Why are high quality early child care programs important?

- Research has proven that 90% of all brain development occurs from birth to age 5
- Studies show that children who participate in quality early child care programs enter school with better math, language and social skills
- When a child is involved in a safe, loving and stimulating early child care program, the child’s family members don’t have the stress of worrying about them while they are at work or school
- Everyone benefits from quality early childhood programs – children, families, employers and communities

Now that you see a few reasons why high quality is important, there are so many ways to continually work toward higher quality in your family child care home, facility or center. The Link CCR&R training team can offer technical assistance. Areas can include room arrangement, daily schedules, transitions, art, behavior concerns, and so many more.

There are also some upcoming conferences, HAECC in Huntington and Celebrating Connections in Charleston, where you can gain valuable knowledge to help with your program.

Another source of valuable information is Early Care Share WV (www.earlycaresharewv.org). If you have not already signed up for this site, I encourage you to check it out. It has some great parent talk sheets, business tools and much more.

Also, if you are not already on the WV STARS pathway, it is a way to track your training and help you determine what areas you may need additional training in. They are in the process of some changes that will debut at Celebrating Connections. I encourage you to check out their site as well (www.wvstars.org).

For additional information on any of these opportunities, or if you have any questions about how to improve quality in your child care setting, feel free to contact me at 304-523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540 ext.106.

~Cristie Dunbar

Getting your degree in Early Childhood Education just got easier!

T.E.A.C.H. WV has funding available for eligible early childhood educators/directors who would like to earn their degrees.

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 to check out our new CDA Assessment Fee Scholarship!

To register to participate in WVIT I or II, please email your name, phone number, your place of employment, and your Director’s name and phone number to Paula Stewart at Paula.L.Stewart@wv.gov

Registration deadline for WVIT is Wednesday, May 18th. There must be a minimum of 8 participants to hold the module series.

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WVIT I SCHEDULE
Link CCR&R
611 7th Avenue, Huntington

| Module 1: WVIT for Administrators | Wed., June 1 | 9:00am-4:00pm |
| Session 1 | Wed., June 8 | 10:00am-3:30pm |
| Session 2 | Wed., June 15 | 10:00am -2:30pm |

| Module 2: | |
| Session 3 | Wed., June 22 | 10:00am -3:30pm |
| Session 4 | Wed., June 29 | 10:00am -2:30pm |

TACIT 1 Visits

| Module 3: | |
| Session 5 | Wed., July 13 | 10:00am -2:30pm |
| Session 6 | Wed., July 20 | 10:00am -3:30pm |
| Session 7 | Wed., July 27 | 10:00am -2:30pm |

| Module 4: | |
| Session 8 | Wed., August 3 | 10:00am-4:00pm |
| Session 9 | Wed., August 10 | 10:00am -3:30pm |
| Session 10 | Wed., August 17 | 10:00am -12:30pm |

*TACIT 2 Visits

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

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One of the many hats Early Childhood Caregivers wear (and perhaps the most obscure) is that of a professional. Often the world in general does not see Child Care as a true profession. The first step in changing this mindset is for those who work in the field of Child Care to consider themselves professionals. Wikipedia defines a professional:

“A professional is a member of a profession or any person who earns their living from a specified activity. The term also describes the standards of education and training that prepare members of the profession with the particular knowledge and skills necessary to perform the role of that profession. In addition, most professionals are subject to strict codes of conduct enshrining rigorous ethical and moral obligations. Professional standards of practice and ethics for a particular field are typically agreed upon and maintained through widely recognized professional associations. Some definitions of "professional" limit this term to those professions that serve some important aspect of public interest and the general good of society.

Think about your job description; it encompasses most everything described here with exception of belonging to professional organizations. You gain skills and knowledge by attending WV STARS registered trainings. Belonging to a professional organization is not a job requirement however, it is a possibility.

