

Key Promise

PROMOTING QUALITY EARLY LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

Northwest Regional Key

3823 W. 12th Street

Erie, PA 16505

814-836-5898 or Toll Free 800-860-2281



Winter 2009-10

A message from Elana Shively, Executive Director of the Northwest Regional Key



Happy 2010!

The staff at the NW Regional Key look forward to continuing to support the great work you are accomplishing for children and families. We hope the joy, peace, energy and excitement of the holiday season continues for you throughout 2010.

PA's budget impasse took center stage as we began the 09-10 fiscal year. The 101 day crisis had a devastating impact on many across the state. 50 % of the counties in the NW Regional Key did not receive CCIS reimbursement during this period. Lack of provider's savings, CCIS funding, STARS funding and an inability to access lines of credit created a difficult economic situation for many. Some providers closed, never to re-open. Those who closed temporarily and those who experienced child and staff reductions, are now in the recovery process of hiring new staff, recruiting children, and getting back to their daily routine. I commend the *Champions for Children* who continued to advocate to their legislators throughout the crisis. As the early learning and school-age community struggled to keep their programs in tact, they continued to positively educate their representatives and advocate for building a better future for Pennsylvania's children and families. The chart below highlights the continued growth of facilities who are participating in Keystone STARS.

Summary of Participation over 5 years

| End of FY | % of all regulated facilities | % of centers | % of family child care homes | % of group day care homes | # of children in STARS |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 2004-2005 | 40% | 58% | 18% | 35% | 132,000 |
| 2005-2006 | 48% | 69% | 28% | 51% | 159,000 |
| 2006-2007 | 42% | 61% | 23% | 47% | 141,548 |
| 2007-2008 | 55% | 76% | 33% | 59% | 178,000 |
| 2008-2009 | 60% | 78% | 38% | 59% | 179,085 |

In 2007/08 FY, 25% of providers moved up at least one STAR level

In 2008/09 FY, 30% of providers moved up at least one STAR level

A heartfelt thank you to the Technical Assistant Consultants, Community Engagement Coordinators, Professional Development Organizations and STARS Staff, who continued without expense reimbursement, to provide support to the early learning and school-age community. As we move into 2010, new professional development events that focus on sustaining high quality programs, financial planning, and parent engagement will be offered.

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Elana's message continued...



"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

~Charles Darwin~

Those of us who have been in the field of early care and school-age learning are well conditioned for change. As exemplified by the Charles Darwin quote, I believe this community is one of the most responsive to change, thus we survive and thrive towards the goal of providing positive outcomes for children. Personnel changes in DPW, OCDEL, and the PA Key occurred as we closed the year 2009. (See OCDEL Staff Changes on page 3.) As we opened the 09-10 fiscal year, the Regional Keys joined the squadron of PELICANS with the June release of *PELICAN Keys to Quality (K2Q)*. **PELICAN (Pennsylvania's Enterprise to Link Information for Children Across Networks)** is a coordinated database system, which compiles information for OCDEL programs: PELICAN Certification (DPW certification office), PELICAN Child Care Works(CCIS) PELICAN Early Intervention (Early Intervention IUs) PELICAN Pre-K Counts, and PELICAN Early Learning Network (ELN, stores longitudinal child assessment information)

As we begin to implement the new PELICAN system, let us remember the *wise words of Arnold Bennet*, "Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts." There have been some glitches and kinks as we develop the new data system. One small preventative step for the STARS Community is early renewal:

The PELICAN databases are networked across systems. Information begins with data entry into PELICAN Certification. PELICAN K2Q pushes STAR level information into PELICAN Child Care Works. In order to ensure that there is **not a lapse** in your **CCIS subsidy payment**, it is critical that your **STAR does not expire**. Please take a moment to look at your Keystone STAR level certificate which the Regional Key issues upon designation of a STAR Level. If your **STAR expires**, you could be in **danger of losing your increased tiered subsidy reimbursement from CCIS**. The Regional Key sends you a renewal packet 90 days in advance of your STAR expiring. **Ideally, you should return this packet within 30 days of receiving it**. If the Regional Key does not receive your packet a reminder is sent to you approximately 60 days from expiration. A final reminder is sent 15 day prior to expiration notifying you that you will be moved to no STAR level if the packet is not received by the expiration date. Please contact your STARS Manager if you cannot submit your renewal packet within the 15 days, and your STARS Manager will work with you to ensure your STAR does not expire.

George Bernard Shaw said, "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." Pennsylvania, has made great progress improving quality early care and school-age programs. It has been my honor to work with a field of individuals who are dedicated to working tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of children in NW PA as well as statewide. I look forward to moving forward with each of you as we continually improve the services and resources provided by the NW Regional Key.

H1N1 in PA - Information for Child Care Facilities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention find that children less than 5 years of age are at increased risk of complications from influenza; the risk is greater among children less than 2 years old. Importantly, infants less than 6 months of age represent a particularly vulnerable group because they are too young to receive the seasonal or 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine; as a result, individuals responsible for caring for these children constitute a high-priority group for early vaccination.



Influenza vaccination is the primary means of preventing flu. Additionally, infection control measures are recommended to reduce the spread of flu. However, early childhood settings present unique challenges for infection control due to the highly vulnerable population, close interpersonal contact, shared toys and other objects, and limited ability of young children to understand or practice good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. Thus, parents, early childhood providers, and public health officials should be aware that, even under the best of circumstances, transmission of infectious diseases such as flu cannot be completely prevented in early childhood or other settings. No policy can keep everyone who is potentially infectious out of these settings. The purpose here is to provide updated guidance for reducing the spread of influenza in early childhood settings. For further information visit <http://www.h1n1inpa.com>.

Changes In Leadership at DPW, OCDEL

December 9, 2009

Today Governor Rendell announced that Department of Public Welfare Secretary Estelle Richman is resigning effective December 31. Richman has been with the Rendell Administration since 2003. Richman will be taking on a national role as the new Chief Operating Officer at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, DC.

Rendell has nominated Office of Child Development and Early Learning Deputy Secretary Harriet Dichter to become the new Secretary. Her nomination is subject to Senate confirmation.

As Dichter takes over as Secretary, Todd Klunk will become the Acting Deputy Secretary of OCDEL.

As Secretary of Public Welfare, Richman oversaw the second largest state agency with more than 19,000 employees, providing services and support to low-income, elderly and disabled Pennsylvanians, including children.

“Since 2003, Secretary Richman has been a champion for vulnerable children and their families in every corner of Pennsylvania,” Governor Rendell said. “Low-income families are stronger, healthier and on the road to self-sufficiency because of her passion for their well-being. We are delighted that Estelle will now focus that same energy on national housing issues in her role as Chief Operating Officer at HUD.”

