

# NewsLink

A NEWSLETTER OF LINK CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL



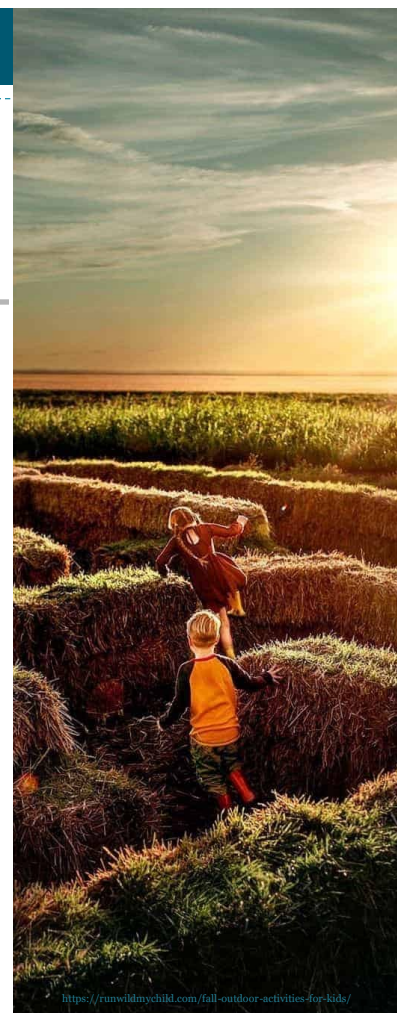
## OCTOBER.NOVEMBER.DECEMBER 2023

It is hard to believe, but fall is knocking at our door and it is bringing with it a flurry of fun and activity! The kids have gone back to school and it won't be long before we are trick-or-treating, eating turkey and pumpkin pies, and spreading all sorts of holiday joy and merriment! Whether you are someone who enjoys sipping hot cider on a porch swing, taking a refreshing walk in the brisk outdoor air, or playing a rousing game of touch football, there is no shortage of fall-themed festivities in our little region. This edition of our NewsLink newsletter brings to you a wide and impressive assortment of professional development opportunities. There are also lots of ideas to help the children in your care to have busy hands and minds this fall. As you look through this publication, please be sure to let the Link Professional Development Training Team know how we can help you! We love to use your ideas to help us improve the quality of professional development and early care and education in our area.

## NATURE CROWNS

### TO "FALL" IN LOVE WITH

To make a cardboard nature crown, measure your child's head for the length and cut durable cardboard strips 3" wide. Lay the cardboard flat and begin designing your crown. Next, take rocks, sticks, leaves, and other natural elements and hot glue them to your crown. If kids are old enough, let them do this on their own; younger children will need assistance with this step. When you are done designing your crown, hot glue the ends together. Wear your crown and have fun playing in the forest!



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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



**Courtney Golden**

Behavioral Consultant  
Courtney.D.Golden@wv.gov



**Amy Willis**

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



**Amber Swindler**

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



**Samantha Davenport**

Infant Toddler Specialist  
Samantha.D.Davenport@wv.gov



**Claire Culver**

Infant Toddler Specialist  
Claire.E.Culver@wv.gov



**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



In this season of gratitude, we pause to give thanks to our Professional Development Team for their hard work in improving the quality of care for the children in our region. We are so very thankful for each of you and the positive difference you make!







to our team!



**CLAIRE CULVER**  
Infant Toddler Specialist



My name is Claire Culver and I am the new Infant Toddler Specialist for Link. I am a 2018 graduate of West Virginia State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and a 2018 graduate of the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist Program.

I have worked in early childhood education since 2016, starting as a Teacher Assistant in an infant room, quickly moving all the way up to becoming Assistant Director of a childcare center in Charleston.

Through my years in early childhood education, I have worked in classrooms with children ranging in age from infants to five years old. I have had the pleasure of working in facilities ranging from Tier I to NAEYC accredited and have attained over 280 WV STARS credit hours.

Since my humble beginnings in early childhood education, I have pursued the career of Infant Toddler Specialist after my first Technical Assistance visit from Link. I never thought it would be possible that I could actually **BE** on the Professional Development team. It was a goal that felt so out of reach while I was struggling to juggle college, ACDS, a full-time job, and being the only parent to my son, Connor. But I persisted.

I met my soul mate, Adam, in 2018 and we have been happily married ever since. We have been blessed with a beautiful, blended family of four boys, two dogs, and two cats. In January 2022, I started working at Connect CCR&R as a Case Manager, one step closer to my career goal. I have now been given the opportunity to pick up the torch and be a part of this stellar Professional Development Team. It is truly a dream realized and I am beyond grateful for it.

# Descriptions of Professional Development Sessions

## **An Overview on the Importance of Child Observation and Assessment**

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

## **Anti-Bias Education: The Early Years**

In this 4-part module series we will be screening the film *Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years* followed with a discussion on how to put anti-bias work into action. There is not a one-way approach to anti-bias education, however we will learn about the 4 interconnected goals that will help guide the work, with each session exploring one of the goals of anti-bias education: identity, diversity, justice, and action.

