

Special points of interest:

- Online Invoicing is coming!
- Planning for 2012
- Help us end Welfare Fraud

Winter

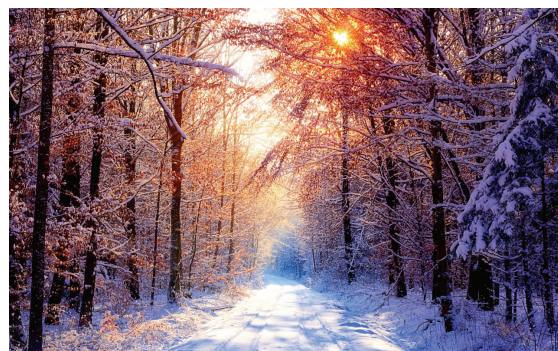
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Coming In 2012!

The CCIS of Bucks County is proud to announce that an online attendance submission option will be made available to regulated providers only beginning in 2012.

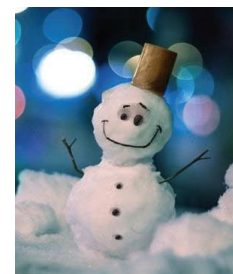


Let It Snow!

Online Attendance Tracking (OAT) will allow regulated subsidized child care providers to receive and submit monthly attendance invoices online. Providers who opt-in can view their invoices as of the first of every month, as well as receive online copies of payment summaries, recoupment letters and outstanding balance letters. In addition, providers who opt-in will receive automatic updates whenever the CCIS makes a co-pay or enrollment change to a child on their invoice. Processing invoices online will provide time saving options and flexibility that paper invoicing cannot offer. Benefits of OAT versus paper invoicing include:

- ❄ Increased time to fill out and submit invoices
- ❄ Access online invoice history
- ❄ View a snapshot of payments received each month
- ❄ Receive e-mail notifications when invoices are available, past due and submitted
- ❄ Reduced risk of lost invoices
- ❄ Resolve discrepancies more quickly
- ❄ Minimize paper usage and postal fees
- ❄ Minimize data entry errors with multiple pre-populated fields
- ❄ Enter comments at the individual child level and at the invoice level to explain details or updates, eliminating the need for CCIS follow-up

Further information and instructions about how to opt-in will be sent to you in the near future!





Preparing for the Future

Pat Miiller QCCC



Contact Apple

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What are you planning to incorporate into your plans beginning in mid to late January to prepare pre-kindergarten youngsters and their families for coming changes? Have you identified the children who will be moving on to public or private school kindergarten in the fall of 2012? Do you know which schools they will attend? Involving families in gathering this information is an essential first step. Many districts have kindergarten information available on their district web site including forms which can be downloaded. Districts vary with registration dates, requirements and procedures so you can help support families by posting and providing information they may need. The Quality Child Care Coalition of Bucks County will be posting updated Kindergarten Registration information for the 13 Bucks school districts at bucksqccc.org in early winter. See the PA Early Learning Standards for ideas about activities to incorporate into lesson plans for children and into strategies involving families, schools and community (see Standard 20.4 – Transition).

Do you have books about moving on to kindergarten which can be read to children and added to pre-kindergarten classroom libraries? County libraries have books about kindergarten transition which you can borrow. What are you planning to prepare families and children for kindergarten? Get your favorite activities or questions to QCCC Coordinator Pat Miiller at pmiiller@earthlink.net and we'll share them in the next CCIS newsletter and on our website.

Health Education



The Bucks County Department of Health is offering free educational programs available to childcare centers, school-age children, adults and community groups. A Department of Health representative will come to your facility to present one of the following programs:

Hand Washing, Nutrition, Public Health Preparedness, Car Seat Safety, Dog Bite Prevention, Poison Prevention, Tobacco Prevention Education and Got Milk? Seasonal Programs run from April to June and include Sun Safety, Bicycle Safety and Pool/Water Safety.

For more information or to schedule a visit to your facility, please contact Julia Rowbotham at (215) 345-3832 jmrowbotham@co.bucks.pa.us, Blanca Monclou at (215) 345-3357 bmonclou@co.bucks.pa.us or Jack Egoavil at (215) 345-3350 jmeqoavil@co.bucks.pa.us.



2012 Save The Dates

Pat Miiller QCCC

If we see ourselves as professionals, that is having a career, not just a job working with young children, we must be advocates for our profession, young children and families. To do this we must develop leadership skills to make our voices heard. Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever did." Here are some opportunities to develop leadership skills to make our voices heard:

Penn AEYC ECE Public Policy Forum: March 18-19, 2012
Bucks County Month of the Young Child: April 2012
Bucks County Advocacy Breakfast: April 20, 2012
ECE Action Day: May 1, 2012

Plan and do something each month in the coming year to communicate and advocate for quality early childhood experiences and education for ALL children.

