No one wants to think a disaster will strike their area but it can happen to anyone, anywhere. So the best action to take is to be prepared ahead of time and know how to best help the children you care for in your centers and homes.

“In the wake of any kind of emergency or disaster - large or small - children may feel anxious about their own safety and security.”* Disasters affect children differently than they affect adults.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website**, children are more likely to become severely injured and may not be able to explain their injury or illness thus needing assistance from the adults around them. Mental stress from a disaster can also be harder for children.

When working with children there are some key things to remember if a disaster strikes. Children need the adults in their life to remain calm and in control, let them know it is okay to feel upset, tell them the truth but stick to the facts and keep your explanations developmentally appropriate, and monitor your own stress level. For more information on these tips you can go to http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisissafety/terror_general.aspx. For some guidance on disaster preparedness, you can go to www.naccrra.org

It’s never too soon to be prepared for a disaster.

—Cristie Dunbar

Information taken from sites listed in article and those listed below:

*http://www.naccrra.org/programs-services/crisis-and-disaster-resources

**http://emergency.cdc.gov/children/differences.asp

### In this issue:

- **Ask Provider Services**
- **Get WVIT!**
  - WVIT.org
- **Conflict Resolution**
  - ACDS Corner
- **Family Child Care Association News**
  - WVFCCA News
- **Professional Development Calendar**
  - Medication Administration & Child Abuse and Neglect Training Information
  - Description of Training Sessions
  - Link Inclement Weather Policy
- **EarlyCareShareWV.org**
  - Huntington Area Early Childhood Conference 2015
- **Looking for a Portable Sink?**
  - First Aid & CPR Information
- **What Messages Does Your Early Childhood Environment Convey?**
Q: What grants are available to providers through Link CCR&R?

A: There are two grants through the Link office that are available to family child care homes and facilities. We have health and safety items that are needed in the home after a new provider is approved by the state. These “start-up” items assist the provider to meet Regulatory requirements and includes smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, digital carbon monoxide detectors, digital thermometers, and flashlights.

We also have a monetary grant that family child care homes and facilities can apply for once every fiscal year (July 1st through June 30th) for up to $250 for family child care homes and $500 for facilities. This grant can cover a variety of things to help the provider meet regulatory requirements and improve the quality of care. The provider can apply to be reimbursed for the cost of getting a physical or CPR/first aid trainings, attending child care trainings (such as conferences), processing/application fees for WV State Training & Registry System (WV STARS) and the State Association of Family Child Care Providers, or to become accredited. It can also cover items needed for child care such as baby gates, cribs, high chairs, indoor and outdoor toys, books, educational games, etc. There is a list of approvable items with the instructions for this grant. Family child care homes may be approved for up to $500 if there is a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) item that is required by the DHHR Regulatory Specialist. A copy of the CAP is needed with the application.

Once an application is approved, the provider will receive a check within 30 – 45 days. The provider would then need to purchase the items and send a copy of the purchase receipt back to the Link office within 30 days. It is very important that copies of the receipts are submitted within 30 days and are for the items requested. If a provider applies for this grant again in the next fiscal year but did not return receipts for the previous year, they would not be eligible for another grant. A provider can apply anytime during the fiscal year but the grant money is limited so applying earlier in the fiscal year is best.

If you have any other questions, you can email one of us in the Link CCR&R Provider Services office: pam.k.williams@wv.gov, leigh.ann.cazad@wv.gov, or Shelia.myers@wv.gov. Check out our new website www.linkccrr.org for other helpful information.

FOOD REIMBURSEMENT

For information on enrolling in the Family Child Care Food Program to help with the costs of meals and snacks you serve the children in your care, please contact the following agency in your area:

- **Central Child Care**
  Serving Boone County
  (304) 382-0797

- **Pride of Logan County**
  Serving Logan County
  (304) 752-6868 or (304) 752-1047

- **River Valley Family Child Care Food Program**
  Serving Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, Mingo, Putnam and Wayne Counties
  (304) 523-3031 or 1-800-581-3031