At DPW, Richman supported a culture of employment and productivity for the most vulnerable citizens, recognizing that jobs for the lowest-income families are critical to the economic vitality of the state. Specifically, under Richman’s guidance, Pennsylvania reduced the TANF caseload by over 25 percent and successfully turned the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program into a national model.

While at the Department, Richman was committed to remaining a good steward of taxpayer dollars and achieved savings without cuts by

revamping the Department’s pharmacy operations and holding

Medical Assistance Managed Care costs down, all while reducing the overall DPW complement by nearly 3,000 since 2003 – a 13 percent reduction in the Department’s workforce.

Dichter currently serves as Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development and Early Learning for

“Since 2003, Secretary Richman has been a champion for vulnerable children and their families in every corner of Pennsylvania.”

the Pennsylvania Departments of Public Welfare and Education leading state efforts to bolster early education and care for Pennsylvania children, overseeing planning, program and policy development and implementation for a total investment of \$1.3 billion.

Klunk currently serves as Director of Finance and Administration for OCDEL.

Winter Weather Season and Environment Rating Scale (ERS) PD

The ERS Assessors are spread throughout the Commonwealth, and as many of you know, the weather varies in all counties with each winter storm. Let’s all be safe and prepared.

The Assessors use the PA Keys Website PD calendar for the most up to date communication. Please check the PA Keys Website

www.pakeys.org for the status of your PD event before heading out the door.

Additionally, please update your e-mail address in your personal information on the PA Keys website. It is extremely helpful to send an e-mail directly to the participant in cases where we make changes with a PD event.



Providing Nature and Science Experiences for Young Children

By Lisa Mulliken PA Key/ERS Assessor, November 2009

Think about yourself as a child. Most likely, much of your time was spent exploring natural materials in your environment: digging for worms, lifting rocks in the creek to find salamanders, climbing trees, playing with your dog, building a snow fort in the backyard. These experiences engaged our senses, helped us construct knowledge about our environment and taught us to love and respect the world we live in.

All children are naturally curious and benefit from opportunities to interact with the natural environment, therefore; the role of the early childhood teacher is to provide many safe, hands-on nature and science activities that foster curiosity and experimentation. Children need experiences that encourage them to ask questions, explore, conduct investigations and look for answers. These experiences should take place in the classroom and outdoors and should include planned as well as spontaneous opportunities.


Nature and science materials and activities engage all the senses and invite investigation by encouraging children to smell, taste, hear, touch and see. In your classroom, you can enhance the environment through the use of natural objects. For infants and toddlers, mount interesting objects such as shells, wood and sponges low on a wall for children to explore. Make an interesting 3-D display by suspending a small tree branch from the ceiling and hanging natural objects from it. For preschoolers and school-age children, provide natural materials that they can incorporate into their play, such as: placing rocks and driftwood in the sand table, adding shells to the play dough tools or placing nests and feathers along with artificial birds and eggs on a small table to encourage dramatic play. Try placing a basket of pumpkins and gourds in the art area along with paints of similar colors.


In the outdoor environment, enhance children's nature and science experiences through the addition of bird feeders, a rain gauge or spray bottles filled with water. Try adding buckets and shovels to encourage children to dig in dirt or sand to find interesting items. The addition of magnifying glasses and measuring tapes will encourage children to examine their finds.

Children also experience nature and science in everyday events. Teachers can take advantage of these events by drawing children's attention to them. Teachers can help children notice and learn through everyday events such as: noticing how fast a car rolls down a ramp, looking out the window and discussing the weather, making a class book on how to care for the class pet or discussing the new grass and spring flowers on the playground.


Providing many developmentally appropriate science and nature materials and experiences provides children with the opportunity to experiment and explore the world around them and will help create a lifelong interest in and respect for our environment.







pennsylvania
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
AND EARLY LEARNING



3rd Annual Higher Education Institute
The Future is Here:
Developing Responsive
Pre-K to Grade 4 Educators & Learners

The Penn Stater, State College, PA

May 24 - 25, 2010

Includes Deeper Focus on:

Innovative, Culturally, Linguistically, and Socio-Economically Responsive and Mindful Teaching Strategies for Pre-K to Grade 4; Supporting Classrooms that Work for All Learners; Chapter 49-2 Guidelines; Family, Community, and Collegial Collaborations; Child and Program Assessment; Inclusion

Details and information available at: www.pakeys.org

Save the Date!

Clarion and Jefferson County child care sites host events to celebrate Pennsylvania's Promise for Children Week

Several community members joined children, child care providers and Clarion and Jefferson County's Early Care and Education Project at local events recognizing Pennsylvania's Promise for Children Week Nov. 8-14.



State Rep. Donna Oberlander of Clarion enjoys reading to children at the Union PKC site.

The week was an opportunity to celebrate Pennsylvania's young children and the quality early education programs and teachers that help them reach their promise every day.

Tracy Weaver, Clarion-Jefferson's Community Engagement Coordinator and STARS Manager John Pozza coordinated a number of celebrity child readings during the week. In addition, they produced public service announcements and were guests on live Morning Drive radio interviews promoting events for the week with Wayne Brosius on WCCR/C-93 FM in Clarion and Sharon Stewart at Mega Rock/WMKX 105.5-FM in Brookville. John also submitted PA Promise for

Children op-ed articles that were published in at least four local and regional newspapers, including The Derrick, Clarion News, Courier-Express and Leader-Vindicator.

Each reading highlighted a different story involving the fun and excitement that comes with getting ready for kindergarten, with every child receiving their own copy of the book to take home. Working with Monica Weeter and Thelma Rhoades at the Star 3 Keystone SMILES Community Learning Center in Knox, Tracy and John read to the children in both the childcare and Pre-K Counts classrooms. They also joined Michele Burgeson, legislative aide to Lt. Gov. and State Sen. Joe Scarnati of Brockway and Child Care operator Terri Pendleton in readings at the Star 2 Pendleton's Child Care Center Brockway. State Rep. Donna Oberlander of Clarion and Pre-K Counts teacher Crissie Shirey read to the kids at the Union PKC site at the United Methodist Church in Sligo, and Brookville Police Chief Ken Dworek and Pre-K Counts teacher Ann Marie Inzana read to children at the PKC site located at the Nazarene Church in Brookville. We can all take advantage of the window of opportunity we have in a child's life, by spending time with them and encouraging them to talk with you by asking open-ended questions. Children also learn a number of skills through play, like language and numeracy, but also teamwork and conflict resolution.

Parents and other family members in Clarion and Jefferson counties can tap into numerous opportunities to learn

more about early learning, parenting classes, parent networks and the like. Clarion County's joint Early Intervention Council and Early Care and Education group meets the third Tuesday each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Riverview Intermediate Unit in Clarion. Jefferson County's joint Kids Council and Early Care and Education group alternates their monthly meetings between the first and second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at rotating sites that include the Head Start office in Brookville, the Goodwill Office in Falls Creek, the Punxsutawney Hospital Conference Room and the Foundry in Reynoldsville. Additional information on each group's activities is available by contacting Tracy Weaver, Community Services Coordinator at Community Action, Inc., at 814-938-3302, ext. 244.