## **Block Play: Building Up the Whole Child**

This session offers participants the opportunity to learn the importance and value of block play in early childhood as well as some creative DIY ways to make their own blocks.

## **Building a Firm Foundation with TRAILS One Block at a Time**

In this series for family childcare providers, participants will receive an overview of the West Virginia Elements of Family Child Care Series. There are four 1-hour sessions that discuss how children grow, organizing a program, how children learn, and building relationships. **\*There are technical assistance visits in addition to the sessions to support learning.**

## **Building Environments and Activities to Engage Children**

This session will help teachers understand how certain aspects of an early childhood classroom confine children's minds, bodies, and souls. Teachers will learn to identify these structures in their own classrooms and develop tools to build environments and activities that engage children on all levels.

## **Building Strong Foundations: Supporting Infants and Toddlers through the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Infant/Toddler (WVELSF I/T)**

This course will provide an opportunity to explore the WV Early Learning Standards Framework for Infants and Toddlers. Each class will discuss the purpose, content, application, and benefits of the learning standards, as well as how to incorporate each domain into a lesson plan. Participants will gain a detailed idea of how the early learning standards work, basic understanding of observations, and individualized lesson planning and how to incorporate them into a complete group weekly lesson plan for infants and toddlers.

## **Burn-Out: Recognizing the Signs and Reducing the Symptoms**

This training looks at the causes of employee burn-out, identifies the symptoms, and offers suggestions to overcome.

## **Communicating with Parents in Family Child Care**

This session will provide participants the opportunity to learn the importance of regular, respectful, and effective communication with the families in their programs. Discussion will include strategies for positive verbal communication, safe virtual communication, and multiple forms of written communication.

## **Dealing with Conflict**

Are you constantly dealing with conflict in your classroom? Do you feel that all you are saying is, "No!" and "Stop that!" Do you spend a great deal of time resolving conflict in your room? If so, this training is for you. During this session, participants will be introduced to the definition of conflict from a child's perspective. We will discuss various struggles that are occurring in the classroom, and together, we will deliberate problem solving strategies to assist with those classroom conflicts.



*"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons."  
~ Jim Bishop*





# Descriptions of Professional Development Sessions

## Emergency Preparedness

In this 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 visit 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 look closely at the importance of emotions and discuss different perspectives, development, and strategies that could help with big emotions happening with children and caregivers. Taking this session will help providers understand that all emotions are valid and that emotions are another form of communication.

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

This session will give participants a better understanding of child development and developmental milestones, and the importance and benefits of tracking them. Discussions will include what children should be doing at each developmental age and how knowing this information can benefit the child, the teachers, and the parents.

## Hands-On Play Party! A DIY Guide to Sensory Play

In this session, participants will learn how sensory play enhances learning in early childhood, as well as learn easy DIY activities to help children explore the world through their senses.

## Head, Heart & Hands: How Process-Focused Art Supports Early Learning

In this session, participants will learn how process-focused art encourages and supports development across all domains of early learning, and how to implement it in their curriculum.

## Mind in the Making Overview & Module Series

Mind in the Making integrates the science of children's brain development and learning. In this training, caregivers will be guided through an in-depth study of MitM's 7 Essential Life Skills showing ways to immediately strengthen executive function skills in children.

## NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct

This training will go through the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct and Statement of Commitment and why it is important to the early childhood field.

Join households around the world in pledging your support for the


## TEAL PUMPKIN PROJECT

[www.foodallergy.org/teal-pumpkin-project](http://www.foodallergy.org/teal-pumpkin-project)

Make this a **happy, safe & inclusive HALLOWEEN**

Find allergy-safe recipes & non-food treat ideas at [WWW.ACCIDENTALLYCRUNCHY.COM](http://WWW.ACCIDENTALLYCRUNCHY.COM)

- Provide non-food treats for trick-or-treaters
- Paint a pumpkin teal for the front of your home
- Display a free printable sign from FARE to indicate you have non-food treats available



# 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, benefits, and 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 is the Work of Childhood**

In this session, participants will learn the importance of play in early childhood and get tips on creating a quality play-based program.

## **Preschool Child Portfolios**

Do you want to learn how to create a preschool portfolio for the students in your classroom? In this training, participants will learn the importance of keeping a portfolio for each child. We will discover how to start the portfolio process, track the child's development in several different learning areas, and learn to stay on track with managing the portfolios. This session will also include guidelines for recording, organizing, reflecting, and using anecdotal notes.

## **Quality Counts**

Why does high-quality childcare matter? Because the need for quality childcare has never been greater! But what does it look like in our state and how can we help? Through group discussion and the use of media, early childhood educators will examine program supports that are necessary to achieve and maintain quality childcare and the important role they play within the process.

## **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.



## *Fall Leaf Cutting Tray*

This easy fine motor activity helps little ones truly get their hands on the beautiful colors of fall. Take a nature walk and help the children gather a variety of colors and sizes of leaves. In your learning space, set up a cutting tray and go over some basic scissor rules and safety tips with your little ones (even if the scissors you give them are not sharp). For this to be really successful, offer a variety of different types of scissors, because not all scissors are created equal, and some will undoubtedly work better on the leaves than others. Happy snipping!