Food for Your Soul

Do you like to “yack?” Do you like to snack? If so, join us for an exciting evening of fun and participation amongst fellow Putnam County caregivers on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 from 6-8:30 pm at First Baptist Church Hurricane! We are lucky to have Licensing Specialists coming for a Q&A session! Our newly founded group, “Yack ‘n Snack” invites you to become the caregiver you want to be with the help of others. This input will encourage you to try new ideas and will help put a smile back on your face. Seating is limited to 20 but ideas are unlimited. Call now to register for “Yack ‘n Snack” or for more information at 304-552-9552 (Dana). We hope to see you there!
The West Virginia Infant/Toddler Specialists Network is busy as always promoting excellence in care for our youngest citizens. To that end, a new website has been developed for you to access. The site will offer overviews of the programs offered, the latest news, upcoming professional development opportunities and grant announcements as they become available. You will be able to ask questions to the Specialists and offer suggestions of how the Network can better serve you. The website will go live this fall. Be sure to add it to your list of favorites!

There is a new resource at your fingertips—introducing WVIT.org! As the cold weather is fast approaching and you are stuck inside on some cold wintry day consider spending time exploring WVIT.org.

This is a webpage dedicated to and supported by the Infant Toddler Specialist Network for West Virginia’s infant/toddler caregivers. Here, you will find a nice variety of articles regarding infant/toddler caregiving. Some of the titles include “Brain Based Parenting” and “Providing Pleasing Spaces for Infants, Toddlers and Their Families.”

You will also find the history of the Infant/Toddler Specialist Network—what it does and how it came to be. Have you ever wondered what WVIT I and WVIT II is all about? You can get a quick overview on this site. You will also find information about conferences, trainings, resources, and other events such as Great Beginnings, Spring Summits, Communities of Practice, and approved curriculum.

You can also download the West Virginia Early Learning Standards for Infants and Toddlers and the 2014 Child Care regulations. You can access the quarterly WVIT e-newsletter. Another nice feature is easy contact and networking with the other Infant Toddler Specialist in the state.

Take a few minutes to explore this new website designed just for you. As always feel free to contact with me questions or concerns.

---

**WINTER WVIT I SCHEDULE**

Link Child Care Resource & Referral  
611 7th Avenue,  
Huntington, WV 25701

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WVIT I for Administrators</th>
<th>January 7th</th>
<th>9:00am-4:00PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>January 21st</td>
<td>10:00am-3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>January 23rd</td>
<td>10:00am-2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>January 28th</td>
<td>10:00am-3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>January 30th</td>
<td>10:00am-2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 5</td>
<td>February 11th</td>
<td>10:00am-2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 6</td>
<td>February 13th</td>
<td>10:00am-3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 7</td>
<td>February 18th</td>
<td>10:00am-2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 8</td>
<td>February 20th</td>
<td>10:00am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 9</td>
<td>February 25th</td>
<td>10:00am-3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 10</td>
<td>February 27th</td>
<td>10:00am-12:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Schedule subject to change, participants will be informed in advance

---

Paula Stewart  
Infant Toddler Specialist  
(304) 523-9540 Ext. 228  
1-800-894-9540  
Paula.L.Stewart@wv.gov

To register to participate in WVIT I or II, please email your name, phone number, and your place of employment, and your Director’s name and phone number to Paula Stewart at Paula.L.Stewart@wv.gov
"I’m not your friend anymore!" These words can set the stage for a really rough day in your child care setting, but getting to the root of the problem can go a long way in smoothing things over. Here are some tips to help children through those rough times.

Conflict resolution can be tricky for the pre-school aged set. Oh, who am I kidding? It can be tricky for ALL ages, but teachers and child care providers can help children learn to navigate these delicate waters simply by being present in the moment and offering support to the children involved. Throughout the process, the adult should act as a neutral facilitator with the goal of helping the children agree on a solution to their problem that will satisfy everyone involved.

As soon as a conflict between children is apparent, the closest available adult should calmly approach the scene and ask if help is needed. Encourage the children to express their strong feelings, one at a time, giving them the time and acceptance they need to make their feelings known. Once all involved parties have had an opportunity to share their feelings on the situation, begin to assist them in working toward an agreeable solution. This may mean that the adult will need to gather some information first in order to have a clear understanding of the problem. When the issue at hand is clear, restate the problem to clarify the details and make sure everyone is on the same page. Lastly, ask the children to come up with a reasonable solution to the problem together, and once it’s decided, make sure everyone is in complete agreement and understanding of this solution. When the children transition back into play, it may be necessary for the adult to facilitate implementation of the solution, so stay close by for a bit, and be sure to acknowledge all their efforts at working together to solve their problem. They will be proud of themselves and with good reason!

