

NewsLink

A NEWSLETTER OF LINK CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL



APRIL.MAY.JUNE 2023

Hello, Providers! Spring has sprung here at the Link office!

The weather is getting warmer and we are finally thawing out of winter's deep freeze. At long last, birds are singing, leaves are sprouting, and flowers are blooming! The snowflakes and cheerful snowmen that have adorned your learning environments these last few months can now make way for all things bright and cheery...flowers, butterflies, kites, and more!

As you view this Spring edition of our NewsLink newsletter, keep in mind that your Link Professional Development Training Team is always ready to meet your professional development needs, so don't hesitate to let us know how we can help you! We sincerely value your input and appreciate all that you do for the families in our region.

GARDEN Seed Bombs

What's Needed:

6 Pieces Construction Paper

3-5 Packages Flower Seeds

Food Processor

Scissors

Water



1. Cut paper into 1-inch squares and put them into a small dish, keeping each paper color in its own dish.
2. Fill each dish with water just until the paper is covered. Soak for about 20 minutes.
3. Take one of the bowls of paper and wring it out about halfway. Put it in the food processor and pulse the paper into a pulp. Repeat this with all the paper colors and put the pulp back into each bowl.
4. Sprinkle some seeds into each bowl of paper, mix them in a little, and press the pulp and seeds into balls. If the pulp is a little dry, put a few sprinkles of water on the pulp. It will help it to hold its shape better.
5. Set the seed balls on a sheet pan to dry overnight.

Plant in your garden or anywhere you want flowers to grow.



https://www.discoverypoint.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/shutterstock_1097438712-1440497.jpg

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LINK CCR&R

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING TEAM

Cristie Dunbar

Link CCR&R Director
Cristie.R.Dunbar@wv.gov



Shannon Baldwin

PD Supervisor
Shannon.N.Baldwin@wv.gov



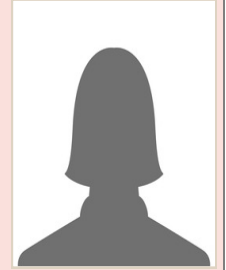
Tracey Adkins

Behavioral Consultant
Tracey.L.Adkins@wv.gov



Now Hiring

Behavioral Consultant
Open Position



Amy Willis

Early Childhood Specialist
Amy.D.Willis@wv.gov



Amber Swindler

Early Childhood Specialist
Amber.L.Swindler@wv.gov



Paula Stewart

Infant Toddler Specialist
Paula.L.Stewart@wv.gov



Samantha Davenport

Infant Toddler Specialist
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Melisa Dennison

Early Childhood Specialist-TRAILS
Melisa.A.Dennison@wv.gov



Anna Curnutte

TRAILS Early Childhood Associate
Anna.R.Curnutte@wv.gov



Jessica Wilcoxon

Quality Improvement Specialist
Jessica.L.Wilcoxon@wv.gov



The only thing missing is YOU! Please check out our current job openings on Indeed.com!

Descriptions of Professional Development Sessions

An Overview on the Importance of Child Observation and Assessment

Participants will receive an overview of child observation and assessment along with information on why we observe children, the different observation types, screenings, assessments, benefits, and tools needed to perform the observation and assessments.

Biting: Finding the WHY and How to Help

This session takes a look into possible prevention and reasons for biting. We will talk about documentation, communication, and the first tier of the pyramid model.

Director's Toolbox



The Director's Toolbox is a 7-week module series that is intended solely for administrators in a child care center or facility. This program is designed to improve the quality of early care and education for children in West Virginia. Director's Toolbox is worth 14 hours of WV STARS credit.

ECERS-3 Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3

This session will go through and discuss each section of the assessment, scoring, and the importance of using this rating scale. Participants will be given the opportunity to take part in activities to help them better understand what to look for when using this tool.