# Descriptions of Professional Development Sessions

## The 5 W's of Lesson Planning

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

## The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old

This module series explores brain development of infants and young children from birth through age 5 in the context of relationships. Participants will investigate language and executive function and how the two are related. There will also be discussion of how relationships and attachment affect development and behavior and participants will discover how play positively affects children in all areas of development.

## Understanding ACEs: ACEs 101

During this 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.

## Understanding Infant and Toddler Behaviors: Why Do They Do the Things They Do?

This session will dive in to the five possible causes for behavior with infants and toddlers. Participants working with the infant and toddler age group will reflect on different aspects of behaviors and reactions to those behaviors. We will also look at social emotional development and examine the importance of adapting to the child and their cues.

## Understanding Trauma: Reaching the Unreachable

Before we can try to bring healing to those who need it, we must first try to understand how trauma works. This two-part series will discuss trauma and how it impacts a person, how to build a relationship with relationship-resistant children, and general strategies to help increase the learning and healing process.

**\*\* Adults and children with trauma may need professional help. What will be offered are ways to make your classroom or home as emotionally safe as possible. \*\***

## 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.

# MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES TO DO IN FALL WITH KIDS



### GRATITUDE HAND TURKEY

Trace you and your child's hand for hand turkey. Have your kids write one thing they are grateful for on each feather



### MINDFUL FALL WALK

Find somewhere you and your kids can go for a walk to see their fall colors! Practice mindfulness by noticing all the colors and details around them.



### BRAIN DUMP FALL LEAVES

Cut out fall leaves together. On these leaves, have them write down all of the thoughts going on in their head. Gather them up and throw them into the air!



### JACK-O-LANTERN JOURNALING

Draw or print some pumpkins. At the end of the day, have them draw and color a face on the pumpkin to match how they felt that day.



### PUMPKIN SPICE MEDITATION

Prepare a pumpkin spice hot cocoa for you and your kiddo. Meditate with your attention on the taste & smells of the cocoa.

*[makingmindfulnessfun.com](http://makingmindfulnessfun.com)*



# October

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
Monday October 2nd 6:00pm to 7:00pm	<b>Online</b>	FCR, PL, AM Basic All Ages	Communicating with Parents in Family Child Care	Melisa Dennison
Thursday October 5th 10:00am to 11:00am	<b>Online</b>	CGD, FCR Basic All Ages	Understanding ACEs: ACEs 101	Courtney Golden
Thursday October 5th 1:00pm to 2:00pm	<b>Online</b>	PL Basic All Ages	NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct	Jessica Wilcoxon
Wednesday October 11th 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 1st Floor</b>	CGD, EC Basic All Ages	Play is the Work of Childhood	Melisa Dennison
Thursday October 12th 5:30pm to 7:30pm	<b>Online</b>	CGD, EC, PL Basic All Ages	Emotional Literacy: What's the Big Deal About Feelings Anyway?	Tracey Adkins
Monday October 16th 4:00pm to 5:00pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 1st Floor</b>	PL Basic All Ages	Quality Counts	Jessica Wilcoxon
Monday October 16th 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 2nd Floor</b>	EC Intermediate All Ages	Building Environments and Activities to Engage Children	Amy Willis
Monday October 23rd 5:30pm to 7:30pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 2nd Floor</b>	COA, CGD Basic Pre-K	Preschool Child Portfolios	Amber Swindler
Thursday October 26th 10:00am to 11:00am	<b>Online</b>	PL Basic All Ages	Burn Out: Recognizing the Signs and Reducing the Symptoms	Jessica Wilcoxon



# November

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
Thursday November 2nd 5:30pm to 7:30pm	<b>Online</b>	CGD, EC Basic All Ages	The 5 W's of Lesson Planning	Jessica Wilcoxon
Thursday November 2nd 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 2nd Floor</b>	CGD Basic All Ages	From Milestones to Stepping Stones: Knowing is Half the Battle!	Amy Willis
Tuesday November 7th 12:00pm to 2:00pm	<b>Online</b>	CGD, FCR Basic All Ages	Dealing with Conflict	Courtney Golden
Monday November 13th 6:00pm to 7:00pm	<b>Online</b>	CGD, EC Basic All Ages	Head, Heart, & Hands: How Process-Focused Art Supports Early Learning	Melisa Dennison
Tuesday November 14th 5:30pm to 7:30pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 1st Floor</b>	HSN Intermediate All Ages	Emergency Preparedness	Amber Swindler
Monday November 20th 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 1st Floor</b>	CGD, EC Basic All Ages	Hands on Play Party! A DIY Guide to Sensory Play	Melisa Dennison
Tuesday November 21st 5:30pm to 7:30pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 1st Floor</b>	CGD, EC Basic I/T	Understanding Infant and Toddler Behaviors: Why Do They Do the Things They Do?	Tracey Adkins

Oh, you got jokes!

