



# Thursday Notes from the Northeast Key

a program of CSC, Inc.



February 11, 2010

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## Northeast Key News

### **Second Friday Conference Call**



#### **Mark your calendar for the Second Friday Conference Call**

March 12, 2010 – 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

April 9, 2010 – 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

May 14, 2010 – 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

June 11, 2010 – 8:00 am to 9:00 am

If you have suggestions for a topic to discuss please feel free to email your suggestions to [bgambone@cscinc.org](mailto:bgambone@cscinc.org). To register for these conference go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Second\\_Friday\\_Conference\\_Call](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Second_Friday_Conference_Call) and complete the information in the survey. You can register for one or for all of the Second Friday Conference Calls. Once you have registered you will receive an email prior to the call which will give you the Call-In Number and Pin.

As of right now standard long distance charges apply when joining the Conference Call. We are in the process of exploring other options to help alleviate this cost to you. We hope we will be able to find an option that will work for you and our budget.

## Quality Circle Meetings

### The Northeast Key Invites you to a Quality Circle Meeting

We have had some fantastic ideas from the Early Learning and School Age directors and staff in the past. They have all helped guide the design of our services. Let's get together to share your ideas, suggestions and recommendations on how we can better meet your needs. Tell us what you think about Professional Development, Technical Assistance, STARS preparation activities, newsletters and more. Contribute to our plan for next year!

#### Bucks County

March 4, 2010 – 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Tabor Children's House  
601 New Britain Road  
Doylestown, PA

To register for this Quality Circle Meeting contact Beth Gambone at [bgambone@cscinc.org](mailto:bgambone@cscinc.org).

**\*\* For more information, please see the Bucks County Quality Circle Meeting Flyer on the website under the Thursday Notes section. \*\***



## Help Rename Thursday Notes

# Enter to WIN!!!



The Northeast Regional Key is looking to rename our “Thursday Notes” and we’d like to hear from you!

### Got an idea?

Send us your ideas by completing the attached “Rename Thursday Notes Form”.

If your name is selected, you will win a **FREE** two-hour professional development at your site for up to 30 staff!

Don’t miss out on your chance to help rename Thursday Notes. There is still time to send in your ideas. Send them to Beth Gambone at [bgambone@cscinc.org](mailto:bgambone@cscinc.org) or fax your “Rename Thursday Notes Form” to 610-432-5700 attention Beth Gambone by **February 19<sup>th</sup>**.

We are looking forward to hearing your wonderful thoughts!

## Keystone Babies

**Keystone Babies** is a voluntary, center-based program offered to Pennsylvania Keystone STAR 3 or 4 programs applying for a classroom of infants and toddlers who are enrolled in the Child Care Works program. Keystone Babies uses evidence-based approaches to fill gaps in early childhood services, to extend high quality learning opportunities to Pennsylvania's infants and toddlers, to promote all areas of child development (language, thinking, physical health and social-emotional development), and offer supportive resources to their families. The anticipated start date of the program would be in April 2010 with services beginning in May. Counties and cities eligible to apply were selected based on availability of STAR 3 or 4 providers, high poverty and low reach informed by the 08/09 Pennsylvania Reach & Risk Study. **In the NE Region the following cities will be eligible to apply: Allentown, Bethlehem, Reading and Scranton.**

For more information about Keystone Babies:

[Notification of Request for Proposal](#)

[Guidance](#)

[Bidders Conference Registration Form](#)

[Application](#)

[Budget Form](#)

[http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Programs\\_Other](http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Programs_Other)



## 2010-2011 Pennsylvania State Budget

On Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, Governor Rendell announced his proposed 2010-2011 State Budget. The Governor proposed the following for Early Care and Education as shared in the BUILD newsletter.

### In 2010-2011, Pennsylvania will:

1. **Strive for higher quality and increased access** by implementing Keystone Babies, a quality initiative for at-risk infants and toddlers; and develop a Director's Toolkit for Continuous Quality Improvement.
2. **Refine accountability and document positive outcomes for children** by incorporating additional programs into the Early Learning Network.
3. **Support local leadership** by implementing the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) Early Childhood Leadership Program.

### The Governor's proposed budget for early education for 2010-2011 will:

Serve additional families in:

- **Early Intervention** – Expanding to reach 81,696 children (34,384 infants and toddlers and 47,312 preschoolers) by adding 1,172 infants and toddlers and 1,229 preschoolers.

Sustain progress in:

- **Child Care Works Subsidized Child Care Program** – Sustaining to reach approximately 134,400 children (monthly average).
- **Keystone STARS** – Sustaining higher quality early learning opportunities for over 177,000 children and making it possible for programs to achieve higher STAR levels.
- **Head Start Supplemental** – Sustaining to reach more than 5,700 children.\* (see note above)
- **Nurse-Family Partnership** – Sustaining to reach more than 4,200 children and families.
- **Parent-Child Home Program** – Sustaining to reach approximately 1,500 children and families.
- **Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts** – Sustaining to reach 11,800 children.

See the Governor's entire [budget proposal](#), read his [budget address](#) to a joint session of the General Assembly and explore related issues [here](#).

## Learning Communities

### Learning Communities are back!

The Learning Communities provide Directors an opportunity to meet other Directors that are using the STAR Standards to enhance the quality of their Early Learning/School Age Program. Learn from other Directors and pick up tips on how to integrate the standards into your daily practices.