Emergency Preparedness



In this two-hour training session, participants will discuss the different types of emergencies that could happen, learn the importance of planning and preparing for those emergencies, and how to protect children and staff during and after events. Participants will receive support in creating the required emergency preparedness action plan. **There is a 1-hour TA required to receive full credit.**

Emotional Literacy: What's the Big Deal About Feelings Anyway?

Understanding emotional literacy can help a person in multiple ways. In this session, we will be looking closely at the importance of emotions. We will discuss different perspectives, development, and strategies that could help with big emotions happening with not only the children, but caregivers as well. By taking this session, it will help you understand that all emotions are valid and how emotions are another way of communicating.

From Milestones to Stepping Stones: Knowing is Half the Battle!

This session will give participants a better understanding of what child development is and the milestones within. We will discuss the importance, different ways, and benefits of tracking these milestones, because understanding where children should be developmentally will only benefit both you and the parents.

Inspiring Spaces=Learning Places

When children walk into your classroom, what do they see? Is the space inviting, warm, clean, fun and well-organized or cluttered, dirty and chaotic? This session will help you see the importance of making your classroom an inspiring space full of wonder, excitement, and engaging learning opportunities!

Let's Take a Time Out from Time Out: Using Other Strategies to Help Possibly Lessen Behaviors

This session takes a look into how time out originated, licensing requirements, the social emotional aspects, and how relationships are impacted. In addition, we will look at other strategies that may help lessen the behaviors in the classroom.



*"Spring is nature's way of saying,
'Let's Party.'"*

~ Robin Williams



Descriptions of Professional Development Sessions

"No, Stop, Be Careful!" Why Children Need Risky Play

Simply saying the words risky play can make some people nervous. However, risky play is something children are designed to do. When children can take part in risky play, they may experience new emotions, self-awareness, and even learn about consent. Children can practice decision-making and problem-solving skills, in addition to learning how their bodies work within the world. In this session, we will review the purpose, the benefits, and the different types of risky play. We will also discuss ways of becoming more comfortable with the concept and how we are likely already taking risks every day!

Planning Your Professional Growth



This training focuses on professional growth of early education providers and how to identify goals for the future.

Play: What Is It Good For?

Play is essential for the growth and development of infants and toddlers. Caregivers will explore ideas of how to support and facilitate play while learning how play is essential to the growth and development of infant and toddlers.

Quality Environments 101

This training will introduce family childcare providers to the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS). The training will discuss how the FCCERS is used in classrooms, why the FCCERS is important, and how the FCCERS relates to the Tiered Reimbursement Program in WV. Family childcare providers will get a basic understanding for the FCCERS and be presented with an opportunity for further training in this area.

Teamwork: Let's Work Together

This session will discuss teamwork at work, why it is important, what a good team member may be, and how to go from being a good team member to being great. It will also get colleagues interacting with one another while having them work together as a team. In doing so they will learn some things about their co-workers they may not have known prior to this session.

The 5 W's for Lesson Planning

This training will focus on lesson planning. We will discuss what a lesson plan is, the planning process, who is involved in that process, and the information that needs to be included on a lesson plan. This training will also look at the differences between an individualized plan and a group plan.

The Importance of Developmentally Appropriate Practice

This session will allow participants to gain a better understanding of developmentally appropriate practice. Participants will be given information on the 12 Principles of Child Development & Learning, 5 Guidelines for Effective Teaching, 10 Effective DAP Teaching Strategies, and what DAP looks like for each age group.



A Painted Branch: Collaborative Art with Kids

1. Place a branch on the art table with paints and brushes, pom poms, and glue.
2. No instructions, no rules besides: don't splatter paint on other people's work on purpose. Share the supplies and be kind.
3. Once all children who wish to contribute have done so, allow it to dry and then display in your room for all to enjoy!

<https://www.artbarblog.com/painted-branch-collaborative-art/>

Descriptions of Professional Development Sessions

Self-Care: What Does it All Mean?!