Giving children the tools to learn to solve their own problems can have several wonderful and lasting side effects: it boosts confidence and self-esteem (“I know how to solve problems and come up with solutions that work for everyone”), it bolsters independence (because the children do not need an adult present at all times to play referee), and it gives children an edge on building and maintaining friendships.

If you would like additional suggestions on helping children with conflict resolution, please get in touch with me and I will be happy to offer my assistance in any way that I can! My contact info is below.

Best Regards,
Shannon

For more information, Contact Shannon Taylor
Behavior Consultant
(304) 523-9540 Ext. 432
1-800-894-9540
Shannon.N.Taylor@wv.gov

The Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) is a training opportunity for those working in the field of early care and education. It is a way to learn best practice and the curriculum taught is based on current research. The classes are taught by professionals who also have experience in the field. The program is four semesters, taught one evening per week and each semester is 15 weeks.

ACDS Journeyperson (Graduate of the ACDS Program)

An ACDS Journeyperson is a graduate of the program and has received their official Department of Labor certificate. Once your certificate is received, you’re eligible to attend Journeyperson trainings. Typically, two are held each year in various parts of the state. The trainings focus on the most recent research and information relevant to early childhood professionals. Participants receive WV STARS training hours as well as a $50.00 stipend. If you are a graduate of the ACDS program and are not receiving information for these trainings, please contact Sherrie Myers at 304-523-0433 or smyers@rvcds.org.

ACDS Local Councils

ACDS is supported through local councils in each county where classes are taught. These councils are responsible for the administration of the ACDS classes in their area. Local councils typically meet one time each semester to make arrangements for upcoming classes. Councils need the help and input from those in the early care and education field. If you are a graduate of the ACDS program or director of a childcare program and you are interested in becoming an ACDS local council member in your area, please contact Sherrie Myers at 304-523-0433 or smyers@rvcds.org.

For more information about the ACDS program and instructors you may visit the website at www.wvacds.org
The Cabell Wayne Family Child Care Association would like to invite all providers from Cabell and Wayne counties to join us. All of our meetings are registered with WV STARS and you will receive ONE or TWO hours WV STARS credit. We also offer other trainings which are WV STARS registered. If you have any questions feel free to call Kathy Baker, President, at 304-529-6246, or text me at 304-638-7578, or email mrskathys@comcast.net to be added to our email list and start receiving information about the association and other helpful information. We would like to have all providers email address so you can be added to the listserv. We hope to see some new providers at the meetings.

Next meeting:

December 6th @11:30 @ Link Office

Lorna Adkins, WVFCCA President
Experience: 14 years
Motto: Work smarter, not harder!

Abbie Daniel, WVFCCA VP & Treasurer
Experience: 4 years
Motto: Promote yourself and your business! Use technology where possible!

Dana Slater, WVFCCA Member
Experience: 13 years
Motto: It takes a village! Use your community to support your growth!

Tammy Eubank, WVFCCA Co-Secretary
Experience: 30 years
Motto: Use your resources! They’re here to help!

Kathy Baker, WVFCCA Affiliate Associations Coordinator
Experience: 23 years
Motto: We are all professionals! We should promote quality and professionalism among FCC providers everywhere!

WVFCCA
P.O. Box 3153
Huntington, WV 25702
(304) 634-5545
Email: wvfamiliychildcare@yahoo.com
Website: westvirginiafamilychildcare.com

News

The WVFCCA is excited to announce we have local associations in 19 counties now! Chances are if you are looking for fellowship, trainings, and up to date information there is a local family child care association waiting to help you. Give us a call if you are interested in starting a local association or helping your association in your county. We would like to welcome aboard our newest local Presidents: Jamie Denman in Harrison County, Melissa Simmons in Greenbrier County, Ina Jo Masteller in Marshall County, and Angela Johnson (President) and Lilacare Whitehair (Vice President) in Tucker County. We look forward to working with these new local associations.

Start looking for our training schedule for 2015. Second Helping Trainings are coming your way. What is Second Helping? It is very specialized trainings made especially for the field of family child care. Our executive board has been trained and we are currently doing trainings as often as we can across the state. If this interests you, let us know so that we can be sure to add your location to our list.