Michele Burgeson, Legislative Aide to Lt. Governor/State Senator Joe Scarnati reads to Pendleton Child Care Center children.

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children is a coordinated statewide campaign to raise awareness about the value of quality early learning and to build responsibility among every Pennsylvanian for the early learning of the children in their lives.

Pennsylvania's Promise for Children is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Build Initiative, Heinz Endowments, The Grable Foundation, William Penn Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Early Learning Keys to Quality, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). For further information please go to: <http://paprom.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=index>.

Early Childhood Education Profile 2008-2009

Helping children reach their promise through quality early education

Making an investment in providing quality early learning opportunities to Pennsylvania's children, particularly those most at-risk for school failure, means making an overall investment in the commonwealth. The Office of Child Development and Early Learning's newly released *Reach and Risk Assessment for FY 2008-2009* demonstrates how far Pennsylvania's investment in early childhood education has come in reaching children, and how far we still have to go to ensure that every child in Pennsylvania has an opportunity for quality education.



No county is immune—children throughout the commonwealth experience risk factors such as low household income. According to the assessment, of the 18 counties comprising the Northwest Regional Key, children in Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence, Venango, McKean and Clearfield are at high risk of school failure. Children in Armstrong, Indiana, Clarion, Jefferson, Warren, Forest and Potter are at moderate-to-high risk of school failure. And children in Beaver, Butler, Elk and Cameron counties are at moderate-to-low risk. However, even counties with moderate or low risks can contain pockets of populations of children who experience risk factors. Risk factors can include the percentage of children under age five who live in a low income household and whose families are living below poverty level, and the percentage of children under age five who live in families where the mother has less than a high school degree. These and other risk factors can lead to a child who is less prepared for and has more difficulty in school, is more likely to exhibit behavioral and academic problems, and is more likely to need special education services.

Pennsylvania has early education programs in place to assist these children with starting their education on the right foot. Programs such as Nurse-Family Partnership, Parent-Child Home Program, Head Start State and Federal, Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, Accountability Block Grants for Pre-K, School-Based Pre-K, Early Intervention and Keystone STARS are available for children. However, one-third (36%) of children under the age of five statewide participates with a state and/or federally funded quality early childhood program. While most counties have the need and the children, not all have the available programs to meet these needs. In the Northwest Regional Key, there are 477 Keystone STARS providers to meet the needs of 79,959 children under the age of five. Likewise, 5,532 children under the age of 5 in the Northwest Regional Key are served through Head Start and 1,929 are served through Pre-K Counts.

The *Reach and County Risk Assessment for FY 2008-2009* report and county data sheets for June 2009 are available on the PA Key website at http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Tools.



Of all the state investments, reach is greatest across the commonwealth for Keystone STARS, which provides service to 15% of children from birth to age five. Three percent of children under age five in Pennsylvania were served in STAR 3 and 4 programs. Statewide as of May 2009, there were 4,282 child care providers within the Keystone STARS system, covering all counties and reaching an estimated 107,546 children under age five.

Investing in Pennsylvania's quality early education initiatives help all children enter school ready to learn. Research consistently shows that children at risk of school failure benefit from quality early learning opportunities, with economic and educational benefits which extend to families, communities, and the commonwealth. Reports on positive child outcomes from programs such as Pre-K Counts show that children who enter quality early education programs developmentally behind their peers can catch up during their early years and enter kindergarten with the skills they need to do well in school. When we invest in quality early education, we invest in Pennsylvania's future.

Keystone STARS Grant Information!!

Grant Request forms are now available!

Grant updates include:

- ❖ Eligibility is based on enrolled **child care** children who receive subsidy or have an IEP/IFSP.
- ❖ Eligibility is calculated using one week in **March or September** of the past year, whichever is most recent.
- ❖ Providers must attest that they are not delinquent in state or federal tax obligations.
- ❖ Grant funds may be used only for child care related expenses. If the provider receives funding from other sources, such as Head Start and Pre-K counts, and wishes to use award funds for facility-wide purchases, the expenditures must be cost allocated.
- ❖ Funds may **not** be used for basic operating costs, to pay mortgage/rent, to purchase vehicles, for any kind of staff entertainment or recognition, for membership in civic, community, and social organizations.
- ❖ It is strongly recommended that providers analyze their technology and use funds to develop or enhance computer or internet access.

Call your STARS Manager for more information or for Grant Award Request forms!

Professional Development Calendar and
Online Registration available at

www.pakeys.org

STARS Technical Assistance

Help is available at no cost if you are in need of assistance navigating Keystone STARS Performance Standards. You may be eligible for up to 40 hours of individualized help to aid you in moving to your next STAR level. STARS Technical Assistance is a program where a consultant works with you individually to help you understand and complete performance standard requirements. For more specific information please call Cathy@ 814-874-0144 x16 or e-mail: cshabtai@earlyconnectionserie.org.

Need to order

PDR Materials?

Please call the

PA Key

at

1-800-284-6031

Environmental Rating Scales

ERS information and resources are available under the ERS link on the PA Keys website www.pakeys.org.

Questions about which scale should be used in a particular classroom/site, the most recent version of PA Position Statements and several other resources are available, including ERS articles that the ERS team has developed. There are also links to the Frank Porter Graham website, Caring For Our Children and the Playground Safety Handbook-all tools used in ERS decision making.

SALMONELLA ALERT

A December 2009 CDC report indicates that there have been twenty-five recent cases of salmonella involving reptiles and amphibians, including water frogs, reported to the agency. According to the CDC report these amphibians and reptiles carry germs in their bodies that can cause serious disease in humans. These animals are not recommended for preschool classrooms or for home settings, either family child care homes or the child's own home.



Webinar: What's New with the Early Childhood Standards?

January - February 2010

Learn what's new about the Early Childhood Standards for Infant/Toddler, Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten. This training is appropriate for practitioners who work with infants, toddlers, pre-kindergarten, and kindergarten children in any capacity. This session will highlight why the revisions were made and how to read the new format of the Standards. The connections to the Standards Aligned System will be covered in detail. Participants must have copies of the Standards and the Continuum to use during the training. Standards can be ordered through our printer fulfill@wavelinedirect.com or can be downloaded from the [PA Key website](#)— Click on Career Development in the middle of the page; click on Standards on the left navigation side. Click on book cover to download.



Participants will be able to:

- Practice using the revised early childhood standards during the session
- Discover the similarities and differences between the newly revised and older version of the early childhood standards
- Connect the Continuum to the Standards booklets
- Understand the Standards Aligned System

Participants must have a computer with Internet access to participate in the Webinar. Internet Explorer 7.0 is needed to access the Webinar. Act 48 hours will be offered. PQAS hours will be offered, also. Act 48 hours will only be available for those participants who register prior to the session date.