Self-care. It's the new cure all buzzword, right? We've all heard about it and for the most part we know that it sounds important. We probably have heard some things that we "should" do. As natural caregivers, we often find ourselves just giving to others all day long, both at work and at home. How are we supposed to have time to take time for ourselves? In this session, we will discuss the meaning of self-care, different types of stress, the difference between unhealthy coping behaviors and self-care, and that self-care is NOT selfish.

Understanding ACES: ACES 101

During this one-hour training session participants will be introduced to the concept of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through awareness and education. Participants will understand what ACEs are and the impact it has on children and adults, become familiar with the 10 types of ACEs, and gain an understanding of ways to overcome ACEs.

Utilizing the Environment Rating Scale to Achieve Higher Program Quality

This session will include an overview of the most recent versions of the Environment Rating Scales as well as information on how to use the results from the self-assessment to improve program quality through goal setting and the creation of action plans and professional development plans. This training will be applicable to staff and administrators of childcare centers, facilities, and family child care home programs.

Visual Aids: The What, the Why, and the How

This session will go over the value of visual aids. Visual aids not only support creating a more inclusive classroom, but also help by having a permanent, concrete reminder to your words. We will discuss the components and different types of visual aids, and how to implement helpful, positive visual aids within your classroom setting.

West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Infant/Toddler (WV ELSF)

In this module series, providers will explore and become familiar with the Early Learning Standards Framework: Infant/Toddler. Emphasis will be on using the ELSF I/T to complete individualized lesson plans for infants and toddlers. Providers will leave the course with a completed example of an individualized lesson plan.

WV Early Learning Standards Framework (WV ELSF) Overview

This session provides an overview of the purpose, content, and benefits of standards in everyday life, early learning standards and the WV Early Learning Standards Framework (WV ELSF). It also lays the groundwork for specific age group implementation for use in early childhood settings.

West Virginia Elements of Family Child Care Series (WV EFCCS)

This seven-part series, presented in 4-hour sessions, will provide a comprehensive overview of *The Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care* and how to use *The Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised*."

WVIT II: Relationship Based Care

West Virginia Infant Toddler Professional Development Program II provides information about relationships with Infants and Toddlers. 10-week course. Must be WV STARS registered and have previously completed WVIT.

WELL, HELLO THERE SPRING



April

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
Tuesday April 4th 1:00pm to 2:00pm	Online	PL Basic All Ages	Self-Care: What Does it All Mean?!	Tracey Adkins
Thursday April 6th 5:00pm to 7:00pm	Online	CGD, EC Intermediate All Ages	Inspiring Spaces = Learning Places	Amy Willis
Thursday April 13th 4:00pm to 6:00pm	Link CCR&R	CGD, EC, PL Basic All Ages	Emotional Literacy: What's the Big Deal About Feelings Anyway?	Tracey Adkins
Monday April 24th 5:00pm to 7:00pm	Link CCR&R	CGD, COA Basic All Ages	WV Early Learning Standards Overview	Amber Swindler
Wednesday April 26th 11:00am to 12:00pm	Online	COA Basic All Ages	An Overview on the Importance of Child Observation and Assessment	Amy Willis



FLOWER MARKET DRAMATIC PLAY



May

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
Thursday May 4th 6:00pm to 8:00pm	Online	EC, CGD, COA Basic All Ages	Visual Aids: The What, the Why, and the How	Tracey Adkins
Wednesday May 10th 5:30pm-7:30pm	Online	CGD, COA, EC Basic All Ages	Biting: Finding the WHY and How to Help	Tracey Adkins
Monday May 15th 5:00pm to 7:00pm	Link CCR&R	HSN Intermediate All Ages	Emergency Preparedness	Amber Swindler
Tuesday May 23rd 4:00pm to 6:00pm	Link CCR&R	PL, AM Intermediate All Ages	Utilizing the Environment Rating Scale to Achieve Higher Program Quality	Jessica Wilcoxon
Wednesday May 24th 6:00pm to 8:00pm	Online	EC Intermediate All Ages	The Importance of Developmentally Appropriate Practice	Amy Willis
Wednesday May 31st 6:00pm to 8:00pm	Link CCR&R	PL Basic All Ages	Teamwork: Let's Work Together!	Amy Willis



