Spring and early Summer provide great weather opportunities to take children outside to explore and learn about nature. There are many fun things you can do with them that present great learning opportunities. One example of something you could incorporate in outdoor activities is Earth Day which is April 22. Children can plant a garden, make art projects out of things they find outside and can recycle or pick up trash and learn the importance of putting it in the proper place. You could also incorporate a Field Day or Outdoor Family Day. The Centers for Disease Control provides a free kit to help you organize and run a Field Day for your program. It is a fun way to connect with families in your program. This information can be found at www.earlycaresharewv.org/field_day_outdoor_family_day.

The Early Care Share WV website is an online platform that delivers a wealth of practical resources for early childhood education directors, family child care providers, and teachers. You can go to page 8 of this newsletter to get more information about this website and information about how to register. There are many other ways to encourage and support outdoor play in your child care environment. You can get more ideas online. If you don’t have access to the internet, feel free to stop by our Huntington office and we can allow you to use our free internet café to search for some ideas or sign up for the Early Care Share WV website.

~Cristie Dunbar

In this issue:

- Help Funding Your Degree through T.E.A.C.H.
- ACDS Information
- Infant/Toddler Summits Information
- Infant Toddler Specialist
- Behavior Consultant
- Early Care Share WV
- Early Childhood Specialist—FCC
- Family Food Program
- Professional Development Calendar
- Descriptions of Training Sessions
- Medication Administration & Child Abuse and Neglect Training Information
- First Aid and CPR Training Opportunities
- TRAILS Corner
- Early Childhood Specialist—SAC
- Mind in Making Module Information
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA
Has Scholarships Available!

Teachers, Family Home Providers, and Directors can earn an Associate’s degree, a Bachelor’s degree, or a Pre-K endorsement using one of our three scholarship models.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher &amp; Family Home Providers Models</th>
<th>Director’s Model</th>
<th>Jump-Start/Final Step Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requires 9 hours per year</td>
<td>Associate degree requires 12 hours per year</td>
<td>Requires 3-8 hours per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid release time</td>
<td>Bachelor’s and Pre-K require 9 hours per year</td>
<td>Paid release time for teachers and Family Home Providers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All scholarships include: tuition assistance, partial book reimbursement, travel stipend, and a bonus for completing the scholarship!

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association

ACDS Instructors Academy

The Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) is preparing for the annual Instructor’s Academy to be held June 8 – 12, 2015. Participants must complete an intensive five day training to teach the ACDS class. They also must attend a one day update every other year to continue certification. The Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist program is always looking for new instructors all over the state. From a personal perspective, being an instructor was a wonderful experience. It is very rewarding to witness the growth and development of students as they begin the program to completing fourth semester, and then, ultimately graduating. Many gain the confidence to continue their education and receive their associate and/or bachelor’s degree. What a testament of the success of the program! If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity to continue your professional development and sharing your knowledge, 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

You are cordially invited to

An Infant/Toddler Summit
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Huntington
March 13, 2015
Registration Deadline March 2
Holiday Inn Barboursville

Wheeling
March 27, 2015
Registration Deadline March 16
Oglebay Conference Center

Parkersburg
April 10, 2015
Registration Deadline March 30
Choices R & R Agency

Fairmont
April 24, 2015
Registration Deadline April 13
Clarion Inn Fairmont

Martinsburg
May 8, 2015
Registration Deadline April 27
Holiday Inn Martinsburg

Beckley
May 22, 2015
Registration Deadline May 11
Tamarack

Call your Infant/Toddler Specialist for more information
This event meets the requirement for a conference for Tiered Reimbursement status.

Registered with WV STARS as 7 hours of Program Management

Morning Coffee/Tea and Lunch Provided
Ahh, the great outdoors! It offers an awesome learning experience to the infants and toddlers in your care. Think about all it has to offer like fresh air and a great source of vitamin D to help those young bones grow healthy and strong.