Our Christmas Party is right around the corner. We hope you have gotten your RSVP to us. It’s not too late to join our association so Santa can bring you something good this year! Our Membership Drive has been extended until November 10th. Free food, entertainment, and gifts! What more could a family child care provider ask for? I know of one more thing. The SECRET we’ve been keeping will be announced at the party so make sure you are there to hear the biggest news ever in the state that is for family child care providers only!!!

We look forward to hearing from you soon!!
IMPORTANT TRAINING INFORMATION

1. According to WV STARS, if you miss 15 or more minutes during the course of any training session, you will not receive credit for that training.

2. For safety and security purposes as well as the respect for other participants, you may not bring children to any Link training sessions.

3. You must bring a picture ID to all trainings. If the Trainer does not know you well enough to identify you, they will ask for Photo ID. Please have patience as we get to know all of our providers.

4. Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during training sessions.

5. Please register for training sessions at least 48 hours in advance to allow the Trainer to prepare enough materials. If you need to cancel your registration, please do so at least 24 hours before the training is scheduled, if possible.

6. The trainer may ask you to leave the training session and/or notify your Regulatory or Licensing Specialist/Center Director if you are in continuous violation of these guidelines.

Family Child Care Providers

FCC Providers must complete eight hours of training in at least two different core competency areas (see box on right) each year according to the date on your individual certificate of registration.

TO REGISTER OR CANCEL REGISTRATION

Please call Link at (304) 523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of the Training</th>
<th>Title of the Training</th>
<th>Core Comp.</th>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Target Age/Area</th>
<th>Location of the Training</th>
<th>Time of Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weds., Jan. 28</td>
<td>How Do My Senses Help Me Learn?</td>
<td>C/CGD</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R– 2nd Floor 611 7th Avenue, Huntington</td>
<td>4:00PM-6:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weds., Feb. 11</td>
<td>When is Mommy Coming Home?</td>
<td>FC</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Ceredo-Kenova Library 1200 Oak Street, Kenova</td>
<td>2:00PM-4:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Feb. 23</td>
<td>Exploring the Creative Curriculum: Lesson Plans, Individual Care, and Child Observation</td>
<td>C/COA</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>PRE</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R– 2nd Floor 611 7th Avenue, Huntington</td>
<td>12:30PM-2:30PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Feb. 23</td>
<td>Discoveries of Infancy</td>
<td>CGD</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R– 2nd Floor 611 7th Avenue, Huntington</td>
<td>4:30PM-6:30PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional training opportunities in our region and throughout the state check out WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources (WVECTCR) Training Calendar at http://www.wvearlychildhood.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of the Training</th>
<th>Title of the Training</th>
<th>Core Comp.</th>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Target Age/Area</th>
<th>Location of the Training</th>
<th>Time of Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weds., Mar. 11</td>
<td>The Importance of Developmentally Appropriate Practice</td>
<td>CGD/PIR/C/COA</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R– 2nd Floor 611 7th Avenue, Huntington</td>
<td>4:00PM-6:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Saturday</td>
<td>Improving the Health of Your Afterschool Program</td>
<td>CGD/HSN/PRI/C/PM</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R– 2nd Floor 611 7th Avenue, Huntington</td>
<td>9:00AM-3:00PM Lunch Provided!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Mar. 20</td>
<td>Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support</td>
<td>PIR</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Lincoln County Board Of Education 10 Marland Avenue, Hamlin</td>
<td>10:00AM-3:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jan. 10</td>
<td>It’s All In The Process: Open-Ended Art</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>PRE</td>
<td>Living Water Child Care 212 East 2nd Avenue, Williamson</td>
<td>8:00AM-10:00AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 12</td>
<td>Germinators: Spreading the Word, Not the Germs</td>
<td>HSN</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Home of Gaila Wallace 593 Allen Lane, Pt. Pleasant</td>
<td>11:00AM-1:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Mar. 23</td>
<td>Relax, Respect, Reflect</td>
<td>COA</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Logan Library 1 Wildcat Way, Logan</td>
<td>11:00AM-1:00PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Putnam County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of the Training</th>
<th>Title of the Training</th>
<th>Core Comp.</th>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Target Age/Area</th>
<th>Location of the Training</th>
<th>Time of Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weds., Jan. 14</td>
<td>Keeping Children Safe From Predators</td>
<td>HSN</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Teays Valley Child Dev. Center 4345 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane</td>
<td>10:00AM-12:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 7</td>
<td>Disaster Preparation for Centers</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td>Winfield Child Dev. Center</td>
<td>10:00AM-12:00PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Logan, Mingo and Boone Counties**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of the Training</th>
<th>Title of the Training</th>
<th>Core Comp.</th>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Target Age/Area</th>
<th>Location of the Training</th>
<th>Time of Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

See Page 8 for a Descriptions of Training Sessions!