June

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
Thursday June 1st 1:00pm to 3:00pm	Online	CGD, EC Basic All Ages	The 5 W's of Lesson Planning	Jessica Wilcoxon
Monday June 12th 5:30pm to 7:30pm	Online	CGD, EC, HSN Basic All Ages	"No, Stop, Be Careful!" Why Children Need Risky Play	Tracey Adkins
Tuesday June 13th 5:30pm to 6:30pm	Link CCR&R	CGD, FCR Basic All Ages	Understanding ACES: ACES 101	Amber Swindler
Wednesday June 21st 1:00pm to 2:30pm	Online	CGD, EC, FCR Basic All Ages	Let's Take a Time out from Time Out: Using Other Strategies to Help Possibly Lessen Behaviors	Tracey Adkins
Wednesday June 21st 6:00pm to 8:00pm	Link CCR&R	CGD Basic All Ages	From Milestones to Stepping Stones: Knowing is Half the Battle!	Amy Willis
Thursday June 22nd 4:00pm to 6:00pm	Link CCR&R	AM Basic All Ages	Planning Your Professional Growth	Jessica Wilcoxon
Thursday June 29th 6:00pm to 8:00pm	Link CCR&R	EC/AM Basic All Ages	Quality Environments 101	Melisa Dennison



Mini-Series

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
See Page 11	Online	EC Basic All Ages	ECERS-3 Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-3	Amy Willis



“Sun, sun, sun here it comes!”

~ The Beatles



One-Day Workshops

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
See Page 12	Link CCR&R	HSN	Play: What is it Good For? (TRIP Spring Workshop) For Infant/Toddler Providers ONLY	Paula Stewart



www.CuttingInlyBites.com
**SPRING
SENSORY BIN**



Sensory Bin Materials

- Paper grass
- Mini fruit & veggie shapes
- Small flower pots
- Mini animals & bugs in varying textures
- Pebbles
- Flowers



Provide a variety of tools such as tongs, muffin tins, spoons and magnifying glasses to encourage children to sort, measure, count, arrange, and explore.

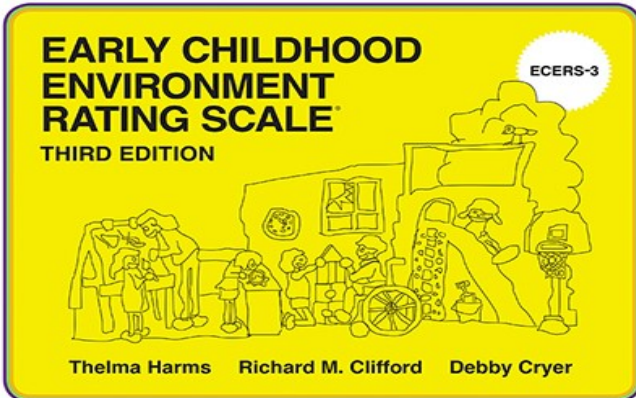
Module Series

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
See Page 13	Link CCR&R	CGD Advanced I/T	WVIT-II	Paula Stewart
See Page 14	Online	PL, AM Basic Directors	Director's Toolbox	Jessica Wilcoxon
See Page 15	Online	CGD, FCR, EC, COA, HSN, PL Basic All Ages	WV EFCCS	Melisa Dennison
See Page 16	Link CCR&R	CGD Basic I/T	WV ELSF: Infant/Toddler	Samantha Davenport



ADVENTURE
AWAITS
GO
FIND
IT

ECERS-3 EARLY CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALE-3



This session will analyze and discuss each section of the assessment. We will practice scoring and we will discuss the importance of using this assessment rating scale. Participants will be given the opportunity to take part in activities to help them better understand what to look for when using this assessment tool.

