or safety of the children." The sale and distribution of an illegal substance in/at the facility by the owner, operator, staff person creates a clear, immediate and serious danger to the life and health of children in care.

Thank you for caring for Pennsylvania's children.

A new update for the 2002, 4th edition of Model Child Care Health Policies is now posted on the ECELS website at www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org. The update modifies the model policies about nutrition and adds model policies for physical activity. The update derives from the early release of updated standards for these two topics from the 2011, 3rd edition of Caring for Our Children. ECELS plans a full update of Model Child Care Health Policies when the publication of the fully revised 3rd edition of Caring for Our Children occurs. The update policies are in MS Word format to make it easy for early educators to fill in the blanks and incorporate them into their existing written policies. To view the update, select the section headed "Publications and Media", and then from the drop-down menu that appears when scrolling over that heading, select the subsection "Print Publications". Scroll down to Model Child Care Health Policies and the update listed below it. ECELS encourages you to share this information as widely as possible and to support the practices addressed in these newly updated policies.

As everyone is aware, on December 28, 2010, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted unanimously to approve new mandatory standards for full-size and non-full-size baby cribs as mandated by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA). Federal crib standards had not been updated in nearly 30 years and these new rules are expected to usher in a safer generation of cribs. These new standards will directly affect the childcare community.

Effective June 28, 2011, all cribs manufactured, sold, or leased in the U.S. must comply with the new federal standards. The purchase of any crib before this date must be accompanied with Certificate of Compliance, which proves the crib has been tested and meets the new federal standards. We, at OCDEL, encourage that providers wait until after June 28, 2011 to replace old cribs. Cribs being manufactured after that date are guaranteed to comply with the new federal standards. Also, effective December 28, 2012, childcare facilities, such as family childcare homes and infant Head Start centers, and places of public accommodation, such as hotels and motels, must have compliant cribs in their facilities. These new rules are expected to stop the manufacture and sale of dangerous, traditional drop-side design; create stronger mattress supports and hardware; and establish better safety testing. All of these changes will help keep babies and toddlers safe in their crib, as a safe crib is the safest place for a baby.

Please see the attached document for additional knowledge about the new crib standards. For more information please visit www.cpsc.gov/cribs

[Link to The New Crib Standard Q and A](#)