**Medication Administration & Child Abuse and Neglect**

To sign up for these sessions, Call Link CCR&R (304)523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540. With questions about these sessions or to schedule health and safety trainings at your center, please contact Glenna Bailey, Nurse Health Consultant with West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources (304)529-7603 or 1-888-983-2827 Ext. 402.
## Descriptions of Training Sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disaster Preparation for Centers</strong></td>
<td>In this session, participants will learn why every center should have a disaster plan, the types of disasters most likely to occur in our area, how to develop and practice an emergency plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discoveries of Infancy</strong></td>
<td>Participants will review and define the meaning of young, mobile, and older infants. From here they will proceed through the six discoveries of infancy. As they take each step through these discoveries participants will also discover ways they can support each area of discovery. Finally participants will realize even though we separate each discovery they are all very interconnected with each other.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support</strong></td>
<td>In this training, participants will receive an overview of the Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support Pyramid, including information on creating supportive, nurturing environments; building relationships with children and families; implementing targeted social emotional supports; and making referrals for intensive interventions when necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exploring the Creative Curriculum: Lesson Plans, Individual Care, and Child Observation</strong></td>
<td>This training will focus on the Developmental Continuum of the Creative Curriculum. The interest areas (Lesson Plans, Individual care, and Child Observation) will be discussed in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Germinators: Spread the Word, Not the Germs</strong></td>
<td>Reviewing current and proper ways of preventing the spread of germs in early childhood programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How Do My Senses Help Me Learn?</strong></td>
<td>This session will have participants exploring the world of the five senses. While doing so they will gain a better understanding of what each sense is and how important they are to the development of children. How they can be incorporated into the different content areas will also be discussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Importance of Developmentally Appropriate Practice</strong></td>
<td>This session will allow participants to gain a better understanding of Developmentally Appropriate Practice. They will also be given information on the 12 Principles of Child Development and Learning, 5 Guidelines for Effective Teaching, the 10 Effective DAP Teaching Strategies as well as what DAP looks like for each age group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>It's All In The Process: Open-Ended Art</strong></td>
<td>Explains the meaning of open-ended art, why it is important, and gives art ideas to use with children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keeping Children Safe From Predators</strong></td>
<td>In this training, participants will learn the strategies offenders use to seduce and manipulate children and the grooming techniques molesters use within their own families, communities, and agencies. We will specifically discuss those predators who prey upon schools and youth service organizations. We will review our nation's traditional approach to preventing child sexual abuse and the benefits of educating parents, staff, and volunteers about child molester behavior, prevention techniques, and proper responses to disclosures of child sexual abuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relax, Respect, Reflect</strong></td>
<td>Caregivers will explore the advantages of stepping back, observing their caregiving routines and then reflecting on their observations. Caregivers will learn how to take the information from their observations to create an environment that is relaxed, intentional and respectful to the infants and toddlers in their care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>When is Mommy Coming Home?</strong></td>
<td>In this training, participants will learn how having an incarcerated parent can affect children. It will cover common questions that children may have, risk factors, and various coping strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Improving the Health of Your Afterschool Program</strong></td>
<td>After school programs should use a variety of means to ensure Health Lifestyles for our youth. Physical activity, healthy snacks and nutrition, and building good mental health around decision making are essential for growing children.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Link Inclement Weather Policy:

In the case of school cancellation or two hour delay in Cabell County OR the county in which the training is scheduled, it will be cancelled for that day and you will be contacted when it is rescheduled.
CCA For Social Good and River Valley Child Development Services launch an Early Childhood Education online resource platform in West Virginia.

Innovative web-based knowledge hub for ECE professionals provides thousands of practical resources helping ECE providers save time, money and advance quality.

CCA For Social Good, an operating division of CCA Global Partners, and River Valley Child Development Services announce the launch of EarlyCareShareWV.org, an online platform that delivers a wealth of practical resources for early childhood education directors, family care providers, and teachers. Its goal is clear: to help save time, reduce costs, and improve quality. Most simply, the platform helps its users manage their programs more efficiently.