Location: Virtual

Dates:

Monday, June 26, 2023

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

6:00pm-7:30pm

Optional technical
assistance follow-up

For More Information
Contact:

Amy Willis
Early Childhood Specialist
304-523-9540 Ext: 3443
Amy.D.Willis@wv.gov





<https://www.playgroupwa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/bubbles-baby-Copy.jpg>

JUNE 5, 2022

SUMMER WORKSHOP

Play: What Is It Good For?

Infant and toddler caregivers will explore ideas of how to support and facilitate play while learning how play is essential to the growth and development of infants and toddlers.



NewsLink

TRIP

TRAVELING RESOURCES *FOR* INFANTS/TODDLERS PROGRAM

Link CCR&R's Infant Toddler Specialists and TRAILS Team are partnering to bring a series of workshops to our Infant & Toddler Providers

We will offer one workshop per quarter that will focus on a specific topic important to our Infant & Toddler Providers

Following each workshop, our TRIP team will conduct a 1-hour follow-up technical assistance visit, complete with resources, for all participating Infant & Toddler Providers

We hope to see you there!

LINK CCR&R

611 7th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
304-523-9540

Monday, June 5, 2023
5:00pm-6:00pm

Presented by: Paula Stewart



WVIT II

Relationship Based Care

Session 1	Tuesday, April 4, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
Session 2	Tuesday, April 11, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
Session 3	Tuesday, April 25, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
Session 4	Tuesday, May 2, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
Session 5	Tuesday, May 9, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
Session 6	Tuesday, May 16, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
Session 7	Tuesday, May 23, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
Session 8	Tuesday, May 30, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
Session 9	Tuesday, June 13, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm
*Session 10	Monday, June 19, 2023	12:00-3:30 pm

For more information, or to register,
please contact:

Paula Stewart
304-523-9540, Ext. 3442
Paula.L.Stewart@wv.gov



Training to be held at:

Link CCR&R
611 7th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701



Director's Toolbox

The Director's Toolbox is a 7-week module series that is intended solely for administrators in a child care center or facility. This program is designed to improve the quality of early care and education for children in West Virginia. Director's Toolbox is worth 14 hours of WV STARS credit.

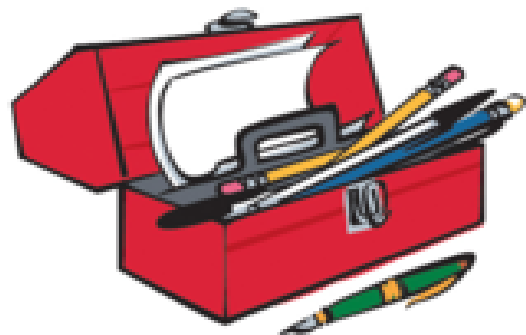
Module	Date/Time
Great Place to Work	April 5, 2023 1:00-3:00
Leadership in Action	April 12, 2023 1:00-3:00
The Right Fit	April 19, 2023 1:00-3:00
Making the Most of Meetings	April 26, 2023 1:00-3:00
From the Inside Out	May 3, 2023 1:00-3:00
Circle of Influence	May 10, 2023 1:00-3:00
Inspiring Peek Performance	May 17, 2023 1:00-3:00

Interested?

Contact Jessica Wilcoxon

(304) 523-9540 ext. 3412

Jessica.L.Wilcoxon@wv.gov



West Virginia Elements of Family Child Care Series (WV EFCCS)



This program was developed for family child care providers to improve the quality of early care and education for children. The seven modules focus on topics ranging from "Becoming a Professional" and "Organizing Your Day" to "What Children are Learning" and "Working with Parents."

For more information, or to
sign up, contact:

Melisa Dennison

Early Childhood Specialist—
TRAILS

304-523-9540 Ext. 3462

Melisa.A.Dennison@wv.gov

Upcoming Training Dates

Module 1—May 4

Module 3—May 18

Module 6—June 1

Module 2—May 11

Modules 4 & 5—May 25

Module 7—June 15

Sessions will be online from 5:30-9:30 pm.