Materials List: Copies of the Early Learning Standards- Infant/Toddler and/ or Pre-kindergarten and/or Kindergarten and the Continuum. A computer with Internet access.

How to Get Materials: Order through our printer fulfill@wavelinedirect.com or download from the [PA Key website](#). Copies of all three Standards booklets plus the Continuum are \$20.00. Copies of each of the Infant/Toddler or Pre-kindergarten or Kindergarten Standards booklet are \$7.50. Copies of the Continuum only are \$5.00.

Webinars will be held on the following dates and times:

- 01/21/09 Thursday 9:00 A. M. 11:00 A.M.
- 01/26/09 Tuesday 9:00 A.M. 11:00 A.M.
- 02/01/09 Monday 9:00 A.M. 11:00 A.M.

How to Register for a Webinar Session: To Register for one of these Webinar sessions, please log on to the [PDE Webinar page](#) and locate the Webinar by title “What’s New with the Early Childhood Standards?” Click “description” and then “register” or just click register on the top menu bar. Complete the registration form and submit. On the day of the session, log on to the [PDE Webinar page](#) and join the session. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Gallo, Office of Child Development and Early Learning at cgallo@state.pa.us.



CDA and DC Programs

| 2009-2010 CDA Programs | Please Contact | Phone | Email | Estimated Starting Date |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| WQLN | Kathy Carducci | 814-217-6001 | kcarducci@wqln.org | January 2010 |
| PSU Shenango | Ira Saltz | 724-983-2825 | rlw172@psu.edu | January 2010 |
| PSU Clearfield Clarion/Venango Area | Jacqueline Amor-Zitzelberger | 814-765-7878 Ext. 5 | jlal7@psu.edu | January 2010 |
| PSU Clearfield Clearfield/DuBois | Jacqueline Amor-Zitzelberger | 814-765-7878 Ext. 5 | jlal7@psu.edu | January 2010 |
| | | | | |
| 2009-2010 Director Credential Programs | Please Contact | Phone | Email | Estimated Starting Date |
| | | | | |
| WQLN | Kathy Carducci | 814-217-6001 | kcarducci@wqln.org | January 2010 |



Meet the education requirements for your **CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE** CDA Renewal *at PENN STATE Shenango*

Enroll in one of the following courses that begin the week of January 11 and end the week of April 26, 2010:

HDFS 231 Guidance in Early Childhood Care and Education-Thursdays 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

HDFS 232 Creativity and Play in Early Childhood Care and Education-Tuesdays 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Completion of one 3 credit-hour course meets the entire education requirement for CDA renewal. Read course descriptions under 'H', then Human Development at http://bulletins.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/university_course_descriptions.cfm

Child care practitioners can request a College Tuition Reimbursement Voucher for up to \$1500 to help pay for this course if all the following criteria are met:

A resident of Pennsylvania

A PA DPW registered family child care practitioner; PA DPW certified group child care home practitioner; OR employed in a PA DPW certified child care center/registered home

Employed by a program that is designated a Keystone STARS 1 or higher

Working in that program at least 20 hours per week

Apply for a voucher at www.pakeys.org. If your application is approved, you will receive a voucher indicating that funds will be available to you upon successful completion of the course and a grade of "B" or above. Talk to PSU Shenango **Student Aid Office** (724-983-2804) about using this voucher to cover the majority, but not all of the course expenses.

To enroll in the class, contact: [Admissions Office](#) Penn State Shenango

Phone: 724 983- 2803 e-mail: psushenango@psu.edu

Nrothwest Regional Key: Professional Development Calendar
01/01/2010-03/31/2010

| <u>County</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Start Date</u> | <u>End Date</u> | <u>Start Time</u> | <u>End Time</u> | <u>DPW Hours</u> | <u>PD Organization</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---------------|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Armstrong | Environment Rating Scale (ERS) 101-Foundations | 2/9/2010 | 2/9/2010 | 3:30 PM | 5:30 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Armstrong Memorial Hospital |
| Armstrong | Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) 202 | 2/9/2010 | 2/9/2010 | 6:30 PM | 8:30 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Armstrong Memorial Hospital |
| Armstrong | Start With STARS Orientation | 2/10/2010 | 2/10/2010 | 6:00PM | 9:00PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Armstrong Memorial Hospital |
| Armstrong | Understanding and Planning for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Part 1 of 2 | 2/16/2010 | 2/16/2010 | 6:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Armstrong Memorial Hospital |
| Armstrong | ERS: Survive or Thrive-It's Up To You | 2/18/2010 | 2/18/2010 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Penn State Cooperative Extension |
| Armstrong | Pediatric First Aid | 2/22/2010 | 2/22/2010 | 6:00 PM | 10:00 PM | 4 | Butler County Childrens Center, Inc. | TBA - Armstrong County |
| Armstrong | Facility Professional Development Plan (FPDP) Part 2 of 2 | 2/23/2010 | 2/23/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Armstrong Memorial Hospital |
| Armstrong | Using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire as a Screening Tool | 3/11/2010 | 3/11/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:30 PM | 2.5 | NW Regional Key | Armstrong Memorial Hospital |
| Beaver | ERS: Survive or Thrive-It's Up To You | 1/4/2010 | 1/4/2010 | 3:30 PM | 5:30 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Tiny Tot Child Development Center (Grace Lutheran Church) |
| Beaver | Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) 202 | 1/4/2010 | 1/4/2010 | 6:30 PM | 8:30 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Tiny Tot Child Development Center (Grace Lutheran Church) |
| Beaver | Professionalism is for everyone | 1/9/2010 | 1/9/2010 | 1:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Beaver | Penn State Cooperative Extension-Beaver |
| Beaver | Color Me Healthy | 1/9/2010 | 1/9/2010 | 9:00 AM | 12:00 | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Beaver | Penn State Cooperative Extension-Beaver |
| Beaver | School-age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS) 203 | 1/11/2010 | 1/11/2010 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Tiny Tot Child Development Center (Grace Lutheran Church) |
| Beaver | Infant/toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) 201 | 1/11/2010 | 1/11/2010 | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Tiny Tot Child Development Center (Grace Lutheran Church) |
| Butler | Pediatric First Aid | 1/11/2010 | 1/11/2010 | 6:00 PM | 10:00 PM | 4 | Butler County Childrens Center, Inc. | Butler County Children's Center, Inc. |

Northwest Regional Key: Professional Development Calendar (cont.)