Sponsored by River Valley Child Development Services and funded by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, EarlyCareShareWV.org will be available to early childhood education professionals in West Virginia, especially child care professionals and those that may be providing support, training and assistance to those professionals.

The site can be accessed by visiting www.EarlyCareShareWV.org. Interested parties in West Virginia can fill out a New Member Request form by clicking on Request a Log in Account upon visiting the site. Eligibility will be determined by River Valley Child Development Services. Early Care Share West Virginia will be demonstrated at the Celebrating Connections Conference in Charleston on February 18-20, 2015.

For more information about CCA For Social Good and ECE Shared Resources, please contact Denise Sayer at 603-626-2121. For additional information about Early Care Share West Virginia, please contact Natalie Snider at nsnider@rvcds.org.

---

T.E.A.C.H. WV has funding available for eligible early childhood educators and directors who would like to earn their degrees in early childhood. We offer scholarships ranging from 3-12 credit hours per year.

T.E.A.C.H. will provide:
- Partial Tuition
- Partial Book Reimbursement
- Travel Stipend
- A Bonus Upon Completion of Contract

Contact T.E.A.C.H. for More Information!!!

T.E.A.C.H. WV

611 7th Ave, Ste 322
Huntington, WV 25701

Phone: 304-529-7603 Ext: 118
Fax: 304-529-2535

TEACHWV@rvcds.org

For more information, contact Sarah McIntyre at smintyre@yahoo.com

Visit our site or contact T.E.A.C.H. WV for information on our scholarships for Family Home Providers and CDA Assessment Fees!!

Find us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/
TEACHEarlyChildhoodWV
Check out our Blog at: http://teachwv.blogspot.com
Visit our website at: www.wvearlychildhood.org

---

2015 Keynote Presenters

Jim Harris
Terry Smith

New dates—New Presenters—Vendors Awards
Art Contest—FCC Gran—Silent Auction—Door Prizes

Big Sandy Superstore Arena
Huntington, WV

Leadership Institute
April 22 at Marshall University

For more information, contact Sarah McIntyre at smintyre@yahoo.com

---

Getting your degree in Early Childhood Education just got easier!

T.E.A.C.H. WV has funding available for eligible early childhood educators and directors who would like to earn their degrees in early childhood. We offer scholarships ranging from 3-12 credit hours per year.

T.E.A.C.H. will provide:
- Partial Tuition
- Partial Book Reimbursement
- Travel Stipend
- A Bonus Upon Completion of Contract

Visit our site or contact T.E.A.C.H. WV for information on our scholarships for Family Home Providers and CDA Assessment Fees!!

Find us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/
TEACHEarlyChildhoodWV
Check out our Blog at: http://teachwv.blogspot.com
Visit our website at: www.wvearlychildhood.org

---

NewsLink
According to Child Care Centers Licensing legislation passed and effective as of July 1, 2014, it is stated that:

17.2.d. The center shall have a hand-washing sink located in the immediate area of the diaper-changing space...

To assist centers in compliance of this regulation, TRAILS has purchased a Portable Hot Water Sink, like the one pictured, and it is currently available for lending.

As this is a more complicated item than most of the resources and materials that TRAILS provides, we wanted providers to be aware of the following expectations when borrowing the Portable Hot Water Sink (Sink).

- **The Sink will be loaned in 2-month increments.** As this is the only one we have, we want to give everyone the opportunity to use this new item.
- **The Sink is a pick-up only item.** The center borrowing the Sink will need to make arrangements for pickup and drop-off at Link CCR&R in Huntington.

There will be a copy of instructions included with the Sink to help with proper care of the Sink and lending policies. It is the responsibility of the center staff to properly clean the sink during use and prior to returning it using the cleaning agent provided.

As with any TRAILS item, the center is responsible for any damage to the Sink beyond normal wear and tear of daily use.

For more information about borrowing the Portable Hot Water Sink or any TRAILS materials and resources, please contact Virena.

Virena visits most of our counties on a monthly basis, but you may call and make arrangements at any time to schedule a TRAILS van visit!