Why do birds fly south in the fall?



Because it's too far to walk.

What do Trees do in Autumn?



Take a leaf of absence.

What is the best book to read in autumn?



Gourd of the Rings

Why do trees not like to go back to school in the fall?



They are tired of being stumped!

# December

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
Tuesday December 5th 1:00pm to 2:00pm	<b>Online</b>	PL Basic All Ages	Self Care: What Does it All Mean ?!	Tracey Adkins
Wednesday December 6th 4:00pm to 6:00pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 1st Floor</b>	PL, AM Basic All Ages	Planning Your Professional Growth	Jessica Wilcoxon
Thursday December 7th 6:00pm to 8:00pm	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 1st Floor</b>	CGD, EC Basic All Ages	Block Play: Building Up the Whole Child	Melisa Dennison
Monday December 11th 1:00pm to 2:00pm	<b>Hamlin Library</b>	PL, AM Basic All Ages	Utilizing the Environment Rating Scale to Achieve Higher Program Quality	Jessica Wilcoxon
Wednesday December 13th 1:00pm to 3:00pm	<b>Online</b>	CGD, EC, HSN Basic All Ages	"No, Stop, Be Careful!" Why Children Need Risky Play	Tracey Adkins
Wednesday December 20th 1:00pm to 2:00pm	<b>Online</b>	COA Basic All Ages	An Overview on the Importance of Child Observation and Assessment	Amy Willis



## Pumpkin Patch Dramatic Play

Set up a pumpkin patch in your dramatic play area. The children can sell goods like hot beverages and kettle corn (made with different colors of tissue paper), offer pretend face painting, and use simple recipe cards to make and sell pretend pumpkin pies.





## Mini-Series

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
See Page 12	<b>Online</b>	CGD, FCR, EC Basic All Ages	Understanding Trauma: Reaching the Unreachable	Tracey Adkins

## Module Series

DATE & TIME OF SESSION	LOCATION OF SESSION	CORE COMP TIER TARGET AGE	TITLE OF SESSION	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER
See Page 13	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 2nd Floor</b>	CGD, HSN, FC, EC Intermediate All Ages	The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 years Old	Amy Willis
See Page 14	<b>Early Education Station</b>	CGD, FCR, COA, EC, PL Basic All Ages	Mind in the Making Overview & Module Series	Amber Swindler
See Page 15	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 2nd Floor</b>	CGD, COA Basic I/T	Building Strong Foundations: Supporting Infants and Toddlers through the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Infant/Toddler	Samantha Davenport
See Page 16	<b>Link CCR&amp;R 1st Floor</b>	CGD, FCR, PL Basic All Ages	Anti-Bias Education: The Early Years	Amber Swindler



*“The heat of autumn is different from the heat of summer. One ripens apples, the other turns them to cider.”  
~ Jane Hirshfield*



# Understanding Trauma: Reaching the Unreachable

Before we can try to bring healing to those who need it, we must first try to understand how trauma works. This two-part series will discuss trauma and how it impacts a person, how to build a relationship with relationship-resistant children, and general strategies to help increase the learning and healing process.

**\*\* Please note: Adults and children with trauma may need professional help. What will be offered are ways to make your classroom or home as emotionally safe as possible.**

**This two-part series will be worth 4 WVSTARS hours!**

*Location:*

## Online

Dates:

Monday, October 30th, 2023

6:00p – 8:00p

Monday, November 6th, 2023

6:00p – 8:00p

For more information please contact:  
Tracey Adkins, Behavioral Consultant

Tracey.L.Adkins@wv.gov



304-528-3472



# The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old

*Professional Development for Early Childhood Professionals*

Decades of research indicate that the early years of life are a period of exponential brain development, characterized by great opportunity and vulnerability dependent on the child's relationships and environment.

*The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old* is an innovative professional development opportunity that provides a toolkit of how the brain develops, along with ways you can encourage healthy brain development in children from birth to 5 years old.

Participants will develop skills and strategies to:

- understand the architecture and neurobiology of brain development
- support language, cognition, prosocial behavior, and social-emotional development
- reduce toxic stress that can negatively influence brain development of very young children

For more information, visit  
[www.zerotothree.org/growingbrain](http://www.zerotothree.org/growingbrain).



## Make Plans Today

**What:** The Growing Brain Curriculum  
7-Part Module Series

**When:** Every Tuesday 5:00pm-8:00pm  
October 3, 2023 – November 21, 2023  
(Excluding Tuesday, October 17, 2023)

**Where:** Link Office-2nd Floor Conference Room  
611 7th Ave.  
Huntington, WV 25701

## Hosted By

Amy Willis  
Early Childhood Specialist  
[Amy.D.Willis@wv.gov](mailto:Amy.D.Willis@wv.gov)  
304.523.9540 ext.3443



*The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old* is brought to you by ZERO TO THREE Professional Development and Workforce Innovations. PDWI aims to elevate the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the early childhood development field.

