



Thursday Notes from the Northeast Key
a program of CSC, Inc.



February 18, 2010

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STARS Grants and Awards

WE are adding a new topic to the Newsletter – STARS Grants and Awards. In this section of the newsletter we will give you a Tip, answer questions and give you an update on the status of the grant funds in our region. WE hope you find this helpful.

We recently received a few questions from programs regarding the 1099, so today we are taking time to address the 1099.

If you received a STARS Grant or Award during the 2009 program year you were sent a 1099. The 1099 will be sent to you from your Key for those of you in Bucks County this will come from the SE Key this year and for those programs located in the other counties in the NE region you will receive this from Community Services for Children/NE Key.

The 1099 will tell you the amount of funds awarded in 2009. Each EL/SAC program needs to determine how to use the information on the 1099 in completing your taxes. Most programs find their accountant to be most helpful in assisting with the 1099 and completing their tax forms.

The NE Key has a budget of \$6,297,478. At this point the Key has nearly 75% of the funds approved and/or the grant applications in our office. If you have been designated since July 1, 2009 it is important that you send your grant request into the NE Key.

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. 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.

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

Help Rename Thursday Notes

Last Chance!!

Send in your ideas by TOMORROW



WIN!!

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

Got an idea?

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 or fax your “Rename Thursday Notes Form” to 610-432-5700 attention Beth Gambone by **February 19th**.

We are looking forward to hearing your wonderful thoughts!



Keystone Babies

Request for proposals for Keystone Babies

Keystone Babies is a voluntary, center-based program offered to Pennsylvania Keystone STAR 3 or STAR 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 and Risk Study. Identified counties include: Armstrong, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Lycoming, Mercer, Mifflin and Venango. Programs in the following cities will also be eligible to apply: Allentown, Bethlehem, Chester, Erie, Lebanon, McKeesport, Norristown, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Scranton and York.

The program guidance and application information are posted on the [PA Key website](#) under the news and notes section.

Bidders meeting in Harrisburg:

February 19, 2010, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Harrisburg PaTTAN
6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Bidders Conference Call

(You will receive the conference call dial in number/pin and power point prior to the call)

February 19, 2010, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

February 23, 2010, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

February 24, 2010, 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Please Email (ambrep@berksiu.org) or call (717) 213-2071 Amber Repman to sign up!

Learning Communities



Looking Ahead

Learning Communities coming to your county in March, April and May!

Attend the following Learning Communities and you can climb the STARS!

Risk Management –
Berks and Monroe

Transitioning Children –
Lackawanna and Luzerne

Parent Meeting Tips
Luzerne

Classroom Observation of Staff and Performance Appraisals

Luzerne and Bucks

Playground Safety

Bucks, Luzerne and Northampton

Look for dates and times in Thursday Notes...or check the PA Key Calendar!

Professional Development Activities

Northampton Community College Directors Credential

Check out the NCC Spring 2010 Director Credential Flyer from Northampton Community College under the Professional Development Section on the website.

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 22, 2010 to March 31, 2010. To view this list, please see the Professional Development Section on the CSC Website or visit 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.



Work Sampling/Ounce Scale

The Northeast Regional Key will not be scheduling Work Sampling and Ounce Scale online trainings at this time due to the recent changes that have been made. However, we will still be offering the Work Sampling and Ounce Scale Paper Version training throughout the Region, please check the online calendar to see when this will be offered in your area.

If you are currently a STAR 2 program who will be moving to a STAR 3 in the near future, we encourage you to sign up for these trainings.

Contact your STARS Manager if you have any questions regarding Work Sampling and/or Ounce Scale.



February ECMH Conference Call!!

Wednesday, March 17th

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Do you.....

...have a question about challenging behaviors?

...want some ideas for helping children develop their social-emotional skills?

...want to just talk about what is going on in your classrooms?

Call the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants!!!