The Early Childhood field has professional organizations such as The National Association for the Education of the Young Child and the National Association For Family Child Care. (See the links below for more information.) Keep in mind also that the National Association for the Education of the Young Child publishes a code of conduct.

Another way to show your professionalism is to create and maintain a professional portfolio. Creating a Professional Portfolio is part of the WVIT I curriculum. Your portfolio should showcase who you are as a person as well as a caregiver. Your portfolio may be used to help attain a job in the Early Childhood profession. It can also be used as a means to show off your center or family child care home. This would be a place where you would track your professional development (for example, all those WV STARS registered trainings). You may also want to share a little bit about your personal life (hobbies, interests, favorite color, or even family members). This information can help you make connections with the families of the children in your care. Another part of the portfolio would include your curriculum, lesson plans, menus, emergency preparedness plans and how you are implementing Primary Care.

The challenge of creating a portfolio can sometimes be a bit overwhelming. To assist those who will be in the upcoming WVIT I class, consider taking advantage of the newly developed “So You Have to Make a Portfolio” sessions. There will be four two hour WV STARS registered sessions. Each session is scheduled to meet after each WVIT I module completes. “So You Have to Make a Portfolio” will help you understand how to use the information from that module in your portfolio. You may attend all of the sessions or just the ones you feel you need. Directors are welcome and encouraged to attend the sessions, as well to better understand how to support your staff in developing the WVIT portfolio.

“So You Have to Make a Portfolio” Schedule (also at the LINK office)
Session 1: Thursday, June 16 4:00pm-6:00pm
Session 2: Thursday, June 30 4:00pm-6:00pm
Session 3: Thursday, August 4 4:00pm-6:00pm
Session 4: Friday, August 19 4:00pm-6:00pm

Resources:
http://www.nafcc.org/
http://www.naeyc.org/
http://wvfamilychildcareassociation.com
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional retrieved 02/11/16)

Paula Stewart
Infant Toddler Specialist
(304) 523-9540 Ext. 228
1-800-894-9540
Paula.L.Stewart@wv.gov
It is not uncommon for me to walk into a child care center, pre-k classroom, or Head Start site and hear that a child is being kept inside during outdoor play as punishment for his or her inappropriate behavior in the classroom. It is a practice that originated with, and has been handed down, by elementary school educators for years and years. Since most children look forward to outdoor play time, I understand why teachers might use this as a way to communicate to children that their behavior is unacceptable, and encourage them to behave in a more satisfactory manner during indoor instructional time. However, this tactic can be counterproductive and have the exact opposite effect. Taking physical activity away from children can actually decrease their attention spans and ability to focus in the classroom, while increasing behavior problems and incidents of being sent to the office. Giving children the opportunity to get outside and step away from their work in the classroom is like pushing a reboot button in their brains. The Eagle Mountain Elementary School in Fort Worth, Texas has been conducting an experiment recently by giving kindergarten and first-grade students four 15-minute recess periods a day, instead of the one 15-minute recess they had previously been giving. At first teachers were worried about losing the classroom time and being able to cover all the material they needed to, but now, not only are the students paying better attention in class, they’re following directions better, attempting to learn more independently and solve problems on their own, and there have been fewer disciplinary issues. Allowing children more opportunities to be active and release energy can also result in an increase of creativity and use of imagination, as well as have a positive impact on social development. If you need ideas for alternative strategies to address unwanted classroom behaviors, please give me a call. I’m always happy to help teachers in their endeavors to provide the highest quality of care to the children and families they serve!

Best Regards,
Shannon

Using American Sign Language (ASL) with infants, toddlers and preschool children can help you fulfill the three most important responsibilities you have as an early childhood educator:
- Teaching language and thinking skills
- Teaching social-emotional skills
- Managing conflicts to providing a safe and secure environment for all children

Signing supports the fulfillment of each of these responsibilities and fits naturally into every part of your day, while adding an element of fun to your existing lesson plans.