For additional professional development resources and trainings, visit  
[www.zerotothree.org/PDWI](http://www.zerotothree.org/PDWI).



Professional Development Opportunity:

# Mind in the Making

## What is Mind in the Making?

Mind in the Making (MITM), a program created by Families and Work Institute, shares the science of children's learning through innovative, in-depth training and includes materials geared for action.

In 2000, MITM founder Ellen Galinsky began a research journey fueled by a question: *How to keep the fire for learning—which every child is born with—lighting up the eyes of children?*

**MITM training provides opportunities for adults to examine child development research and themselves to create strategic actions they can take to promote essential life skills in children ages 0-8.**

**98%** report this training helped them improve their skills with children

**98%** gained new knowledge and learned new approaches

**97%** reported the modules made them want to learn more

Source: MITM Participant Survey.



**MITM'S Seven Essential Life Skills Learning Modules help adults understand and encourage important executive function-based skills children need to thrive:**

1. Focus and Self-Control
2. Perspective Taking
3. Communicating
4. Making Connections
5. Critical Thinking
6. Taking on Challenges
7. Self-Directed, Engaged Learning

**Location:** Early Education Station in Mason County  
817 30th St, Point Pleasant

**Time:** 5:30pm-7:30pm

**\*\*Please note: Directors and participants must attend Overview and participants must attend Module 7. \*\***

<b>Dates:</b>	Thursday, October 5	<u>Overview Module</u>
	Thursday, October 12	<u>Module 1</u>
	Thursday, October 19	<u>Module 2</u>
	Thursday, October 26	<u>Module 3</u>
	Thursday, November 2	<u>Module 4</u>
	Thursday, November 9	<u>Module 5</u>
	Thursday, November 16	<u>Module 6</u>

**\*NO class the week of Thanksgiving\***

Thursday, November 30 Module 7

**For more information contact:**  
**Amber Swindler, Early Childhood Specialist**  
**Amber.L.Swindler@wv.gov**  
**304-523-9540, ext. 3432**

**\*Registration opens Aug. 28th and closes Sept. 30th\***

**"This training has truly helped [me] be a better teacher and a better person. I have already set so many goals for myself outside of my job, but even at my job I have set so many more goals. I want to always improve in my job and this class has definitely helped me move forward with my job."**

— Child Care Educator, West Virginia

Participants will receive 26 hours of WV STARS credit upon completion of overview, all seven modules, and 2 required TA visits.



To learn more visit  
[mindinthemaking.org](http://mindinthemaking.org)

**MIND**intheMaking

# Building Strong Foundations: Supporting Infants and Toddlers through the West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Infant/Toddler



This is a 9-hour module series, broken up into three 3-hour classes. This module series meets the criteria for the West Virginia Infant Toddler Specialization with the credentialing program. This course will provide an opportunity to explore the WV Early Learning Standards Framework for Infants and Toddlers by focusing on two developmental domains in each class, where we will discuss the purpose, content, application, and benefits of the learning standards, as well as how to incorporate each domain into a lesson plan. By the end of the module series, you will have a detailed explanation of how the early learning standards work, basic understanding of observations, individualized lesson planning and how to incorporate them into a complete group weekly lesson plan for infants and toddlers.

## 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  
2nd Floor Conference Room

**Module 1:** Monday, November 20, 1:00-4:00 pm

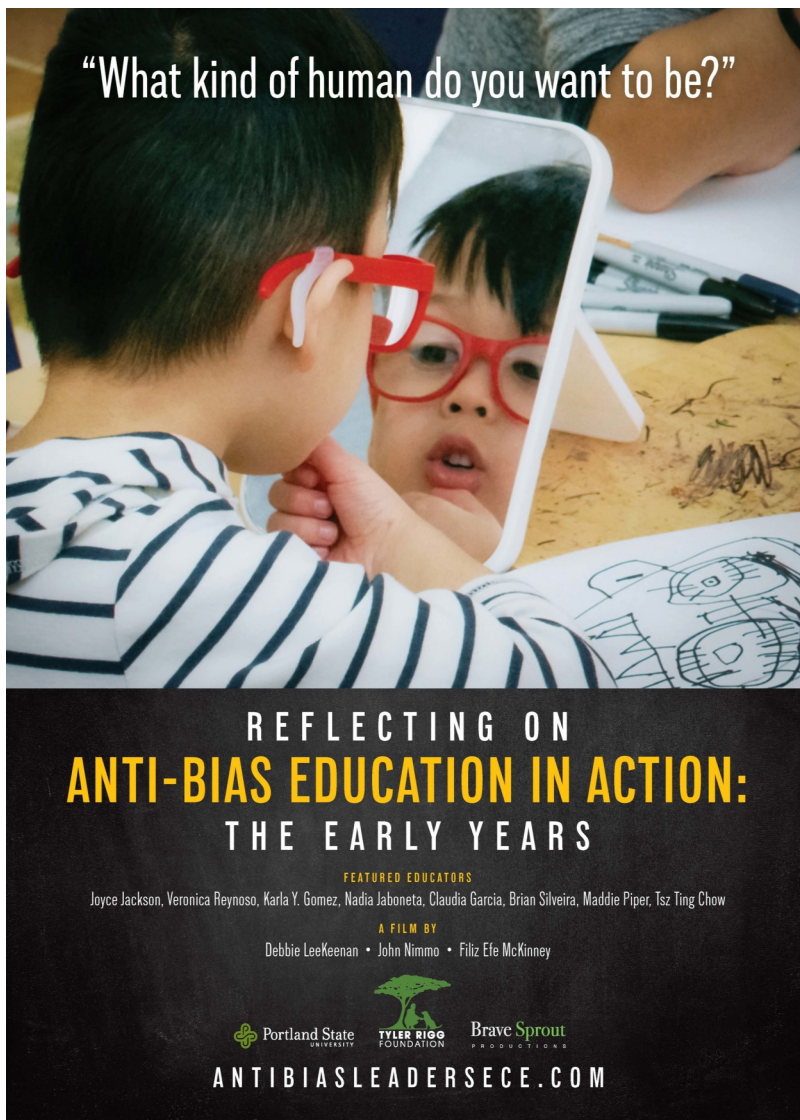
**Module 2:** Monday, November 27, 1:00-4:00 pm