Call in from the comfort of your own environment, while the children are resting. In open forum style, you can call in at any time during the hour to ask a question, seek information, or just share ideas concerns, issues you are experiencing in your classrooms.

Our Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants are looking forward to your call!

The call-in number is

1-218-862-1000

Access Code: 157031#

(Standard Long Distance Charges Will Apply.)

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

ECMH Spring Newsletter

The Early Childhood Mental Health Spring Newsletter is now available.

You can find your copy on the CSC website under the Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) section.



Lehigh Valley Early Learning Advocacy Network Meeting

Due to inclement weather February Early Learning Advocacy Network Meeting Rescheduled to March 24

The next Early Learning Advocacy Network meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, from 6:00pm-7:30pm at the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, 2200 Avenue A, Third Floor Conference Room, Bethlehem, PA.

The meeting will provide information about how Governor Rendell's proposed budget, released in early February, will impact quality early education programs such as Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, Keystone STARS, Early Intervention, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parent-Child Home Program and Head Start. The Office of Child Development and Early Learning's *Reach and County Assessment for FY 2008-2009* for both Northampton and Lehigh counties will also be handed out and explained.

Carol Obando-Derstine, Executive Directive of the Children's Coalition of the Lehigh Valley; Brenda Pickard, Pre-K Counts Outreach Coordinator for the Easton/Phillipsburg YMCA; Heather Scherer, Education Director of The Cuddle Zone Learning Center, Allentown; and Janet Soos, Vice President of Early Childhood Learning Programs, Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, will be part of a panel discussion about advocacy. Attendees will receive useful information that they can use to help community leaders understand the value of early childhood education. Ample time will be provided for audience questions.

If you are interested in attending this meeting please contact Jan Marie Schwartz, Project Coordinator, at jmschwartz@rcn.com or 610-253-5376 by March 10, 2010. A light dinner will be provided free of charge.

Health Link Online

The Winter 2010 issue of HEALTH LINK ONLINE is now available on the ECELS website at www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org. To sign up for the Health Link go to the "Publications and Media" tab located under the picture then on the left side of the screen look under "Handy Tools" go to the "Email Alerts from ECELS" and click on "Sign-up". You will also find the latest editions of Health Link on this page. Health Link is a great way to get information on how to stay healthy. Sign up today so that you can share this information with your staff and families.

The articles in this issue are:

- ☺ Noise and Management of Sound
- ☺ Are Disinfectant/Sanitizer Wipes OK?
- ☺ Promote 60 Minutes of Moderate to Strenuous Physical Activity Daily
- ☺ Animals in Child Care
- ☺ Upright Seating Lowers Oxygen of Young Infants
- ☺ Check Out New AAP Web Site for Reliable Pediatric Information
- ☺ *Managing Chronic Health Needs in Child Care and Schools—A Quick Reference Guide*
- ☺ Vaccine News
- ☺ Reportable Illness
- ☺ Start Safe: A Fire and Burn Safety Program for Preschoolers and Their Families—Free Materials
- ☺ Acidic Foods, Drinks, Candy Linked with Dental Enamel Erosion



Tender Bridges

Lori Borman, M.Ed
Child Development and Behavior Specialist
Child Development Specialities



Building Blocks of School Success: Strategies to Support Social Competence

March 25, 2010

Participants will learn early identification of behaviors and needs of social development. Resources for strategies to encourage the development of social competence within the classroom will be outlined and discussed.

Where: Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
705 N. Shady Retreat Road
Doylestown, PA 18901

When: **March 25, 2010**
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Registration
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Workshop

How: Register on the Intermediate Unit website www.bucksiu.org \$30.00 fee to the IU.
The fee includes coffee and lunch. You will receive **Five (5) Act 48 Hours and PQAS credit**

If you have any questions, contact Ann Faraoni, (215) 348-2940 ext. 1411 or afaraoni@bucksiu.org

****For more information see the attached Tender Bridges '10 Flyer. You can also see this flyer under the Thursday Notes section on the website. ****