Check the schedule under the Learning Communities section on the website to see when there will be one in your area. If you have a topic you would like covered in a Learning Community, please contact your STARS Manager.

Visit the Learning Community section on the website for a list of future meetings.

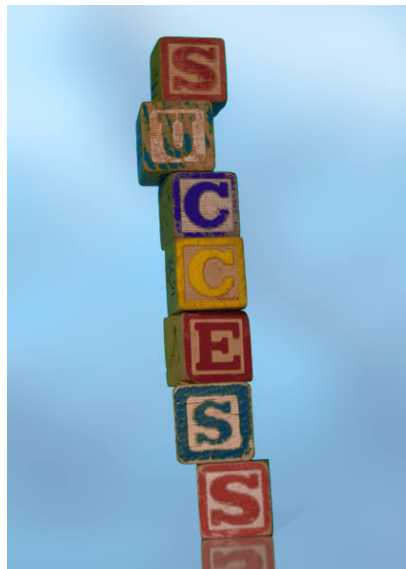
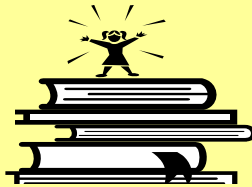
### **Keystone College Directors Credential**

Check out the updated Directors Credential Flyer from Keystone College under the Professional Development Section on the website.

Please note the change in date!!

### **Professional Development At A Glance**

\*\*We have attempted to pull all of the Professional Development Events on the PA Keys website that are taking place February 8, 2010 to March 14, 2010. To view this list, please see the Professional Development Section on the CSC Website or visit [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) to see a complete listing of all upcoming Professional Development Events and to Register \*\* We have also heard your suggestions and have included the Knowledge Area and Competency Level for each of the events. Hope you find this format helpful.





NE Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants are available to help you with children at your site. For more information about the project or to speak with one of our consultants please call:



**1-800-528-7222 or 610-437-6000**

Mary Jo Mastriani, extension 2320

Berks, Bucks, and Lehigh Counties

Kelly Miller, extension 2302

Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties



## February ECMH Conference Call!!

Wednesday, February 17th

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

From the comfort of your own environment, while the children are resting, join Kelly for this month's early childhood mental health conference call. For the first 15 minutes, she will discuss the importance of determining the meaning of a child's challenging behaviors. She will provide you with some questions to ask as you seek to find the answers to what the child may be trying to tell you. You can join her for the entire hour or just phone in with a question or concern you have around mental health issues and children.

The call-in number is

**1-218-862-1000**

(Please note the call-in number has changed)

Access Code: 157031#

(Standard Long Distance Charges Will Apply.)

**\*\* Please see the ECMH February Conference Call flyer under the Early Childhood Mental Health section on the website\*\***

## Health Capsule

### Celebrate February as National Children's Dental Health Month

Early oral health care is critical to prevent painful dental disease. Early decay looks like dull white bands on the smooth surface of the tooth at the gum line. It may be reversible with fluoride treatment and removal of plaque that builds up on the teeth. If this early decay is not treated, it becomes yellow, brown or black spots. These spots are places where decay destroyed the tooth enamel. Practice prevention. Avoid frequent sugary drinks like juice. Use fruit for desserts and snacks. Save sweets like cookies for occasional mealtime desserts. After children eat, be sure they do tooth brushing or drink water to clean their teeth. Remind parents of children over one year of age to take their children to a dental professional for preventive care. If you see chalky white spots or discoloration on a child's teeth, urge families to take their child to a dentist as soon as possible. To learn more, use the Oral Health Self-Learning Module on the ECELS website at [www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org](http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org). Put "oral health" into the search box on the ECELS home page. That is a good way to find the self-learning module and much more about oral health.

Susan S. Aronson, MD, ECELS Pediatric Advisor



## Pennsylvania Promise for Children Awareness Night

**Monday, May 17, 2010**

Phillies vs. Pittsburgh Pirates

Game Time: 7:05 pm



Additional information and the order form are attached. You can also find the Bucks PA Promise for Children at Phillies Flyer under the Thursday Notes Section on the website.

Promotes Southeastern PA's celebration for the Week of the Young Child

## Bucks County Annual Child Advocacy Breakfast

Friday, April 9, 2010

Spring Mill Country Club  
80 Jacksonville Road, Ivyland, PA

Registration begins at 8:30 am – Breakfast is served at 9:00 am

Cost \$19.00 per person

Please plan to join early childhood educators, legislators, and community leaders as we celebrate the national Week of the Young Child and to discuss the importance of the early years to future success.

BCAEYC is honored to welcome Jodi Askins, the new PennAEYC Executive Director. PennAEYC is the state affiliate for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Jodi will be joining us to speak about how PennAEYC is leading the advocacy efforts in Pennsylvania. Come and learn about your legislators stand on supporting Quality Early Childhood Education in PA. We will also receive a briefing on the activities of the Quality Child Care Coalition of Bucks County. It promises to be a meaningful morning as we unite for the common cause of making children a top priority in Pennsylvania.

Reservations are a must. Space is limited.

\*\* For more information and a copy of the Reservation Form, please see the 2010 Child Advocacy Breakfast flyer under the Thursday Notes section on the website. \*\*