Being outside gives children the opportunity to experience different types of weather: sun, clouds, rain, snow (I have seen snow in WV in April), fog and wind. They can also experience hot, warm, cool and cold temperatures.

Just think of all the sensory experiences the outdoors offers. There are different sights, sounds, smells and textures to explore. While you are outside you may see cars, trucks, motorcycles, trains, planes, birds, squirrels, cats, dogs, insects, and yes, even butterflies. Take the opportunity to talk about the sounds you hear. “Jason, that motorcycle is really loud! Is Daddy’s motorcycle loud too?” “Julie can hear the baby birds chirping? They sound hungry to me.” Talk to your children about what they see or what they are touching. “Oh, Josie, can you see the caterpillar?” “Wow, Ashton and Carla, you discovered a big mud puddle it feels kind of cool and slimy. Would like to make pies with me?” (Oh, come on, you know you loved to play in the mud). Take this opportunity to talk about what the children are tasting and smelling. “Tina, you tasted the parsley we are growing. Do you like it?” “Look, a butterfly landed on our parsley plants!” “David, press the mint leaf gently; can you smell it now?” (Growing an herb garden would be so much fun for your toddlers, and you can share the produce with your cook). Guess what? With these conversations you have supported language and social/emotional development.

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
Hi, everyone!

Now that the weather is warming up, I know a lot of you will be heading outside. After a long winter of spending more time indoors than out, some of the children may have some pent up energy that they don’t know what to do with…which could lead to some new challenging behaviors that you may not have seen from them before. If you find yourself in this situation, I would recommend introducing them to the book “The Recess Queen” by Alexis O’Neill. This story highlights the daily episodes of playground bullying instigated by a girl with some serious tricycle rage! Her name is Mean Jean, and she controls the playground with such ferocious bossiness that the other children are afraid to defend themselves against her. One day, however, a new girl comes to school and she does not know to be afraid. Instead, she plays on her own terms, and ultimately befriends Mean Jean, thus changing the dynamics on the playground forever! The message of the story is that bullies are people, too, and sometimes we all just need a friend. It is a sweet and simple way to tackle the difficult topics of bullying and conflict resolution by teaching children that they CAN change unpleasant situations in their world through the power of kindness and friendship. This book is ideal for children ages 4 -8. I hope you enjoy it!

Best regards,
Shannon

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**Early Care Share West Virginia: A New Online Resource**

The Division of Early Care and Education is pleased to announce the launch of Early Care Share West Virginia. This is an online platform that delivers a wealth of practical resources for early childhood education directors, family child care providers, and teachers. Its goal is clear: to help save time, reduce costs, and improve quality. Sponsored by West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, Early Care Share West Virginia is now available free of charge 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](http://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. It’s entirely free! For additional information or to arrange an online or in person demonstration about Early Care Share West Virginia, please contact Natalie Snider at nsnider@rvcds.org.
My name is Amy Isaacs and I am the new Early Childhood Specialist with Link CCR&R. I transferred here from the Connect CCR&R office in Charleston, West Virginia. I am originally from Chesapeake, Ohio and still reside there. I am also the mother of 2 beautiful little girls, ages 8 and 11. They are the center of my world and usually keep me pretty busy with dance, cheerleading, softball etc. Needless to say, there is never a dull moment where they are involved. By the time one reaches their senior year of high school, they have a pretty good idea of what they want to do with their lives, or at least which career path they’d like to pursue. I was one of those people who knew what I wanted to do with my life. I was, and have always been an animal lover, and from a very young age I just knew I wanted to be a veterinarian. That had always been my dream until midway through my senior year.

My sister lived in Florida and my parents decided that while I was on Spring break we would go visit her and her family. My nephew was in first grade at Sunrise Elementary School in Deltona, Florida and they had something called a Happy Helper. “The Happy Helper” was what they called anyone who volunteered their time to help out in the classroom for a day. Since school was in session while I was there I decided that would be something fun I could do with him. It was a wonderful and very rewarding experience, and one I have never forgotten. I soon began to give very serious thought to my career choice, or at least what I thought it was going to be.