Welfare Fraud

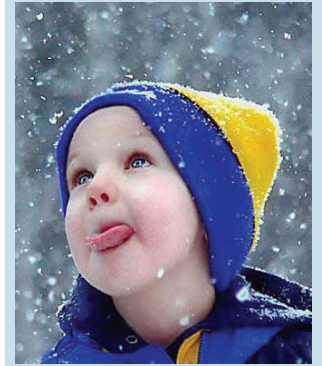
You can help in the fight against Welfare Fraud!

If you know someone that is receiving child care funding who is:

- * Not reporting income
- * Not reporting who lives in the household
- * Not working or in a training program
- * Is taking advantage of the program in ANY way



Please call Mary Ann Lang at (215) 348-1283 ext. 304, or e-mail mlang@buckschildcare.com. The Department of Public Welfare has created the **Office of Program Integrity** to better coordinate and strengthen efforts to stop Fraud, Waste and Abuse. *Your name will not be revealed. All investigations are confidential.*



Northeast Regional Key

Congratulations to the following Bucks County Providers who have worked hard to increase their **Keystone STARS Quality Rating!**

Emilie Road Day Care

Right Steps Day Care

Tiny Tots Learning Center

Upper Bucks YMCA

Please visit the Northeast Regional Key website at cscinc.org for the latest STARS information.

Looking for early childhood professional development opportunities here in Bucks? Visit pakeys.org for upcoming events and to register. Contact Pat Miiller at pmiiller@earthlink.net if you have questions or ideas. Pat coordinates training funded by the state and Northeast Regional Key here in Bucks.



Eligibility News

CCIS workers are not calling clients when an adverse action expires. Please encourage your parents to open and read all mail sent to them by the CCIS. Providers will still receive a phone call the day an adverse action expires from the CCIS if the notice has not been satisfied.

If you are ever unsure of a client's eligibility, copayment or schedule, please feel free to call the eligibility department and we will be happy to assist you.

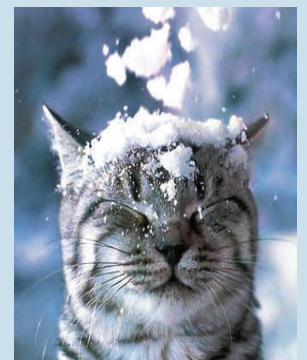
We would like to welcome the newest

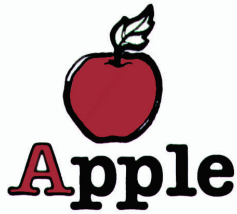
member of our eligibility staff, Casey, as an eligibility specialist. There have been some changes involving client's assigned caseworkers. If you have questions regarding specific clients, please call the office and we will help direct your call to the correct caseworker.

The waiting list at this time is at least eight months. Clients are welcomed to call for an application, stop by the office, or apply directly online at compass.state.pa.us.

Have a Wonderful New Year!

The Eligibility Department





CCIS of Bucks County/ Apple Child Care Services

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From the Desk of Mary Ann Lang

Service Director

As we approach the holiday season, it is a perfect time to reflect back on the year that has just passed.

This past year has seen many transitions beginning with our newly elected officials in Harrisburg. In Bucks County, we were challenged with an increased poverty count, a growing child care subsidy waiting list and fewer resources available to social service agencies assisting families with their financial struggles.

Although situations may be difficult at times, the quality that our Early Childhood Community is dedicated to providing the families of Bucks County continues to be an amazing success. It is true that as a community your hard work and dedication has proved once again to provide outstanding services to the families that need it the most.

As we look ahead to the New Year, I look forward in working with all of you for the success and quality that we have established.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our Early Childhood Community and in all our social services agencies throughout the county for all of your support and to wish you a wonderful holiday!

Enjoy the season!

Mary Ann



Happy Holidays!



Gregory Gore

Mary Ann Lang

Bill Gallagher

Sabrina Sailor

Gregory Booth

Pam Pollock

Lisa Getz

Megynn Lane

Dawn McBurney

Kim Kramer

Sharon Joyce

Kristin Scott

Rob Feldman

Kelly Bianchini

Karly Seamer

Jen Diaz

Casey McKelvey

Heather Harvey

Ashley Schonewolf

Leah Sulat



From the CCIS of Bucks County