West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: *Infant/Toddler* with Lesson Planning Module Series



In this 3-part module series geared towards those who work with infants and toddlers, participants will take an in-depth look at the WV Early Learning Standard Framework. Educators will learn about each of the content areas, domains, and foundations in the framework. We will discuss ways to incorporate the standards into individualized lesson plans. At the end of the series, teachers will take home a completed lesson plan to use as a reference in the future.

For more information please contact:

Samantha Davenport
Samantha.D.Davenport@wv.gov
304-523-9540 ext. 3479

Location:
Link CCR&R
611 7th Avenue Huntington, WV 25701

Module 1: Monday, May 8, 4:00-6:00 pm

Module 2: Monday, May 15, 4:00-6:00 pm

Module 3: Monday, May 22, 4:00-6:00 pm

Participants will receive 6 hours of WV STARS credit after completion of series and proof of learning assessment.

Online Trainings Offered by Child Care Nurse Health Consultants & Health Educators

April 2023 - June 2023

Please remember when registering for any of these classes, you must register on WV STARS and also register on Go To Training using the link found on the WV STARS registration.

Any questions? Contact Harmony Vance at hvance@rvcds.org.

Date	Time	Title
April 1st	8:00-11:00am	Medication Administration Saturday Morning 
April 4th	6:30-8:30pm	Oral Health in Child Care
April 5th	6:30-8:30pm	Understanding Special Dietary Needs
April 11th	6:30-8:30pm	All That Sugar & Fat
April 13th	6:30-7:30pm	Dealing with Lice
April 24th	6:30-8:30pm	Bed Bugs and Beyond
April 25th	6:30-8:00pm	Medical Plan of Care
April 27th	6:30-8:30pm	All About Allergies
May 2nd	12:00-2:00pm	Planting Seeds for Healthy Eating Lunchtime Learning
May 3rd	5:30-8:30pm	Medication Administration 
May 9th	12:00-1:00pm	Infection Control Lunchtime Learning
May 11th	6:30-7:30pm	Respiratory Infections in Children
May 17th	6:30-8:30pm	Picky Eaters
May 18th	6:30-8:30pm	Sun Safety and Heat Related Illnesses
May 23rd	6:30-8:30pm	Beans...More Than Just Cute Songs
May 25th	6:30-8:30pm	Creepy, Crawly Creatures
May 31st	5:30-8:30pm	Medication Administration 
June 6th	6:30-7:30pm	Morning Healthy Checks
June 7th	12:30-1:30pm	Nutrition Basics Lunchtime Learning
June 13th	6:30-8:30pm	Identifying Environmental Hazards 1
June 15th	6:30-8:30pm	Communicable Diseases
June 20th	12:30-1:30pm	Ear Infections in Children Lunchtime Learning
June 21st	6:30-8:30pm	Let's Move
June 22nd	6:30-7:30pm	Rashes and Scratches
June 27th	6:30-8:30pm	Identifying Environmental Hazards 2
June 28th	5:30-8:30pm	Medication Administration 

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.

<u>Boone County:</u>	Kanawha Co. Red Cross: Call 340-3650 or www.redcross.org
<u>Cabell County:</u>	Triad Tech: Call 529-7020 Vicki Delaney: Text 606-547-6144 (No calls) 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
<u>Lincoln County:</u>	Contact Dorothy or William Frazier: Call 778-3873
<u>Logan County:</u>	LEASA County Public Rescue: Call 752-0917 Logan Regional Medical Center: Contact Cindy Fleming—Education Dept. 831-1556
<u>Mason County:</u>	Pleasant Valley Hospital: Call 675-4340 Mason County Health Department: Call 675-3050
<u>Mingo County:</u>	Williamson Memorial Hospital: Contact Billy Whitt at 235-2500, Ext. 6321
<u>Putnam County:</u>	Active Sports Complex (aka Ayash Center): Contact Scott Nasby at 741-4079
<u>Wayne County:</u>	Kathy Parsons: Call 486-5991



CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES

Available in Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam and Wayne Counties!