After my visit came to an end and I came back home, I decided to write a letter to my nephew’s class and mail it to the school. I thanked them for giving me the opportunity to be their Happy Helper, and told them how much I enjoyed myself. I then proceeded to tell them that the experience I had with them inspired me to pursue a career in the education field but, more specifically, Elementary Education. That fall, I enrolled at Marshall University as an Elementary Education major with a specialization in Pre-K. Five years later, I graduated with a bachelor’s degree. I have been in the education field for 10 years and am very thankful to the children in my nephew’s first grade class for showing me that working with kids is where my heart lies and is what I was truly meant to do. I want to thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to meeting and working closely with each and every one of you!

For more information, Contact Amy Isaacs
Early Childhood Specialist
(304) 523-9540 Ext. 430
1-800-894-9540
Amy.D.Isaacs@wv.gov

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint alleging discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call, toll free, (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Family Child Care providers, would you like to be a part of writing the new State Regulations? If so, contact Tamara Eubank at (304) 634-5545 or email wvfamilychildcare@yahoo.com to join the WV Family Child Care Association.

There are also monthly conference calls for all members every 3rd Tuesday of each month from 8:00-9:00pm. Call or email to sign up.

You can also go to www.westvirginiafamilychildcare.com for more information.

2015 Keynote Presenters
Jim Harris & Terry Smith
For more information, contact Sarah McIntyre at smintyre@yahoo.com

NewsLink
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 will 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 will 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.

8. You must register for training sessions at least two days in advance to be guaranteed a spot.

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 for a training or to cancel your registration, please call Link at (304) 523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540.

Cabell and Wayne 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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs., April 16</td>
<td>Kids in Crisis</td>
<td>PIR</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R</td>
<td>10am—12pm</td>
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<td>611 7th Avenue, Huntington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., April 18</td>
<td>Happy TRAILS to YOU!</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R</td>
<td>1pm—3pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>611 7th Avenue, Huntington</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., May 16</td>
<td>Meet the Link CCR&amp;R Team</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Link CCR&amp;R</td>
<td>10am—12pm</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>611 7th Avenue, Huntington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., June 10</td>
<td>Outside: Mother Nature’s Classroom</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Wayne Co DHHR</td>
<td>2pm—4pm</td>
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<td>26452 East Lynn Rd, Wayne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of the Training</td>
<td>Title of the Training</td>
<td>Core Comp</td>
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<td>Target Age/Area</td>
<td>Location of the Training</td>
<td>Time of Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., May 22</td>
<td>Happy TRAILS to YOU!</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Link Office—Logan</td>
<td>1pm—3pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19 Circle Drive, Logan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., June 11</td>
<td>You’re Not the Boss of Me</td>
<td>PIR</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>Hamlin Library—</td>
<td>10am—12pm</td>
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<td>7999 Lynn Ave, Hamlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., June 20</td>
<td>Overview of the West Virginia ELSF Session I*</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Bethel Temple Assembly of God</td>
<td>10am—12pm</td>
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<td>1 Bethel Temple Dr, Williamson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., June 20</td>
<td>West Virginia ELSF for Preschool Session II*</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>PRE</td>
<td>Bethel Temple Assembly of God</td>
<td>1pm—3pm</td>
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<td>1 Bethel Temple Dr, Williamson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., June 20</td>
<td>West Virginia ELSF for Infants and Toddlers Session III*</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Bethel Temple Assembly of God</td>
<td>1pm—3pm</td>
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<td>1 Bethel Temple Dr, Williamson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*WV ELSF: Participants MUST complete Session I before they can participate in Session II or III.