**Module 3:** Monday, December 4, 1:00-4:00 pm

Participants will receive 9 hours of WV STARS credit after successful completion of series and proof of learning.

# Why place equity and diversity at the heart of what you do?

*“Anti-bias education places diversity and equity goals at the heart of everything we do in early childhood.”* ([Anti-Bias Leaders In Early Childhood Education](#) 2022) In this 4-part module series we will screen the film ***Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years*** followed by discussion on how to put anti-bias work into action. There is not a one way approach to anti-bias education, however we will learn about the 4 interrelated goals that will help guide that work. Each session we will explore one of the goals of anti-bias education; identity, diversity, justice, and action. Come and join us as we learn how this approach can find a place in our everyday practice.



## Anti-Bias Education: The Early Years 4– Part Module Series

Huntington Link Office  
2nd Floor Conference Room

5:30pm-7:30pm

Session 1: Tuesday, November 28

Session 2: Tuesday, December 5

Session 3: Tuesday, December 12

Session 4: Tuesday, December 19

For more information contact:

Amber Swindler

Early Childhood Specialist

Amber.L.Swindler@wv.gov

304-523-9540 Ext.3432

\*Participants will receive 8 hours of WV STARS  
credit upon completion\*

\*Registration ends November 21st\*



**ATTENTION FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS!**

# **Building a Firm Foundation with TRAILS: One Block at a Time**

**Contact TRAILS today for more information!**



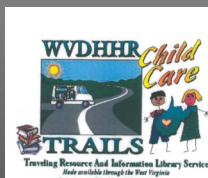
Module 1— How Children Grow

Module 2—Organizing Your Home & Day

Module 3—How Children Learn

Module 4—Building Positive Relationships

Melisa Dennison  
Early Childhood Specialist-TRAILS  
Melisa.A.Dennison@wv.gov  
304-528-3462



Anna Curnutte  
Early Childhood Associate  
Anna.R.Curnutte@wv.gov  
304-528-3422

# Child Care Health Educator Online Training Schedule

10/3	6:30-8:30	Bed Bugs and Beyond
10/25	6:30-8:30	All that Sugar and Fat
11/15	Noon-2:00	Picky Eater
11/28	6:30-8:30	Planting Seeds for Healthy Eating
11/29	6:30-8:30	Beans...More than Just a Cute Song
12/5	6:30-8:30	Identifying Environmental Hazards 1
12/20	Noon-2:00	Identifying Environmental Hazards 2



If you would like to schedule any Face-to-Face Trainings or would like to know what your Child Care Health Educator offers, please feel free to reach out:

Harmony Vance

Email: [hvance@rvcds.org](mailto:hvance@rvcds.org)

Phone: 304-529-7603 ext. 3437

[www.wvearlychildhood.org](http://www.wvearlychildhood.org)



**West Virginia Child Care Health  
Educator Facebook Page**

**The Child Care Nurse Health Consultants and Child Care Health Educators present to you....**

# ONLINE SUPER SATURDAY

November 4th

We are offering 8 hours of STARS registered training in one day. The classes can be taken individually or as a whole.

Register through the STARS Calendar.

## THE TRAININGS

- 8:00-10:00 am Communicable diseases -Candy Morgan
- 10:15-11:15 am Ear Infections -Karen Gilbert
- 11:30-12:30 Dealing with Lice -Lisa Galford
- 12:30-1:00 Lunch Break
- 1:00-3:00 Let's Move - Harmony Vance
- 3:15-5:15 pm Oral Health -Renee Stonebraker





## 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.

**Boone County:** Kanawha Co. Red Cross: Call 340-3650 or [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Cabell County:** Vicki Delaney: Text 606-547-6144 (No calls)  
American Red Cross: Call 526-2900  
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  
Logan Regional Medical Center: Contact Cindy Fleming—Education Dept. 831-1556


**Mason County:** Pleasant Valley Hospital: Call 675-4340

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



## CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES

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




### LEARN CPR

You Can Do It!