5411 A Nelson Drive
Cross Lanes WV 25313



“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.”

~ Albert Schweitzer

YOU'VE GOT TRAILS

Quarterly Tidbits From Your TRAILS Specialist

Springtime Fun

Now that the long, cold winter is over, it's time to get outdoors and explore in the warm sun of Spring! Need some ideas on how to get the kiddos back in action after the winter hibernation? The following are some suggestions for activities for the kids and families in your care:

1. Make your own bubbles. Bubbles are always a hit! What's better than just blowing bubbles? Making them yourself! Here's an easy, DIY recipe to make your own:

- Pour 1 cup of water into a jar or bowl.
- Add 1 tablespoon of dish liquid.
- Add 1 tablespoon of glycerin.
- Stir all ingredients together.

If bubbles don't form well, add more soap and/or glycerin.

2. Grow a vegetable garden. Let the children help you decide which vegetables to grow. Take them to the plant center to pick them out. The children can take part in the planting process, as well as the day-to-day care for the plants. Allowing the children to have a part in this process encourages them to try more vegetables. Once you have harvested them, look up some fun and yummy recipes to feature your homegrown veggies!

3. Take a nature walk and have a scavenger hunt. Discuss what's different in the spring from the rest of the year and seasons. Make a list of specific spring items for them to find along the way. Turn it into a competition to see who can find the most springtime items on the list!

One last tidbit—always include literacy in your activities! A good book or story can really add a lot to the fun! Contact TRAILS for more activities, ideas, and resources to help with your springtime fun. Schedule a visit today!

Featured Provider of the Quarter

TRAILS would like to welcome King's Way Christian EduCare of Nitro! Not only are they new to our program, but to Region 4 as well. We are thrilled to serve you!

The West Virginia Elements of Family Child Care Series is being held online beginning in May!

See Page 15

As we hop back into Spring, let's get those kiddos outside into the sunshine! This roomy pickup truck includes a flatbed with drop-down tailgate, rugged wheels, opening gas cap, and steering wheel with working horn. Ideal for toddlers and pre-schoolers. Who wouldn't want to go 4-wheelin' in some spring muddy puddles?!



Featured:
Cozy Truck



Happy
SPRING

Your TRAILS Team



Melisa Dennison
 TRAILS Early Childhood Specialist
 Melisa.A.Dennison@wv.gov
 304-523-9540 Ext. 3462

**We're here
to help!**

Anna Curnutte
 TRAILS Early Childhood Associate
 Anna.R.Curnutte@wv.gov
 304-523-9540 Ext. 3422





The West Virginia Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Designation (BFCCD) offers resources to child care providers who support breastfeeding mothers. A child care provider enrolled in the initiative will receive support from Infant/Toddler Specialists, child care Nurse Health Consultants, and child care Health Educators to complete the 10 steps of the initiative. Upon completion of the 10 steps, the site will receive a certificate of designation in addition to help with resources and start up.

For more information, contact your Infant/Toddler Specialists at Link CCR&R:

Paula Stewart

Paula.L.Stewart@wv.gov
304-523-9540 ext. 3442

Samantha Davenport

Samantha.D.Davenport@wv.gov
304-523-9540 ext. 3479



To Apply for the Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Designation

- 1.Go to wvit.org
- 2.Click on BFCCD at the top of the page.
- 3.Read through the initiative description, including the 10 steps to receive the designation.
- 4.Follow the directions to submit your application.