**Putnam and Mason 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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., April 20</td>
<td>It’s More Than Paint and Crayons</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Mason Co Library</td>
<td>4pm—6pm</td>
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<td>508 Viand St, Pt. Pleasant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., April 21</td>
<td>It’s All in The Process: Open-Ended Art</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Forrest Burdette</td>
<td>6pm—8pm</td>
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<td>2848 Putnam Ave, Hurricane</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., May 13</td>
<td>The Importance of Developmentally Appropriate Practice</td>
<td>CGD/PIR/C/COA</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Teays Valley Child Dev. Center</td>
<td>3pm—5pm</td>
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<td>4345 Teays Valley Rd, Scott Depot</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., June 26</td>
<td>Happy TRAILS to YOU!</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>Putnam Library—</td>
<td>1pm—3pm</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Main Branch 4219 State Route 34, Hurricane</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

**MAKE NOTE:** As of June 30, 2015 we will no longer be mailing newsletters. You can receive your newsletter by email, on the Link CCR&R website (www.linkccrr.org), on the TRAILS van, in training sessions or you can pick one up in the Huntington or Logan office. If you are not already on our email listserv, please contact our office at 304-523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540 and ask to speak to Jessica Lambers to be added. Thank you for your help with this matter. ~Christie Dunbar, Director

See Page 8 for Descriptions of Training Sessions!
### Descriptions of Training Sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kids in Crisis</strong></td>
<td>This training reviews traumatic events that can lead to challenging behaviors (and how to respond). We will review correct COA and documentation as well as sharing concerns with parents and making referrals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meet the Link CCR&amp;R Team</strong></td>
<td>In this session, participants will have the opportunity to meet members of the Link CCR&amp;R Training Team as well as some other key members of our staff. They will each provide a brief overview of what they do and how they can assist providers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>You’re Not the Boss of Me</strong></td>
<td>In this training, we will discuss common behavioral issues seen in school-age children, the reasons for these behaviors, and strategies to address them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overview of the West Virginia ELSF Session I</strong></td>
<td>Overview of the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework. The WVELSF was created by a collaboration of early education professionals. <em>THIS OVERVIEW MUST BE TAKEN BEFORE TAKING SESSION II OR III.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Virginia ELSF for Preschool Session II</strong></td>
<td>This session provides an opportunity for participants to explore WV ELSF for Preschool: It’s purpose, content, application, and benefits for professionals, programs, parents and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Virginia ELSF for Infants and Toddlers Session III</strong></td>
<td>This session provides an opportunity for participants to explore WV ELSF for Infants and Toddlers: It’s purpose, content, application, and benefits for professionals, programs, parents and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>It’s More Than Paint and Crayons</strong></td>
<td>Offering open-ended art experiences to infants and toddlers can sometimes be a scary thought. Come explore ideas that will be easy on you and easy on your budget. Several hands-on activities will be presented to help you see why, when, where and how open-ended art activities can be a natural part of your curriculum.</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>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 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>Outside: Mother Nature’s Classroom</strong></td>
<td>This session will get participants to consider that there is more to experience than just what is inside their programs. Mother Nature has a lot to offer at no cost and it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Happy TRAILS to YOU!</strong></td>
<td>Providers will meet the TRAILS Team, learn about the advantages of participating in the TRAILS program, and have the opportunity to use the van, as well as obtain free resources from the Team.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medication Administration & Child Abuse and Neglect

Medication Administration
You must be on the WVSTARS Pathway in order to take this class.
Monday, April 13 5:00-9:00pm
Thursday, May 28 5:00-9:00pm

Child Abuse and Neglect
Tuesday, May 12 5:00-7:00pm

All trainings are held in the 1st Floor Conference Room of Link CCR&R

To sign up for these sessions,
Call Link CCR&R
(304)523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540.

With questions about these sessions, 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

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.
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
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.