Join Samantha from ToddleSigns for “Introducing ASL in the Classroom”
Thursday, March 17th from 6-8 PM And get 2 hours WV STARS Credit.
This training will be held in the Link CCR&R 2nd floor training room. You must contact the instructor (see below) to register. Registration is not done through Link CCR&R.

Be ready for signs, music and fun!
No previous signing experience required.

You must pre-register no later than 3 days before class date and prepay a $15 fee. Must have at least 20 participants to hold class. To register or for more information please send a private message to www.facebook.com/ToddleSigns or email Samantha@SigningTimeAcademy.com.
Come support Family Child Care in WV by advocating for high quality child care. You can be a part of this event on April 28th at 6:00pm in downtown Huntington. A $10 fee per Family Child Care site will go directly to NAFCC. We are also encouraging businesses to donate and walk with us. The purpose of Walk the Talk is to raise awareness and promote the quality of Family Child Care. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to NAFCC’s scholarship fund as well as to the Family Child Care Association.

“Don’t just talk about it, be about it!”

For more details contact Kathy Baker 304-638-7578 or mrskathys@comcast.net

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 of WV STARS credit. We also offer other trainings which are registered with WV STARS.

If you have any questions feel free to call Kathy Baker, President, at 304-529-6246 or text at 304-638-7578. Or send an email to mrskathys@comcast.net to be added to our email list and start receiving information about the association and other helpful information.

We hope to see some new providers at the meetings.

Upcoming meetings:
May 14th@10:00am @ Link office
August 13th@10:00am @ Link office
September 10th@10:00am @ Link office

The WVFCCA is here to help you get specialized training for Family Child Care Providers. We will help you move your business forward in a more professional manner.

Membership Benefits:
- Up-to-date information on state and national child care issues.
- Annual statewide conference and specialized training
- Free and discounted curriculum and business resources
- Information on parent involvement and community awareness activities.
- Membership is reimbursable through your R&R Health & Safety Grant.
- Monthly phone conferences to allow you to ask questions and share ideas.
- Hearing how other providers deal with the same issues you deal with.
- Ways to communicate more effectively with your clients and state and local personnel.

Feel free to like us on Facebook and start getting plugged into resources to help your business. Also check out our website at www.westvirginiafamilychildcare.com and you can always call us at 304-634-4806 (Ask for Tammy Eubank or feel free to leave a message) We want to help you put your best foot forward! Join Today!!
IMPORTANT TRAINING INFORMATION

1. All trainings begin promptly at the scheduled time. Please arrive before the session begins. If you miss 15 or more minutes during the course of any training session, you will not receive credit for that training.

2. If you are disruptive or prevent the trainer from staying on task, you will be asked to leave and your Regulatory Specialist may be notified.

3. If you sign up for a training and do not call to cancel at least 24 hours in advance, your Regulatory Specialist may be notified.

4. No cell phones or electronic devices may be used during the training sessions.

5. You may not bring children to any Link training session.

6. You must bring a picture ID to all trainings.

7. You are responsible for keeping your training certificates on file. All trainings we offer are registered with WV STARS. Please SIGN UP and not just show up for training sessions. In addition, we require participants to sign up for trainings at least 48 hours in advance of the training date and time. This helps ensure the person conducting the training will be fully prepared for all who will be attending.