01/01/2010-03/31/2010

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----|---|---|
| Butler | Family Development Credential Program Presented By: Family Pathways-Carol Troxell, MSW & Jeremy Hogue, BA | 1/13/2010 | 1/13/2010 | 5:45 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | Family Pathways | Family Pathways |
| Butler | Understanding and Planning for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Part 1 of 2 | 1/19/2010 | 1/19/2010 | 6:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Butler County Children's Center |
| Butler | Professional Development Seminar: Part I Scenes from a Shelter-Presented By:C. Snyder & P. Sankaranarian | 1/22/2010 | 1/22/2010 | 9:00 AM | 4:30 PM | 7.5 | Family Pathways | Family Pathways |
| Butler | Observing with a purpose | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 8:30 AM | 10:30 AM | 2 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Lawrence | Butler County Children's Center-Mt. Chestnut Site |
| Butler | Safe Practices Indoors and Outdoors | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 8:30 AM | 11:30 AM | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Butler | Butler County Children's Center-Mt. Chestnut Site |
| Butler | Enhance Literacy Experiences in early childhood with activity centers | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 12:30 PM | 3:30 PM | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Butler | Butler County Children's Center-Mt. Chestnut Site |
| Butler | What Do You Do With The Mad That You Feel? | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 8:30 AM | 11:30 AM | 3 | Butler County Childrens Center, Inc. | Butler County Children's Center, Inc. |
| Butler | Challenging Behaviors: Where Do We Begin? | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 12:30 PM | 3:30 PM | 3 | Butler County Childrens Center, Inc. | Butler County Children's Center, Inc. |
| Butler | Building Support for Early Childhood Education: It's All About Relationships | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 8:30 AM | 11:30 AM | 3 | Pittsburgh Area Association for the Education of Young Children | Butler County Children's Center, Inc. |
| Butler | Budgeting for Your Organization | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 12:30 PM | 3:30 PM | 3 | Pittsburgh Area Association for the Education of Young Children | Butler County Children's Center, Inc. |
| Butler | Facility Professional Development Plan (FPDP) Part 2 of 2 | 1/26/2010 | 1/26/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Butler County Children's Center |
| Butler | Work Sampling | 2/6/2010 | 2/6/2010 | 9:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 6 | NW Regional Key | Butler County Children's Center |
| Butler | Understanding and Planning for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Part 1 of 2 | 2/9/2010 | 2/9/2010 | 6:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Penn State Cooperative Extension Indiana County |

Northwest Regional Key: Professional Development Calendar (cont.)

01/01/2010-03/31/2010

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----|--|---|
| Butler | Environment Rating Scale (ERS) 101-Foundations | 2/9/2010 | 2/9/2010 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Butler County Extension Office |
| Butler | Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) 202 | 2/9/2010 | 2/9/2010 | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Butler County Extension Office |
| Butler | New Children and Youth (CYS) Assessment Tools -Presented By: Children and Youth Services-Denna Hays, MSW, LSW | 2/10/2010 | 2/10/2010 | 5:45 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | Family Pathways | Family Pathways |
| Butler | Professional Development Seminar Part II-My Parent has a Mental Illness Presented By: C. Snyder &P. Sankaranarian | 2/12/2010 | 2/12/2010 | 9:00 AM | 4:30 PM | 7.5 | Family Pathways | Family Pathways |
| Butler | Ounce Scale and Observation | 2/13/2010 | 2/13/2010 | 9:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 6 | NW Regional Key | Butler County Children's Center |
| Butler | School-age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS) 203 | 2/23/2010 | 2/23/2010 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Butler County Extension Office |
| Butler | Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) 201 | 2/23/2010 | 2/23/2010 | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Butler County Extension Office |
| Butler | Developmental Progress Monitoring and Use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Presented By: Lydia Cerroni, MS | 3/10/2010 | 3/10/2010 | 5:45 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | Family Pathways | Family Pathways |
| Cameron | Childhood Obesity | 1/30/2010 | 1/30/2010 | 9:00 AM | 2:30 PM | 4 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Elk/Cameron Counties | Cameron County Recreation Center |
| Clarion | Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential | 1/11/2010 | 6/28/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:30 PM | 60 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Clearfield/Jefferson County | Clarion University of Pennsylvania |
| Clearfield | Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential | 1/7/2010 | 6/24/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:30 PM | 60 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Clearfield/Jefferson County | Lock Haven University - Clearfield Campus |
| Clearfield | Family Child Care Ratings Scale Revised (FCCERS-R) 204 | 1/14/2010 | 1/14/2010 | 6:30 PM | 9:30 PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Hampton Inn |
| Clearfield | Observing with a Purpose | 1/18/2010 | 1/18/2010 | 7:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Hampton Inn |
| Clearfield | Integrating the Early Childhood Standards into Curriculum and Assessment | 2/6/2010 | 2/6/2010 | 9:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 6 | NW Regional Key | Clearfield Hampton Inn |
| Clearfield | GET ORGANIZED! | 2/15/2010 | 2/15/2010 | 7:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 2 | | BARBI'S HOUSE |

Northwest Regional Key: Professional Development Calendar (cont.)

01/01/2010-03/31/2010

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|---|--|--|
| Crawford | Start with STARS Orientation | 1/9/2010 | 1/9/2010 | 10:00 AM | 1:00 PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Meadville YMCA |
| Crawford | Moving Towards Best Practice: STARS Orientation Part 2 | 1/14/2010 | 1/14/2010 | 6:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Cornerstone Childcare |
| Elk | Observing with a Purpose | 1/19/2010 | 1/19/2010 | 6:30 PM | 8:30 PM | 2 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Clearfield/Jefferson County | Ridgway Library |
| Erie | Method Behind the Madness Science | 1/6/2010 | 1/6/2010 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2 | NW SACC - Northwest Regional Key | Eastside YMCA |
| Erie | Color Me Healthy | 1/7/2010 | 1/7/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | WQLN Educational | Barb's Care-a-Lot |
| Erie | Teaching Across the Curriculum with Your Favorite Authors | 1/9/2010 | 1/9/2010 | 8:30 AM | 12:30 PM | 4 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |
| Erie | What Do You Do With the Mad That You Feel | 1/16/2010 | 1/16/2010 | 8:30 AM | 11:30 AM | 3 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |
| Erie | Ounce Scale and Observation | 1/16/2010 | 1/16/2010 | 9:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 6 | NW Regional Key | Northwest Institute of Research (NW Regional Key) |
| Erie | Northwest Key Professional Development Day-Center Based Providers | 1/18/2010 | 1/18/2010 | 8:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 6 | NW Regional Key | Penn State Behrend-REDC (Research & Economic Development Building) |
| Erie | Learning Discipline | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 8:30 AM | 11:30 AM | 3 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |
| Erie | Family Child Care Ratings Scale Revised (FCCERS-R) 204 | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 9:00 | 12:00 | 3 | NW Regional Key | Northwest Regional Key |
| Erie | PedFACTs with CPR - Child & Infant | 1/24/2010 | 1/24/2010 | 1:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 5 | American Red Cross - Erie Chapter | A Child's World Day Care and Learning Center |
| Erie | PedFACTs plus CPR - Child & Infant | 1/30/2010 | 1/30/2010 | 9:00 AM | 2:00 PM | 5 | American Red Cross - Erie Chapter | American Red Cross |
| Erie | CBK/PDR | 1/30/2010 | 1/30/2010 | 8:30 AM | 1:30 PM | 5 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |
| Erie | PedFACTs plus CPR - Child & Infant | 1/31/2010 | 1/31/2010 | 1:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 5 | American Red Cross - Erie Chapter | A Child's World Day Care and Learning Center |
| Erie | Observing with a Purpose | 2/3/2010 | 2/3/2010 | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Eastside YMCA |
| Erie | Challenging Behaviors | 2/6/2010 | 2/6/2010 | 8:30 AM | 11:30 PM | 3 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |
| Erie | FPDP - Facility Professional Development Plan | 2/13/2010 | 2/13/2010 | 1:00PM | 3:00PM | 2 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |
| Erie | CQI - Continuous Quality Improvement | 2/13/2010 | 2/13/2010 | 9:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 3 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |
| Erie | Early Literacy: Lullabies to Literacy | 2/20/2010 | 2/20/2010 | 8:30 AM | 11:30 AM | 3 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |

Northwest Regional Key: Professional Development Calendar (cont.)

01/01/2010-03/31/2010

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|---|---|---|
| Erie | Developmentally Appropriate Practices and the Early Learning Standards | 2/25/2010 | 2/25/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Pennbriar Child Care |
| Erie | PedFACTs plus CPR - Child & Infant | 2/27/2010 | 2/27/2010 | 9:00 AM | 2:00 PM | 5 | American Red Cross - Erie Chapter | American Red Cross |
| Erie | 1-2-3 Magic (Part 1 of 2) | 3/13/2010 | 3/13/2010 | 8:30 AM | 12:30 PM | 4 | WQLN Educational Services | WQLN Fatica Learning Center |
| Erie | Environment Rating Scale (ERS) 101-Foundations | 3/15/2010 | 3/15/2010 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Raymond M. Blasco, M.D. Memorial Library |
| Erie | Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R) 202 | 3/15/2010 | 3/15/2010 | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Raymond M. Blasco M.D. Memorial Library |
| Erie | School-age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS) 203 | 3/22/2010 | 3/22/2010 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Raymond M. Blasco M.D. Memorial Library |
| Erie | Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) 201 | 3/22/2010 | 3/22/2010 | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Raymond M. Blasco M.D. Memorial Library |
| Erie | PedFACTs plus CPR - Child & Infant | 3/27/2010 | 3/27/2010 | 9:00 AM | 2:00 PM | 5 | American Red Cross - Erie Chapter | American Red Cross |
| Indiana | Start With STARS Orientation | 1/6/2010 | 1/6/2010 | 6:00PM | 9:00PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Penn State Cooperative Extension - Indiana County |
| Indiana | Using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires as a Screening Tool | 1/12/2010 | 1/12/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 0 | NW Regional Key | Penn State Cooperative Extension Indiana County |
| Indiana | A Reggio Inspired Program: Incorporating Creativity and Documentation | 1/13/2010 | 1/13/2010 | 6:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 3 | Indiana County Child Day Care Program, Inc. | University Early Care and Education Center |
| Indiana | Color Me Healthy for Home based providers | 1/16/2010 | 1/16/2010 | 12:30 | 3:30 PM | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Indiana | Penn State Cooperative Extension-Indiana |
| Indiana | Enhance Literacy Experiences in early childhood with activity centers | 1/16/2010 | 1/16/2010 | 9:00 AM | 12:00 | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Indiana | Penn State Cooperative Extension-Indiana |
| Indiana | Work Sampling | 1/16/2010 | 1/16/2010 | 9:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 6 | Northwest Regional Key | Comfort Inn - Indiana |
| Indiana | Encouragement vs. Praise: Using Encouragement to Build Self-Esteem | 1/21/2010 | 1/21/2010 | 6:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 3 | Indiana County Child Day Care Program, Inc. | University Early Care and Education Center |
| Indiana | School-Age Links to Learning: Theme - and - Project Based Learning | 1/22/2010 | 1/22/2010 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 2 | NW SACC - Northwest Regional Key | Trinity United Methodist Church |

Northwest Regional Key: Professional Development Calendar (cont.)

01/01/2010-03/31/2010

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|-----|---|---|
| Indiana | Ounce Scale and Observation | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 9:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 6 | NW Regional Key | Comfort Inn - Indiana |
| Indiana | The Basics of Observation | 2/17/2010 | 2/17/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Penn State Cooperative Extension Indiana County |
| Indiana | Infant/toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) 201 | 2/18/2010 | 2/18/2010 | 1:00 PM | 3:00 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Penn State Cooperative Extension |
| Indiana | Work Sampling Online Training | 2/20/2010 | 2/20/2010 | 9:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Indiana Technology Center |
| Indiana | Ounce Scale Online Training | 2/20/2010 | 2/20/2010 | 1:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 3 | NW Regional Key | Indiana Technology Center |
| Indiana | Facility Professional Development Plan (FPDP) Part 2 of 2 | 3/9/2010 | 3/9/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Penn State Cooperative Extension Indiana County |
| Jefferson | Observing with a Purpose | 1/21/2010 | 1/21/2010 | 6:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Kids 'N Us |
| Jefferson | Pediatric First Aid | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 9:00 AM | 2:00 PM | 5 | Clearfield-Jefferson American Red Cross | Little Hand Day care |
| Jefferson | Reading Makes Cents | 1/25/2010 | 1/25/2010 | 6:30 PM | 8:30 PM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Playhouse Children's Center |
| Lawrence | Basics of observing children | 1/11/2010 | 1/11/2010 | 5:00 PM | 7:00 PM | 2 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Lawrence | Penn State Cooperative Extension - Lawrence |
| Lawrence | Observing with a purpose | 1/11/2010 | 1/11/2010 | 7:00 | 9:00 PM | 2 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Lawrence | Penn State Cooperative Extension - Lawrence |
| Lawrence | Caring for infants and toddlers-part 1 | 1/27/2010 | 2/18/2010 | 6:30pm | 9:30 PM | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Lawrence | Penn State Coop. Ext. - Lawrence |
| Lawrence | Caring for infants and toddlers-part 2 | 2/18/2010 | 2/18/2010 | 6:30pm | 9:30 PM | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Lawrence | Penn State Coop. Ext. - Lawrence |
| Lawrence | Soaring with Professionalism | 3/8/2010 | 3/8/2010 | 6:30 PM | 9:30 PM | 3 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Lawrence | Penn State Cooperative Extension - Lawrence |
| Lawrence | Pediatric First Aid | 3/15/2010 | 3/15/2010 | 6:00 PM | 10:00 PM | 4 | Butler County Childrens Center, Inc. | TBA - Lawrence County |
| McKean | Linking Schedules, Standards, and Assessment/Reviewing ECERS-R Improvements Plans | 1/18/2010 | 1/18/2010 | 9:00 AM | 2:00 PM | 4.5 | Pennsylvania Key | Seneca Highlands IU #9 |
| Mercer | Pediatric First Aid | 2/8/2010 | 2/8/2010 | 6:00 PM | 10:00 PM | 4 | Butler County Childrens Center, Inc. | TBA - Mercer County |
| Mercer | Fighting Children's Obesity Part 1: They Are What They Eat | 2/10/2010 | 2/10/2010 | 6:30 PM | 8:30 PM | 2 | Penn State Coop Ext. - Mercer | Leslie N. Firth Learning Center |

