



# PARENT/PROVIDER UPDATE

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Child Care Information Services of Indiana County  
Issued Bi-Monthly

## FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE

We have received notification from the Department of Public Welfare that due to a very tight state budget, CCIS agencies will not receive any additional funding to help reduce waiting lists state-wide.

This affects every low income working family who is counting on having subsidized day care in order to work. Many eligible families are on waiting lists and may not receive subsidized care this year.

### How does this affect families who already receive subsidized day care?

If you are currently receiving subsidized day care, you need to do everything you can to keep that care. We suggest the following:

1. Always notify CCIS of changes in address, phone number, work times and days, a change in family composition, etc.
2. Always pay your weekly co-payment by close of business Friday to avoid receiving a notice of Adverse Action (AA).
3. Always submit all requested paperwork by the due date.
4. Always call CCIS at 724-349-8830 or 1-800-327-3070 to make certain that we have received something that you mailed or faxed to us.
5. If you lose your job through no fault of your own, utilize the time allotted to you to find another job and obtain employment before your time runs out.
6. Always make certain that your relative/neighbor child care provider adheres to the policies in the agreement that she signed with CCIS.

If you lose your child care this year, you may find that you are on a long waiting list after you reapply for funding. **Take precautions so that you do not lose this service.**

**The CCIS Office will be closed the following days in November, December and January**

- ▶ Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010
- ▶ Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010
- ▶ Friday, Nov. 26, 2010
- ▶ Friday, Dec. 24, 2010
- ▶ Thursday, Jan. 1, 2011
- ▶ Monday, Jan. 19, 2010

## The Impact of the Economy on Parents' Child Care Choices

In early October, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies released a report which found that quality and cost remain the most important factors for parents when choosing child care. Nearly 40 percent of parents say the current economy has affected their child care arrangements and they worry about not being able to meet their household expenses. Three-quarters of parents rate affordable child care as the most important or one of the most important factors in helping working families.

Other findings report the majority of parents believe state laws and regulations ensure that child care settings are licensed and safe. Be assured that Pennsylvania is one of only 10 states that require a comprehensive background check for child care providers.

[www.naccrra.org/publications/economy](http://www.naccrra.org/publications/economy)

## IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT R/N PROVIDER TRAINING



**R/N providers must complete 12 hours of training every two years.**

Beginning July 1, 2009, a policy was instituted to require that all Relative/Neighbor providers participate in 12 hours of training every two years. The two year time period is tracked in conjunction with the provider's CareCheck clearance application either when they first sign the provider agreement or when the CareCheck application is renewed.

To assure that **quality** training opportunities are offered to R/N providers, training must be provided by instructors and organizations approved through the Pennsylvania Quality Assurance System (PQAS).

R/N providers will be able to fulfill the training requirement by attending workshops, completing mail-in learning modules and taking on-line self-learning modules.

All R/N providers must register with the Pa Early Learning Keys to Quality on-line training system at [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) where they will be able to access training calendars and take advantage of mail-in or on-line self-learning training opportunities.

When reviewing training opportunities listed in the CCIS newsletter, make sure the training has a **PQAS designation**.

***Make sure your training hours count!  
Attend only PQAS approved training sessions.***

## UPCOMING TRAININGS

### **Pediatric First Aid with Infant & Child CPR (PQAS)**

Participants will learn how to administer first aid and infant and child CPR by a certified trainer. Training will be held on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 3 pm at the American Red Cross office located at 610 Kolter Drive, Indiana.

To register participants must call 724-465-5678. Register early as space is limited. Provide date of last training and name of child care facility when registering.

Cost for this event is \$20 per person. Meals are not provided.

### **Observing On Purpose (PQAS)**

This training stresses the need to observe intentionally, how to plan an intentional observation and what to do with these quality observations once they are complete.

Participants will meet at Grand Beginnings Children's Center located at 339 Grandview Avenue in Indiana on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for this three hour training.

Pittsburgh Area Association for the Education of Young Children is the sponsoring organization (PAEYC). To register you must call PAEYC at 412-421-3889 or mail your registration to: PAEYC, 5604 Solway St, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Cost: \$10 – Arrive on time, late participants will not receive a certificate for the class.



***OBSERVE: You might be surprised what you see!***

## EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, a division of the PA Keystone STARS program is designed to assist early care and education programs in meeting the social and emotional needs of children who exhibit challenging behaviors in the classroom.

When a young child's behavior:

- causes parents or other caregivers to consider the child "difficult"
- prevents a child from playing with peers or having positive interactions with adults
- or is not a one-time event or with a particular person but happens often for extended periods of time with different people and in different settings

...then the behavior should be explored further.

Participating Keystone STARS providers can contact the early childhood mental health consultant who can provide on-site support which may include observation, social and emotional and/or development screening, development of an individualized action plan, and referral to additional community supports.

This is a free service available to providers who are participating in Keystone STARS and have concerns for a child between the ages of birth to five years.

Contact the Northwest Regional Key at 800-860-2281 and ask to speak with an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant.



*May your holidays  
be filled with many  
happy moments..*

### The Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me...

Elizabeth Pantley

Work & Family Time, 3/10

"The things I wish someone had told me when I was a new parent" is the intriguing title for an article by Elizabeth Pantley in Work & Family Life. Here are just a few of the many tips she offered...

**Relax more and stress less.** Oh, the countless little things I stressed over during the past 18 years: messy rooms, dirty faces, lost toys, peas not eaten. Not a single one of them means anything to me today. Trivial insignificant details do in fact make up a large part of our lives. But when these things cause too much angst, they conceal the many joys kids can bring us. View the little things for what they are – little things – and don't let them get in the way of taking pleasure out of your everyday life.

**Be willing to break the rules.** Follow your heart a bit more often. Loosen up. You don't have to be the dull, authoritative boss every single moment every day. Break a few rules in favor of good old-fashioned family bonding. For example, I've taken my teenagers to rock concert that ended at midnight on school nights. We've eaten dessert before dinner. I don't break every rule, and the ones I break, I do so selectively. But when my heart says yes, I'm willing to be a little less "grownup" and more of a carefree kid.

**Rest assured that your kids love you even when they hate you (because they really don't).** Raising a child requires that you act like a grownup. You have to tell kids *no* when they want to hear *yes* or tell them *stop* when they want to *go*... Children are concerned mainly with their own wants. Their unhappiness about decisions you make – and tears or anger when they are disciplined – are normal and natural. They are not directed at you. Your child may not thank you for your decision now (or ever). But those decisions are an important part of everyday life and of your child's development as a good human being.

### PLEASE RESPECT OUR OFFICE BUILDING

Recently visitors to our office have been using the side of the building as a place to butt their cigarettes. Doing so has left marks and stains on the siding. Please put out your cigarettes before exiting your car.

Thank you