Thank you, Cristie Dunbar, Link CCR&R Director

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**Codes for Training Chart**

**Core Competency**
- CGD: Child Growth and Development
- HSN: Health, Safety and Nutrition
- PIR: Positive Interactions & Relationships
- COA: Child Observation and Assessment
- PM: Program Management
- FC: Family and Community
- C: Curriculum
- P: Professionalism

**Tier**
- Tier I: Beginner Level
- Tier II: Intermediate
- Tier III: Advanced

**Targeted Age/Area**
- IT: Infant/Toddler
- PRE: Pre-School
- SAC: School Age Care
- CB: Center Based
- FCC: Family Child Care Providers
- ADM: Administration
- ALL: Targets All Areas

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**Date of the Training** | **Title of the Training** | **Core Comp** | **Tier** | **Location of the Training** | **Time of Training**
---|---|---|---|---|---
Sat., April 16 | Overview of the West Virginia ELSF Session I (*see below) | C | I | ALL | Link CCR&R 611 7th Avenue, Hunt. 10:00am—12:00pm
| West Virginia ELSF for Preschool Session II* | C | II | PRE | Link CCR&R 611 7th Avenue, Hunt. 2nd floor conference room 1:00—3:00pm
| West Virginia ELSF for Infants and Toddlers Session III* | C | II | IT | Link CCR&R 611 7th Avenue, Hunt. 1st floor conference room 1:00—3:00pm
| Mon., May 9 | Primary Caregiving: How Does It Work? | PIR/FC | II | IT | Link CCR&R 611 7th Avenue, Hunt. 6:00—8:00pm

*WV ELSF: Participants MUST complete Session I before they can participate in Session II or III.*
<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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cabell and Wayne Counties (Cont.)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., May 21</td>
<td>Taking Care of Yourself</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R 611 7th Avenue, Hunt.</td>
<td>10:00am—12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Putnam and Mason Counties</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., April 18</td>
<td>Play is the Best Therapy</td>
<td>CGD</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Mason County Library 508 Viand St., Pt. Pleasant</td>
<td>12:00—2:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., May 3</td>
<td>That Kid Did WHAT?</td>
<td>PIR</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Putnam County Library 4219 State Route 34, Hurricane</td>
<td>10:00am—12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon., June 27</td>
<td>Ready, Set, Play! A Simple Guide to Exploring the Areas of Curriculum</td>
<td>CGD/PIR/C</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>First Baptist Academy 2635 Main St., Hurricane</td>
<td>6:00—8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lincoln, Logan, Mingo and Boone Counties</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., April 5</td>
<td>That Kid Did WHAT?</td>
<td>PIR</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Logan Library 16 Wildcat Way, Logan</td>
<td>11:00am—1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., May 19</td>
<td>Play is the Best Therapy</td>
<td>CGD</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Logan Library 16 Wildcat Way, Logan</td>
<td>5:30—7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., June 2</td>
<td>Taking Care of Yourself</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Living Waters 212 E. 2nd Ave., Williamson</td>
<td>6:30—8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., June 8</td>
<td>That Kid Did WHAT?</td>
<td>PIR</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Hamlin Library 7999 Lynn Ave., Hamlin</td>
<td>10:00am—12:00pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For additional training opportunities in our region and throughout the state check out the WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources (WVECTCR) Training Calendar at [http://www.wvearlychildhood.org](http://www.wvearlychildhood.org)