Nrothwest Regional Key: Professional Development Calendar (cont.)
01/01/2010-03/31/2010

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Potter | Observing with a Purpose | 1/23/2010 | 1/23/2010 | 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM | 2 | NW Regional Key | Alliance Day Care & Learning Center |
| Venango | Child & Infant CPR w/ Pediatric First Aid | 1/12/2010 | 1/12/2010 | 5:30 PM | 9:30 PM | 0 | American Red Cross - Allegheny Chapter | Allegheny Region Chapter |
| Venango | Environment Rating Scale (ERS) 101-Foundations | 3/9/2010 | 3/9/2010 | 3:30 PM | 5:30 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Quality Inn |
| Venango | Infant/toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R) 201 | 3/9/2010 | 3/9/2010 | 6:30 PM | 8:30 PM | 2 | Pennsylvania Key | Quality Inn |



STAR Spotlight

Joette Gibbs is a STAR 3 group home provider in Mercer County. Joette hasn't always worked with children, previously working in the accounting field for 19 years. In 1996 she opened a childcare facility. Joette found networking with other providers in the Shenango Valley to be helpful and it was through another provider that Joette found out about Keystone STARS. She recognized Keystone STARS to be just what she needed to help run a quality childcare facility. "Even though it takes a lot of work and training to move from one STAR level to the next, I knew this program would help me strive for excellence in nurturing young children. Keystone STARS helped me recognize childcare as a profession, not just a babysitting service."

Joette enrolled her childcare facility in Keystone STARS in January of 2005, quickly moving to a STAR 1. In May of 2006, Joette's facility attained STAR 2 status and in September of 2009 Joette's facility attained their STAR 3!

Although Joette has not qualified for grant money for the past 3 years due to a lack of enrolled subsidized children, she has been able to take advantage of the other benefits of STARS such as the TEACH program and priority in receiving Child Development Associate (CDA) and director training. Joette and her three staff members all participated in CDA programs through Penn State Shenango. Joette also completed the Director Credential program there. Even now, Joette continues to further her education as she is taking classes to obtain additional early childhood credits.

Joette's facility also took advantage of a free ERS assessment where a professional assessor evaluated her program and made recommendations for improvements which helped her move to a STAR 3. She sees improvements to her staff as they have taken advantage of professional development opportunities. As well, the parents of children in her facility are actively involved, taking advantage of scheduled parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's development.

In the past year, Keystone STARS added additional criteria for providers to qualify for grant funding, allowing Joette to qualify for grants. This enabled her to award staff bonuses and purchase educational toys and play equipment.

Joette's facility is currently full with a waiting list, Joette attributes her success to their level of quality, "Parents are looking for quality in their childcare services. They want to make sure their children are not only safe and well-cared for, but educated and prepared for school. So I feel that being a part of Keystone STARS is a good sign of quality childcare."



Celebrating the Newest STARS

These facilities demonstrated commitment to quality achieving or maintaining the following STARS designations

during the period September 23, 2009 through December 18, 2009

STAR 4

County YMCA
 YMCA St. Peters
 Horace Mann Elementary School-Age Program
 YMCA Early Learning University
 Trinity School-Age Program
 YMCA Perry Elementary School
 YMCA Wattsburg Elementary
 YMCA Sarah Hearn Pres.Church
 Homer Center Elem. School-Age
 Graham Station Child and Family Center
 DuBois Child and Family Center
 Grand Beginnings CC - West
 St. Vincent Child Care Center
 Forest Green Children's Center
 Jefferson DeFrees Family Center
 YMCA Camp Sherwin
 Butler County Children's Center, Inc.
 Little Champs Child Development Center
 Tiny Tots Child Development Center
 Grand Beginnings CC -East
 Houtzdale Child and Family Center
 YMCA Elk Valley
 Eastside YMCA Day Care Center
 YMCA/Northwestern Elementary
 Butler County Family YMCA Day Care
 Bonnie Caldwell Family Child Care Home
 Ben Franklin Elementary School-Age Program

Edinboro
 Waterford
 Indiana
 Edinboro
 Indiana
 Erie
 Erie
 Erie
 Homer City
 Philipsburg
 DuBois
 Indiana
 Erie
 Meadville
 Warren
 Lake City
 Butler
 Meadville
 Rochester
 Indiana
 Philipsburg
 Lake City
 Erie
 Albion
 Butler
 Curwensville
 Indiana

Meadville Children's Center
 NYCE House
 Somewhere Over the Rainbow
 Butler YMCA - St. Luke's Site
 Awareness Ministries - Safe Haven
 St. Martin Center, Inc.
 Carrie A. Mitcham Family Day Care Home
 Melinda Finlay Child Care Home
 New Adventures Child Care & Learning Center
 Jubilee Daycare/Preschool
 Kelly Family Daycare
 Kimberly S. Bowman FCCH
 Edith M. Schatz FCCH
 Dr. George J. D'Angelo Boys & Girls Club of Erie

STAR 2

Meadville
 Ford City
 Zelenople
 Cabot
 Erie
 Erie
 Centerville
 Hyde
 Erie
 Clarks Mills
 Russell
 Knox
 Saint Marys
 Erie

STAR 4 Acc.

Jean L. Maines FCCH
 Tender Care Learning Center - Hermitage
 Tender Care Learning Center - New Castle
 Penn State Behrend Early Learning Center
 Franklin School-Age Child Development Center
 University Child Care and Education Center
 Linda Woodling Family Child Care Home
 Franklin Child Development Center
 SRU/SGA Preschool & Child Care Center
 Kindercare Learning Center #868

STAR 3 Acc.