**You will learn**

- Adult, Child & Infant CPR
- Adult, Child & Infant AED
- Adult, Child & Infant Choking
- Bleeding you can & cannot see with Stop the Bleed Basics
- Burns
- Seizures
- Overdose
- So much more



**304-741-4079**

5411 Nelson Drive  
Cross Lanes WV 25313

**ARE YOU PREPARED?**

**Notice**  
Due to my wife's surgery all class are held at my location unless you have a guaranteed number of students please call me.

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

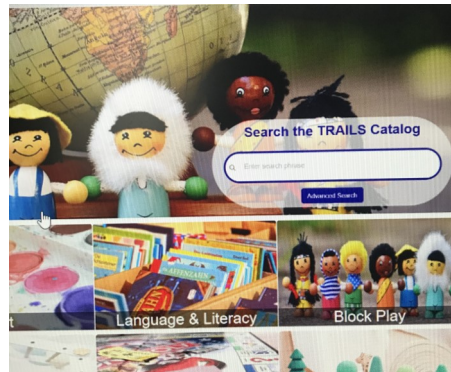
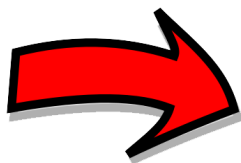
*~ Albert Schweitzer*

# YOU'VE GOT TRAILS

Quarterly Tidbits From Your TRAILS Specialist

## TRAILS IS GOING ONLINE!

We are pleased to announce that the Link TRAILS program has transitioned to a new inventory system that will allow you to "shop" online with us! We will be sending more information out very soon and plan to have you all participating by September. So, stay tuned. This is *BIG*! We are so excited to share it with you all!



**Building a Firm Foundation  
with TRAILS One Block at a  
Time**

This 4-part series will be held  
in December.

See Page 17 for more info.



The following family child care providers  
completed the West Virginia Elements of Family  
Child Care Series last quarter and deserve to be  
recognized:

Abbie Fisher  
 Stephen Fisher  
 Katie Daniel  
 Connie Carte  
 Sarah Maynard  
 Tracy Hammons  
 Valerie Hunt  
 Quanita Thompson

*We are so proud of all their hard work!*



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

Your TRAILS Team

**We're here  
to help!**

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





You're Invited  
to a  
**Loose Parts Play Date!!**

**When:** Saturday, October 14th  
10-12pm

**Where:** Ritter Park  
Parking near 8th St. Bridge

**Bring:** Your child/children

**RSVP:** To your child care provider

**Organizer:** Melisa Dennison\*



**2 Hours of Family Engagement**  
**Refreshments**  
**Lots of Fun!**

The Link CCR&R TRAILS Loose Parts Co-Op is inviting you to our next loose parts play date!

What is loose parts play, you ask?

Loose parts play is using objects in play. The objects have no specific function or role. It is not playing with toys, as toys have a defined way in which they are used. These objects can be anything that is safe and has no pre-defined purpose. They can be natural or synthetic, large or small, and can be used in a multitude of child-led ways.

**Come play with us again!**

**New? Join us and see what it's all about!**



\*For more information, contact:  
Melisa Dennison  
Early Childhood Specialist—TRAILS  
304-523-9540 Ext. 3462  
Melisa.A.Dennison@wv.gov



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:

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

Claire Culver  
Claire.E.Culver@wv.gov  
304-523-9540 ext. 3434



<https://www.parents.com/baby/development/social/how-your-baby-learns-to-love/>

## To Apply for the Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Designation

- 1.Go to [wvit.org](http://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.



# Celebrating Connections 2024

Building Lifelong Learners: Constructing Solid Foundations for Young Children



**April 24-26, 2024**

**Charleston Coliseum &  
Convention Center  
Charleston, WV**



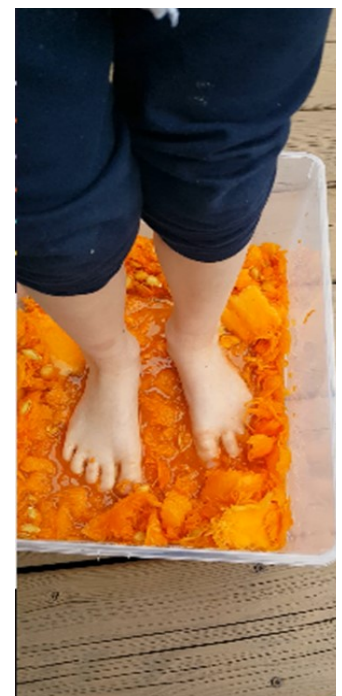
<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/20792>



## *Sensory Activity: A Walk Through Fall*

This fall, instead of offering a traditional sensory bin that children explore with their hands, give them the opportunity to take off their shoes and socks and explore with their bare feet! Fill several bins with different sensory items from nature such as dry corn, sand, crunchy leaves, round stones, pine cones, pumpkin mush, and wood/bark. Ensure that the bins are big enough so that 2 little feet can easily fit inside them; set them up so that children can step easily from one bin to the next. As they walk, encourage children to use their words to describe the way each different item feels on their bare feet.