See Page 8 for Descriptions of Training Sessions and name of Presenter!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptions of Training Sessions:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overview of the West Virginia ELSF Session I</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview of the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework. The WVELSF was created by a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collaboration of early education professionals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINERS: PAULA STEWART &amp; AMY WILLIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIS OVERVIEW MUST BE TAKEN BEFORE TAKING SESSION II OR III.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Virginia ELSF for Preschool Session II</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This session provides an opportunity for participants to explore WV ELSF for Preschool's purpose,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>content, application, and benefits for professionals, programs, parents and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINER: AMY WILLIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Virginia ELSF for Infants and Toddlers Session III</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This session provides an opportunity for participants to explore WV ELSF for Infants and Toddlers'</td>
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<tr>
<td>purpose, content, application, and benefits for professionals, programs, parents and children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRAINER: PAULA STEWART</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>That Kid Did WHAT??</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Participants will be taught how to encourage positive behavior by building connections with</td>
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<tr>
<td>children and their families. The concepts in this training come from the philosophies and</td>
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<tr>
<td>teachings of Dr. Becky Bailey in her Conscious Discipline series of books.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRAINER: SHANNON TAYLOR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Play is the Best Therapy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>In this training, learn how the decline of play in early childhood is contributing to the rise in</td>
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<tr>
<td>sensory issues later in childhood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINER: MELISA DENNISON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Caregiving: How Does It Work?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caregivers will explore and understand the basics of Primary Caregiving and its importance to</td>
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<tr>
<td>infant and toddler development. They will glean ideas of how to implement the practice into their</td>
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<tr>
<td>programs and how it has an impact on their relationships with the child’s family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRAINER: PAULA STEWART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taking Care of Yourself</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many people think that to be a good provider you have to be able to care for the needs of</td>
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<tr>
<td>children in your program. While that is true, if you aren’t also taking care of yourself, how</td>
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<tr>
<td>can you take care of others? Participants will develop a better understanding of how they can be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a better provider by taking care of themselves first.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINER: AMY WILLIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ready, Set, Play! A Simple Guide to Exploring the Areas of Curriculum</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This session will provide participants an opportunity to learn the importance of each area of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curriculum and how to effectively create centers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINER: MELISA DENNISON</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
When is Diaper Rash Serious?

Diaper rash is a common skin condition found under the diapers of babies. Diaper rash usually appears as bright red skin and is commonly treated with over-the-counter ointments such as Desitin or A&D Ointment. Occasionally though diaper rash is more serious and may warrant a trip to the doctor.

Diaper rash can be caused by several different things. The most common cause is irritation from stool and urine but there may be other reasons for the rash. The introduction of new foods may cause the nature and frequency of stools to change. An increase in the number of stools may lead to more irritation. Also the introduction of a new product such as detergent, diapers or fabric softener may cause a rash. Also tight fitting diapers could cause chafing and rubbing that could lead to a reddened area. Finally the use of antibiotics may result in depleting the bacteria that keeps yeast at bay and as a result cause a yeast infection.

Although most diaper rashes are minor and easily treated, there are certain circumstances that warrant a visit to the doctor. These would include rashes that are severe in nature or one that worsens despite over-the-counter treatment. Also any diaper rash that is accompanied by a fever should be investigated by the physician. Any rash that develops blisters, boils, pus or weeping discharge may require prescription treatment.

The West Virginia Child Care Center Regulations allows the use of over-the-counter creams and ointments to be applied without a doctor’s orders for five consecutive days in a thirty day period. Any use after that five days would need to be accompanied by written instructions by a licensed health care provider.
Spring has sprung! The last of the snow has melted and it’s time to leave the cold, dreary winter behind and enjoy the season of new beginnings. The trees have leaves, the flowers are blooming, and the grass is green. We can finally go outdoors to play and run off the excess energy we stored up over the long winter. Here are some fun ways to introduce your kiddos to all the wonders of spring:

- Take a nature walk and explore all the ways the earth has changed.
- Find ways to encourage conservation and caring for the planet, such as picking up litter, recycling, and planting trees. Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd!
- Grow plants from seeds and create a vegetable and/or a flower garden. Chart the progress, and then enjoy the finished products when they are fully grown.
- Visit a farm or zoo, and learn how spring brings new life.

These are also great opportunities to incorporate the importance of literacy. Always take time to support your children’s reading habits. Here are some suggestions for your spring reading pleasure:

**Spring is Here** by Will Hillenbrand…Spring fever is catching in this vibrant story of friendship.

**The Listening Walk** by Paul Showers…Fill your ears with the world of wonderful and surprising sounds.

**Gabby & Grandma Go Green** by Monica Wellington…These two know how to have a good time while doing good things for the earth.

For a list of creative ideas to use both in and out of the classroom, visit [http://thimaginationtree.com/2012/04/15-spring-activities-for-kids.html](http://thimaginationtree.com/2012/04/15-spring-activities-for-kids.html).