**Putnam County:** Active Sports Complex (aka Ayash Center) - Contact Scott Nasby at 741-4079.

Yack ‘n Snack
Join us for an exciting evening of fun and participation amongst fellow Putnam County caregivers on Tuesday, April 14 from 6-8:30 pm at First Baptist Church Hurricane! This is the rescheduled date from our January 13th meeting cancellation. We will have some WV Licensing Specialists in attendance to talk with us. This meeting will be registered with WV STARS. We hope to see you there!
For more information contact Stephanie Bird @ Little Life, Hurricane, WV
I am excited to be the new TRAILS Early Childhood Specialist at Link Child Care Resource and Referral. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

My name is Melisa Dennison, but my friends call me Missie. A great many of you may already know me, as I was a family child care provider for nearly 15 years. I completed the ACDS program several years ago, and hold an Associate’s degree in Occupational Development for doing so. I also have a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology, having earned both at Marshall University—yes, I do bleed green! I have been happily married to my husband, Ronnie, for nearly 25 years, and we have three great kids—Jacob, 23; Emily, 20, who is following in my footsteps as an early childhood educator; and Christian, 15. We just recently moved back home to Huntington after having lived in the Myrtle Beach area for 4 years.

As your TRAILS Specialist, I am responsible for developing and providing needs-based learning opportunities and technical assistance materials in order to help you create or enhance developmentally-appropriate child care programs. TRAILS resources are available upon request, and are a free service to you.

I have a deep passion for children and learning and feel that children learn best through play. Children do not need expensive toys. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests using “true toys” such as blocks, dolls, and stuffed animals to best allow a child to use his/her imagination, rather than providing him/her with all the answers or too much stimulation. According to KidsHealth.org, children need 60 minutes of structured activity and 60 minutes of free play each day, and they should not be inactive for more than 60 minutes at a time. Toys and books are so important! By exposing children to books frequently in early childhood, you are helping to develop their vocabulary, encouraging pre-reading skills, and instilling a love of literacy for a lifetime. I would love to help you create a quality play-based program!

TRAILS can be a very valuable and important resource to you. We can offer you a vast amount of options to keep your program fun and inviting by continually providing the materials to change and update what you have available to the children in your care. Please feel free to contact me or Virena as we are here for you. My years as a provider give me a unique perspective and I feel I can be of great service to you.

I look forward to working closely with each of you, and I’d like to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who has gone above and beyond to welcome me to the Link CCR&R team!

Happy TRAILS to you!

~Melisa

*For more information on the importance of play, check out these articles at [http://www.naeyc.org/play](http://www.naeyc.org/play).
Think about someone you know who is good at perspective taking. What characteristics do they possess?

The ability to see things from another’s viewpoint, even if it conflicts with your own personal views, is essential to social competence. Without this perspective-taking ability, children remain self-centered and unable to relate to the interests, needs, and rights of others.

Perspective taking goes far beyond empathy; it involves figuring out what others think and feel, and forms the basis for children’s understanding of others’ intentions. Children who can take others’ perspectives are less likely to get involved in conflicts—one of the many reasons that perspective taking is such a critical skill for success in school and life.

Adults, too, need to keep in mind that children have their own ideas and feelings. It is imperative for adults to acknowledge what children are thinking and feeling, and to communicate with children as individuals who have their own thoughts and feelings.

Adults can use their relationships with children to help them learn about others’ thoughts and feelings and to become more empathetic, caring, and knowledgeable. Encouraging perspective taking in early childhood helps young children learn that it’s okay if others have different ideas, feelings, likes, and dislikes than they do.

Understanding the thoughts and feelings of others will help children know what others expect of them, such as parents, teachers, and peers, and how to problem solve effectively. Daily, early childhood professionals should strive to create interactions and learning opportunities that will build children’s understanding of others’ thoughts and feelings.

Module 7 of the Mind in the Making Series plunges into perspective taking and encourages early childhood professionals to reflect on everyday activities and interactions that promote and foster perspective taking in young children. To sign up for the Mind in the Making Modules or to learn more information, contact Candice Mullins at (304) 523-9540x229.

The Mind in the Making modules use research to reveal how children develop and learn, and how teachers can intentionally promote engaged learning.
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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.wvdhhr/link or www.rvcds.org