The pumpkin bin can be messy, so consider placing it at the end of the walk so that children don't track pumpkin mush through the other bins. Also be aware that pumpkin is quite slippery, so be sure to walk next to the children and hold their hands as they take this exciting sensory walk. At the end of the walk it's a good idea to have a bucket of water to rinse the children's feet and a towel for drying them.





# JOIN OUR LOCAL COUNCILS



## Meetings

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

## Members

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



## 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](http://www.wvacds.org)





RIVER VALLEY CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES



# ACDS REGISTRATION

## ABOUT ACDS

ACDS is a 4 semester apprenticeship program for individuals working directly with children birth to age 12 for a minimum of 20 hours a week. Classes are one evening a week for 15 weeks a semester. Virtual classes are available for counties that do not offer an in-person option.

## PARTICIPATION

Registration for the Fall 2023 semester will open June 1 and run through the first of August. For the Fall 2023 class schedule and program information, visit the ACDS website.

## REGISTRATION



### STEP ONE

Visit the WV STARS training calendar and search self-paced courses for all ACDS orientations.



### STEP TWO

Complete registration that is linked at the end of each orientation.



### STEP THREE

Submit \$25.00 registration fee to ACDS program. Checks and cards are accepted. Credit card form is on ACDS website.



304-523-0433



[www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org)



[wwacds@rvcds.com](mailto:wwacds@rvcds.com)

## 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:



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



### Fall Charcuterie Board for Kids

- Spreads:** Hummus, jams, dips, and nut/seed butter. Add spoons to small dishes to encourage little amounts.
- Crackers:** Mini cheese sandwiches, goldfish crackers and pretzel thins. Crusty bread and melba toasts would be good too.
- Fruits:** Fresh berries, grapes and mandarin oranges. Dried apricots, raisins and apple slices are also fun.
- Vegetables:** Baby tomatoes, mini cucumbers, sliced carrots, celery, pickles, and olives.
- Meats:** Salami, pepperoni, sliced turkey and ham. Bundle on toothpicks for easy feasting.
- Cheese:** Cubed cheddar and swiss, mozzarella pearls and string cheese. The milder the better on this kid friendly platter.
- Nuts and seeds:** Use these for fillers. Cashews, almonds, pistachios etc.. Trail mixes are yummy too.

Think finger foods and get creative! There is no wrong way to charcuterie! The more the merrier, and all the variety makes for one pretty plate!



## CABELL/WAYNE FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION



The Cabell Wayne Family Child Care Association would like to invite ALL providers from ALL counties to join. If you have any Questions, feel free to call or text Kathy Baker, President, at 304-638-7578, or email her at [mrskathys@comcast.net](mailto:mrskathys@comcast.net) so you can start receiving information about the association and other helpful information. They would like to have all providers' email addresses, so please email Kathy at the address above to be added to the listserv. They hope to see lots of new providers at the meetings.

### Next Meeting:

Date: Saturday, October 12th

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Location: Ritter Park

Parking Near 8th St. Bridge



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](mailto:mrskathys@comcast.net) for more details.





WVAYC

# FAMILY CHILD CARE COMMITTEE



## BENEFITS

- ✓ DISCOUNTED RATES AT EVENTS
- ✓ NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
- ✓ MEMBERS ONLY OPPORTUNITIES
- ✓ NEWSLETTERS & ARTICLES
- ✓ SECA MEMBERSHIP & SITE
- ✓ EXTRA SUPPORT WITH NAFCC ACCRED



## Contact Us For More Information :

Kathy Baker  
Tiffany Gale  
[wvfamilychildcarecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:wvfamilychildcarecommittee@gmail.com)



WVAYC

# FAMILY CHILD CARE COMMITTEE



Contact Us For More Information :

Kathy Baker

Tiffany Gale

wvfamilychildcarecommittee@gmail.com

## MEETING DATES 6:00PM

- May 22, 2023
- June 26, 2023
- July 31, 2023
- August 28, 2023
- September 25, 2023
- October 30, 2023
- November 27, 2023
- December 18, 2023





### LINK CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

Link Child Care Resource and Referral is a program of River Valley Child Development Services, Inc. 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](http://www.linkccrr.org) or

[www.rvcds.org](http://www.rvcds.org)

WEST VIRGINIA  
Department of

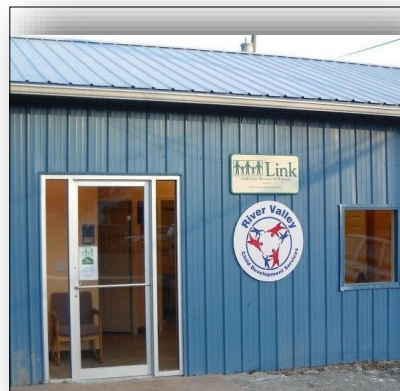


## COME SEE US!



### 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



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