Happy TRAILS to you!
~Melisa

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“Building A Firm Foundation”

This professional development session will be offered by your TRAILS Early Childhood Specialist. It consists of four modules that give you an overview of the West Virginia Elements of Family Child Care (WVEFCCS). For more information contact them today!

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“The TRAILS van has added new toys that have captivated my grandchildren. The van is well-organized with science kits, blocks, building kits, etc., that my grandchildren would not have the opportunity to play with if not for the van. The TRAILS van staff do their best to bring the items you request. This is an amazing service.”

~Leann M., FCC Provider, Logan, WV

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For questions, comments, or to schedule a visit, please contact your TRAILS Team.
**What is the Key 2 a Healthy Start for WV’s Children?**

Did you know that approximately 32% of children ages 2-19 are overweight or obese? The trend begins in early childhood with 27% of children ages 2-5. By taking part in the Key 2 a Healthy Start initiative, WV child care centers can become leaders in reducing childhood obesity rates in WV and raising a healthier generation of kids.

Key 2 a Healthy Start is a statewide quality improvement initiative in early care and education with the goal of preventing childhood obesity. Participating child care centers attend 3 one-day workshops that cover:

- Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Garden-based learning
- Personal health and wellness
- Parent engagement & outreach
- Healthy celebrations

Workshop presenters include a pediatrician, registered dietician and exercise physiologist. Each participating program also receives on-site technical assistance visits after each workshop and will become part of a peer learning network. Key 2 a Healthy Start centers receive MyPlate portion plates and placemats, portable physical activity equipment, parent outreach materials, and much more! The workshops are free and WV STARS registered.

**Only 30 spots are available! Deadline to register is March 18, 2016. First come, first serve!**

Workshop #1 held at the Celebrating Connections conference in Charleston

Sign up for either April 5th or April 6th by contacting Jessica Dianellos at Jessica.Dianellos@camc.org or Calling 304-388-3409

If you plan to attend the conference, this opportunity will be registered separately from other conference sessions and registration fees do not apply for Key 2 a Healthy Start. It’s entirely FREE thanks to the funding support of Benedum Foundation and Family Nutrition Services SNAP-Ed

_This is a project administered by Keys 4 HealthyKids. We do not license centers or evaluate for compliance in any way. To learn more, visit www.keys4healthykids.com (then click on ‘Current Initiatives’, ‘Childcare’, and ‘Key 2 a Healthy Start’)._
First Aid and CPR Classes
This list of agencies offering First Aid and CPR is made available to you for resource purposes only. Link 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, Inc.—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.
Mason County: Pleasant Valley Hospital—Call 675-4340.
Mingo County: Williamson Memorial Hospital—Contact Billy Whitt at 235-2500, Ext. 6321.
Putnam County: Active Sports Complex (aka Ayash Center) - Contact Scott Nasby at 741-4079.
Wayne County: Contact Kathy Parsons—Call 486-5991.

West Virginia Elements of Family Child Care Series (WVEFCCS)

The West Virginia Elements of Family Child Care Series (WVEFCCS) is a module series that is intended solely for family child care providers in a home or facility. This program is designed to help improve the quality of early care and education for children in West Virginia. WVEFCCS is a WV STARS registered 30 hour training program. Upon successful completion of the series, participants are eligible to receive early childhood resources for their homes, as well as professional development credit for two years*. Participants must be registered or working toward registration on the WV STARS Career Pathway. Modules are registered separately; family child care providers may attend one, some, or all modules.

Interested family child care providers should contact Amy Willis no later than Friday, March 25th at (304) 523-9540 ext. 229 if you are planning to participate in ALL modules.