Early Childhood in an Ever-Changing World

April 18-20, 2023 • Charleston, WV
2023 Celebrating Connections



April 18-20, 2023 Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center Charleston, WV

Sponsored by:

WV Department of Education/Offices of
Teaching and Learning, PK-12 Academic
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WV Department of Health and Human
Resources

Bureau for Public Health/Office of Maternal,
Child, and Family Health/WV Birth to Three
System/WV Home Visitation Program

Bureau for Children and Families
Early Care and Education Division
WV Head Start Collaborative Office

Support and coordination provided through
the Collaborative Training Project:
West Virginia Early Childhood Training
Connections and Resources

Returning to live and in person!

Join us for a three-day event with over 60
sessions and many exhibitors. This year's
conference has been designed to provide
relevant information about practices,
policies, planning, and research that
enhances community partnerships and
quality in early care and education.

Follow us on Facebook for updates
Print registration available by request only



Registration opens January 1, 2023. Find registration and program information at:
https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=16990

Great Beginnings



INFANT/TODDLER
CONFERENCE

Save the Date
September 21, 22, and 23

**Waterfront
Hotel**

**Two Waterfront Place
Morgantown**



JOIN OUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Members

Members include directors, child care resource & referral, BOE, head start, instructors journeypersons, and family child care providers.

Meetings

Small groups meet twice a year to discuss the implementation of ACDS in their counties.



JOIN US NOW!

To find out more information about the local council in your area, visit the ACDS website and go to the local council page under resources.

www.wvacds.org

FOOD REIMBURSEMENT



For information about 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:



<u>Central Child Care</u>	<u>Pride of Logan County</u>	<u>River Valley Family Child Care Food Program</u>
Serving Boone County (304) 382-0797	Serving Logan County (304) 752-6868 or (304) 752-1047	Serving Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, Mingo, Putnam and Wayne Counties (304) 523-3417 ext.3446 or 1-304-751-5253

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8 SPRING SNACKS *adorable & doable*



1. Butterfly Pretzels

An awesome new take on "ants on a log" from [The Nerd's Wife](#).

2. Hard Boiled Egg Chicks

Learn how to transform hard boiled eggs into hens at [Foodlets](#).

3. Carrots in a Pot

One of the simplest ideas, ever thanks to [Foodlets](#)!

4. Baby Chick Cheeseballs

Healthy, cheesy and cute, from [Hungry Happenings](#).

5. Fruit Kabob

A sweet and fun snack from [Fruit Kabob](#)!

6. Easter Egg Containers

We love these Easter Egg Picnic "Lunchables" from [Kailo Chic](#).

7. Corn Dog Butterfly

A [Corn Dog Butterfly](#) is sure to be a hit!

8. Grape Caterpillars

[Foodlets](#) gives us this Green Grape Caterpillars recipe!

<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/67266/20-adorable-doable-spring-treats-kids>

CABELL/WAYNE FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION



The Cabell Wayne Family Child Care Association would like to invite ALL providers from ALL counties to join us. If you have any questions feel free to call or text Kathy Baker, President, at 304-638-7578 or email me at mrskathys@comcast.net so I can add you to our email list and you can start receiving information about the association and other helpful information. We would like to have all providers' email addresses, so please email me at the address above so you can be added to the list serve. We hope to see lots of new providers at the meetings.

Next Meeting:

Saturday, April 1st from 10:00am-12:00pm at Growing Places II located at 4394 Rear Pleasant View Road, Huntington, WV 25701.

The Loose Parts Co-Op and CWFCCA will be meeting and having a loose parts exchange. Feel free to bring 1-5 loose parts to exchange with other providers. Refreshments provided.



Are you interested in making \$6 more per child per day???? If so, contact Kathy Baker at 304-638-7578 or email at mrskathys@comcast.net for more details.



LINK CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

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

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of



COME SEE US!



MAIN LINK OFFICE

611 7TH AVE.
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701
(800) 894-9540 OR
(304) 523-9540
(304) 697-4821 FAX



LOGAN OFFICE

19 CIRCLE DR.
LOGAN, WV 25601
(304) 752-3932
(304) 752-2897 FAX

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



www.facebook.com/



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