**First Aid and CPR Classes**

This list of agencies offering First Aid and CPR is made available to you for resource purposes only. **Link CCR&R is not responsible for the following trainings or registration for these trainings.**

**Boone County:**
Kanawha Co. Red Cross—Call 340-3650 or www.redcross.org

**Cabell County:**
Triad Tech—Call 529-7020
St. Mary’s Medical Center—Contact Vicki Delaney at 526-1081
American Red Cross—Call 526-2900
Huntington YMCA—Contact Bill Tucker at 525-8127
Cabell County EMS—Contact Lisa Cooper at 526-9797
Salt Rock Fire Dept.—Call 733-9040
Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA Area—Contact Andrea Lupson 304-523-7461 ext.417

**Lincoln County:**
Contact Dorothy or William Frazier—Call 778-3873

**Logan County:**
LEASA County Public Rescue—Call 752-0917
Logan Regional Medical Center—Contact Cindy Fleming—Education Dept. 831-1556

**Mason County:**
Pleasant Valley Hospital—Call 675-4340
Mason County Health Department—Call 675-3050

**Mingo County:**
Williamson Memorial Hospital—Contact Billy Whitt at 235-2500, Ext. 6321
Red Cross Building in Putnam Co.—Call 340-3650
Active Sports Complex (aka Ayash Center) - Contact Scott Nasby at 741-4079
Fire Department—Contact Ryan Hale at 304-989-5452

**Putnam County:**
Contact Kathy Parsons—Call 486-5991
Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA Area—Contact Andrea Lupson 304-523-7461 ext.417

**Wayne County:**

Environments convey messages. They affect the way both children and adults feel and behave. It is critical that the early childhood environment convey positive messages to anyone who enters, but especially to the children who spend a large portion of their day in the classroom engaged in play. A few messages your classroom should convey are:

- **This is a good place to be.** Offer children choices in the active learning environment. Provide a variety of materials that encourage children to investigate, explore, and express their creativity. Utilize child size furniture that is in good condition and allow children the opportunity to work in self-selected small groups.

- **You belong here.** Let children know that they are a valued member of the classroom community. Give them a designated space for their personal belongings, such as a cubby. Give them the opportunity to sign themselves in daily. Display their pictures and their artwork on their eye level. Display pictures of the children’s family members. Leave your classroom design unfinished at the beginning of a new school year to allow children the opportunity to voice input. The classroom environment that worked great for your children last year might not be a good fit for the group of kids you have this year. It’s helpful to know your learners before you customize your environment to meet their needs. In addition, engage children’s families in and outside of classroom activities.

- **This is a place you can trust.** Keep your environment safe by covering outlets, keeping safety materials on hand, and discussing safety guidelines with children. Store materials in the same place and provide duplicates of many materials to lessen wait time. Establish a daily schedule. While the ability to remain flexible is essential in early childhood, children find security in established routines and knowing what to expect.

- **There are places you can be by yourself if you choose.** Allow children to have space for privacy where one or two children can participate in an activity free from interruption of others, but can still be easily supervised by adults.

- **You can do many things on your own here.** Organize open-ended materials on low shelves so that children can access them independently. Labeling items and shelves with pictures and words teachers children that everything belongs in a certain place and encourages them to keep toys and materials organized. Create a job chart and assign each child a responsibility. This not only develops independence but it builds self-confidence, too. Embedding technology into the curriculum can foster independence, too. Children learn to turn computers and tablets on and navigate to the educational games they are permitted to play.

I encourage you to do a little self-reflecting: Who is your classroom environment designed for and what messages does it convey?

Candice D. Mullins
Early Childhood Specialist
(304)523-9540
Candice.D.Mullins@wv.gov

Looking for more training on nutrition and healthy food service? Kellie Smith, the same trainer who brought you Out With The Old...In With The New will be sharing information on how to be Allergy Ready!

Kelli will discuss gluten free foods, gluten free education, and Celiac at Forrest Burdette Children’s Outreach Ministries on Friday, January 16th from 2PM-4PM. Kellie is a candidate for graduation in the Nutrition Program at Marshall University and is excited to share her knowledge with the community! To register for this training you may contact Link CCR&R at 304-523-9540.
Link Child Care Resource and Referral

Child Care Provider’s Newsletter and Professional Development Information

Link Child Care Resource and Referral is a program of River Valley Child Development Services and is funded through the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Children and Families, Division of Early Care and Education.

Visit us on the web:  www.linkccrr.org