*If you choose not to attend all modules, you will be ineligible for resources.
There are many benefits that go along with exposing children to gardening as well as encouraging them to take part in it. Children learn a multitude of things from gardening, such as reasoning and discovery - learning about the science of plants, animals, weather, the environment, nutrition, and simple construction. They may also develop a love of nature with a chance to learn about the outdoor environment in a safe and pleasant place. Children’s self-confidence will improve from achieving their goals and hopefully enjoying the food they have grown, and they will learn nutrition by learning about where fresh food comes from. As a bonus, they will also be engaging in physical activity and doing something fun and productive, while learning about cooperation by participating in a shared play activity and engaging in teamwork. Lastly, will encourage creativity by finding new and exciting ways to grow food.

There are also social/emotional and intellectual benefits that go along with gardening. Working in a garden can be one of a child's first experiences with caretaking. Understanding that they are responsible for the growth or decline of the plants in the garden allows them to see the results of being responsible, protective, and gentle. Planting and tending a garden provides opportunities for honing of literacy and numeracy skills as well as hands-on experimentation with scientific principles. Let children assist in reading the planting and cultivating instructions as well as labeling plants, counting seeds, and measuring spaces between plants. Have them consider factors like sunlight, temperatures, and water sources when selecting and caring for their plants.

You may be wondering if you can really do something like that. YES, you absolutely can! First, you need to determine the size of your garden. Will you confine it to a small area such as a container, or will you plant a large garden? Do you want to grow flowers, herbs, fruits, or vegetables? Start with a few plants that grow quickly. If children are able to see the changes in their garden over a week or two, it may "hook" them and keep them from losing interest. Some hearty, quick-growing choices include: lettuce/arugula, green beans, radishes, spinach, sweet peas, marigolds, sunflowers, chives and mint. Keep in mind the ages of the children who will be “tending” the garden when you are choosing the size/type of garden and plants to ensure that it is not only age appropriate, but also developmentally appropriate for them. The idea is to encourage, not discourage.

Happy gardening, and I can’t wait to see these gardens in action on my next visit!

Amy Willis
Early Childhood Specialist
(304) 523-9540
Amy.D.Willis@wv.gov
National Provider Appreciation Day is May 6, 2016. While our Link CCR&R is planning and preparing for your “special” day, please visit our website at www.linkccrr.org and print your Certificate of Appreciation. You mean the world to us each and every day!

If you have questions regarding new online Provider Orientation, Provider Service Agreements, payment forms, etc., 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.

You can also call us at 304-523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540.

Check out our website www.linkccrr.org for other helpful information.

What is CHIP?
WVCHIP was created to help working families who do not have health insurance for their children.

You want your kids to be healthy. One good way to keep them healthy is making sure they get medical care. Children who get good medical care have a better chance of being healthy and doing well in school.

Eligibility
Your children are eligible if they:

- Reside in West Virginia
- Are under age 19
- Are not eligible for West Virginia Medicaid
- Income & family size fall within qualifying Income Guidelines
- Are United States citizens or qualified aliens (Children who are not U.S. citizens must provide verification of their alien status.)

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Celebrating Connections 2016
Join us April 5-8, 2016!

Keynote Speakers
Thursday—Jim Gill
Friday—Mary Jo Huff & Lisa Maddox-Vinson

For more information, please contact:

LeAnn Murray
611 Seventh Avenue, Suite 322
Huntington, WV 25701
Phone: (304) 529-7603 - (888) 983-2827
Extension: 410
E-mail: lmurray@rvcds.org

www.wvearlychildhood.org/Celebrating_Connections.html

April 28th & 29th, 2016

Registration now open! Go to www.haecconference.com

The 34th Annual HAECC will take place at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena & Conference Center in Huntington, WV. The dedicated conference committee will join bordering states of Ohio and Kentucky early child care professionals in connecting and learning.

Contact: Stephanie Geneseeo (304) 416-3387 Email: haecc2016@gmail.com
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 being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. Visit us on the web: www.linkccrr.org or www.RVCDS.org

Visit us on the web: www.facebook.com/linkccrr