KinderCare Learning Center #1278

STAR 3

Glenwood YMCA Day Care Center
 YMCA Fairview Elementary
 Country Seasons Childcare
 Summit UMC - YMCA Program
 YMCA Learning Center
 Iroquois School District
 St. Paul's Child Development Center
 MaryAnn McKendrick-Passmore
 Children's Aid Society Elementary Care
 B.C.C.C. Children's Creative Learning Center
 Creative Kids Learning Center
 Charlotte A. Switzer
 Keystone SMILES Community Child Care Center
 Kids Korner Children's Center (Shenango)
 Kids Korner Children's Center (Alan)
 Children's Aid Society in Clearfield County
 Hart to Hart Childcare
 Lollipop U Day Care
 Joette Gibbs Day Care
 Titusville Learning Center
 Mercyhurst Child Learning Center
 Lifesteps Early Education Center
 Lifesteps, Inc. - Site II
 Early Connections - Harbor Homes Early Learning

Clearfield
 Hermitage
 New Castle
 Erie
 Franklin
 Indiana
 Woodland
 Franklin
 Slippery Rock
 Cranberry Twp.

Erie
 Erie
 Fairview
 Linesville
 Erie
 Franklin
 Erie
 Erie
 Curwensville
 Clearfield
 Butler
 Clarion
 Stoneboro
 Knox
 Greenville
 Greenville
 Clearfield
 Aliquippa
 Fairview
 Hermitage
 Titusville
 Erie
 Butler
 Butler
 Erie



Celebrating the Newest STARS (continued)

These facilities demonstrated commitment to quality achieving or maintaining the following STARS designations

during the period September 23, 2009 through December 18, 2009

STAR 1

Julie Swiderski Group Day Care
 Bryan's Day Care
 Rolling Fields, Inc.
 Winnie Jackson Group Day Care
 Brenda J. McCarty Family Child Care Home
 Safe Haven
 Oil City YMCA - St. Stephen School
 YMCA Younger Days Pre-school Center
 Oil City YMCA - Younger Days Child Care #2
 Cradle to Crayons
 Jen's Group Day Care
 Bright Morning Star Child Care & Preschool
 Nanette McAfoose's Lil' Pumpkin Patch
 Rolling Fields, Inc.
 Tiffany S. Johnson FCCH
 Small World Day Care
 Arnot Child Care & Learning Center
 Juliet Maines FCCH
 Pipsqueaks Day Care
 Gethsemane United Methodist Church-W. Branch
 Lora Vernor's ABC Academy
 Lori Ann Johnson Family Day Care
 Margaret G. Kunkle FCCH



Lake City
 Beaver Falls
 Conneautville
 Erie
 Seneca
 Erie
 Oil City
 Oil City
 Oil City
 New Castle
 Indiana
 Erie
 Meadville
 Conneautville
 Erie
 Apollo
 Port Allegany
 W. Decatur
 Ellwood City
 Allport
 Leechburg
 Warren
 Indiana



Juan's Family Day Care
 Shawna R. Konopko FCCH
 Riverside After School Program
 Wanda K. Crispin's Family Daycare Home
 Linda J. Fulton FCCH
 Safe Haven II
 JoAnn C. Thompson FCCH
 Monica E. Atkinson FCCH
 Dianne M. Irwin FDCH
 Ann's Little One's Daycare
 Beck Family Child Care Home
 Karen A. Moser Family Daycare
 Beaver County YMCA at Hopewell Mem. Jr. High
 Michelle Show's Family Daycare
 Marlene Gilkinson Child Care
 Brenda J. Wisor FCCH

STAR 1

Brookville
 Ridgway
 Ellwood City
 Leeper
 Indiana
 Erie
 Indiana
 Erie
 Meadville
 East Springfield
 Clearfield
 Oil City
 Aliquippa
 Seneca
 North East
 Philipsburg



Start With STARS

McKinney Family Daycare
 Brandi Leigh Johnson Family Daycare
 Joan E. Karns Family Child Care Home
 Harris Family Day Care
 Mecisha Lucas
 TLC Home Daycare
 Cochranon
 Oil City
 Meadville
 Erie
 Erie
 Erie

Learn on YOUR time!

Good News! Better Kid Care is back up and running.

To access professional development opportunities and educational information on caring for children

go to: <http://betterkidcare.psu.edu/index.html>



Focus on Early Childhood Mental Health



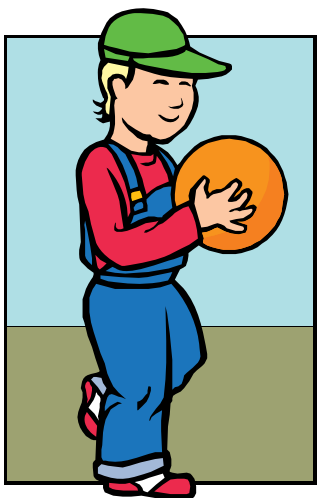
Flexible, Fearful or Feisty: Temperamental Differences

More than 30 years ago, two pediatricians named Alexander Thomas and Stella Chess, identified three types of temperaments (personalities) in young children: easy, slow-to-warm-up and difficult (or “flexible, fearful or feisty”). Most parents who have more than one child, as well as those who care for young children, know that even in the same family children often have distinctly different ways of responding to their environments. Unfortunately, however, many parents and caregivers don’t always use this knowledge to respect their children’s distinct personalities but expect every child to behave the same.

Temperament expresses itself in at least five different ways: emotional intensity, activity level, tolerance for frustration, reaction to new people and reaction to change. The easy/flexible child can adapt to change easily, for example, while the difficult/feisty child will resist it, sometimes strenuously. The slow-to-warm-up or fearful child may seem very shy and clingy while the easy child jumps right into new social situations.

Temperament just is

“Temperament is not something your child chooses, nor is it something that you created....The goal isn’t to change your child’s temperament, but to help him or her make the most of her unique temperament—both its strengths and the areas where she may need more support” (Zero to Three). Caregivers often blame parents, and parents often blame themselves for not being good parents or blame the child for not behaving according to their expectations when in fact the child is simply expressing his or her own unique temperament.



Tips for working with different temperaments:

Understand your own temperament.

Pay attention to the unique characteristics of each child’s temperament and accept the child for who he or she is.

Acknowledge that the child’s temperament might be part of the reason for a particular behavior. Adapt routines or change the physical environment at home or in child care to avoid situations that cause “meltdowns.”

Recognize that each temperament has its strengths and your job as a parent or caregiver is to help the child learn how to function effectively.

Resources:

Raising Resilient Children, by Robert Brooks and Samuel Goldstein (New York: McGraw Hill, 2001), chapter 6.

“Tips on Temperament,” from Zero to Three; www.zerotothree.org (search for Temperament)

“Temperamental Differences,” by David Elkind, Ph.D.; <http://www.justaskbaby.com/blogs/professor-elkind/temperamental-differences>

“Temperament,” Wikipedia; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temperament>



Northwest Regional Key
3823 W. 12th Street
Erie, PA 16505



NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ERIE, PA

PERMIT NO. 92

"Children are our most valuable
natural resource." ~ *Herbert Hoover* ~

