NEWSLETTER -

QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS



JANUARY- MARCH 2024









Connecting to the Basics Conference

Lunch is Provided



Registration
Opens
December1st

Spaces will be limited

Connecting to the Basics

Topic: Teaching Essentials in Early Education
8:30-4:00 (lunch provided)
This event meets the requirements for a conference
for Tiered Reimbursement status
6 WV STARS Hours
Full attendance is required for conference credit

Return to: Camille Humphrey, 1 Player's Club Dr. Charleston, WV 25311 Email: Camille. R. Humphrey@wv.gov Name (Please Print) Center/Facility Name if applicable_____ Phone Number County (where care is provided)_____ Email (required)_____ WV STARS # (required)______ **Breakout Session Choices** (chose one from each group; space is limited) View it in Your Room: Organizing Your Space No Eyes in the Back of Your Head: Active Supervision

Behavior Basics: Addressing Challenging Behaviors

The Daily Deeds: Schedules, Transitions & Routines



MEET THE TEAM



Connect Professional Development Team

IT SPECIALISTS

Holly Irwin
Holly.B.Irwin@wv.gov
Heather Little
Heather.A.Little@wv.gov

TRAILS

<u>Nikki Johnson</u>
Jackelyn.N.Johnson@wv.gov
<u>Ashley Smith</u>
Ashley.B.Smith@wv.gov
<u>Marissa Hanna</u>
Marissa.L.Hanna@wv.gov

EC SPECIALISTS

<u>Heather Barry</u>
Heather.H.Barry@wv.gov
<u>Kristin Smith</u>
Kristin.E.Smith@wv.gov

BEHAVIORAL CONSTULTANT

<u>Lea Wheeler</u>
Lea.N.Wheeler@wv.gov
<u>Lindsey Wellman</u>
Lindsey.M.Wellman@wv.gov

QIS

Vacant



Do you have questions or need assistance?



Teauna Bennett,
Program Director
teauna.d.bennett@wv.gov



Miranda Dunlap, Assistant Director miranda.n.dunlap@wv.gov



Shantae Williams, Subsidy Supervisor shantae.l.williams@wv.gov



Chelsie Hunt, Subsidy Supervisor chelsie.p.hunt@wv.gov



Jordan Sharps, Subsidy Supervisor jordan.e.sharps@wv.gov



Camille Humphrey,
Professional Development
Supervisor
camille.r.humphrey@wv.gov

Contact The Connect, Management Team! We're here to help!

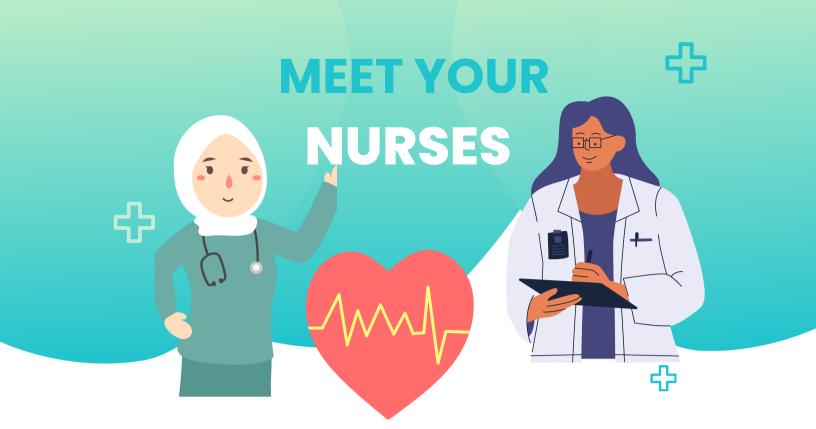


meet:

Marissa Hanna

Marissa is our newest member of the TRAILS team. After working with children in and out of a child care center for the past 5+ years, she is joining us as a TRAILS Associate. Marissa recently worked as a lead toddler teacher and is looking forward to bringing her classroom skills to the TRAILS team. Marissa has also completed Mind in the Making, WV/IT I, and has earned her Child Development Associate Certificate. Outside of work, Marissa enjoys cooking, crafting, traveling with her family and husband, and spending time with her dog, Gypsy.





Candy Morgan Nurse Health Consultant

A Child Care Nurse Health Consultant works with child care providers, directors, and/or owners to promote the health and safety of children in the child care setting. These consultants can provide expert guidance and technical assistance on a wide range of health and safety topics.

Child Care Nurse Health Consultants have the training to access appropriate resources to assist child care providers in successfully including children with special health or medical needs.

Candy Morgan, RN - Child Care Nurse Health Consultant Charleston, WV Cell Phone: (304) 840-2967 Email: cmorgan@rvcds.org

Harmony Vance Nurse Health Educator

Child Care Health Educators are great resources for free WV STARS approved trainings, educational handouts, and information regarding health, safety, and nutrition guidelines. They are educated individuals on health, safety, and nutrition topics as they relate to child care.

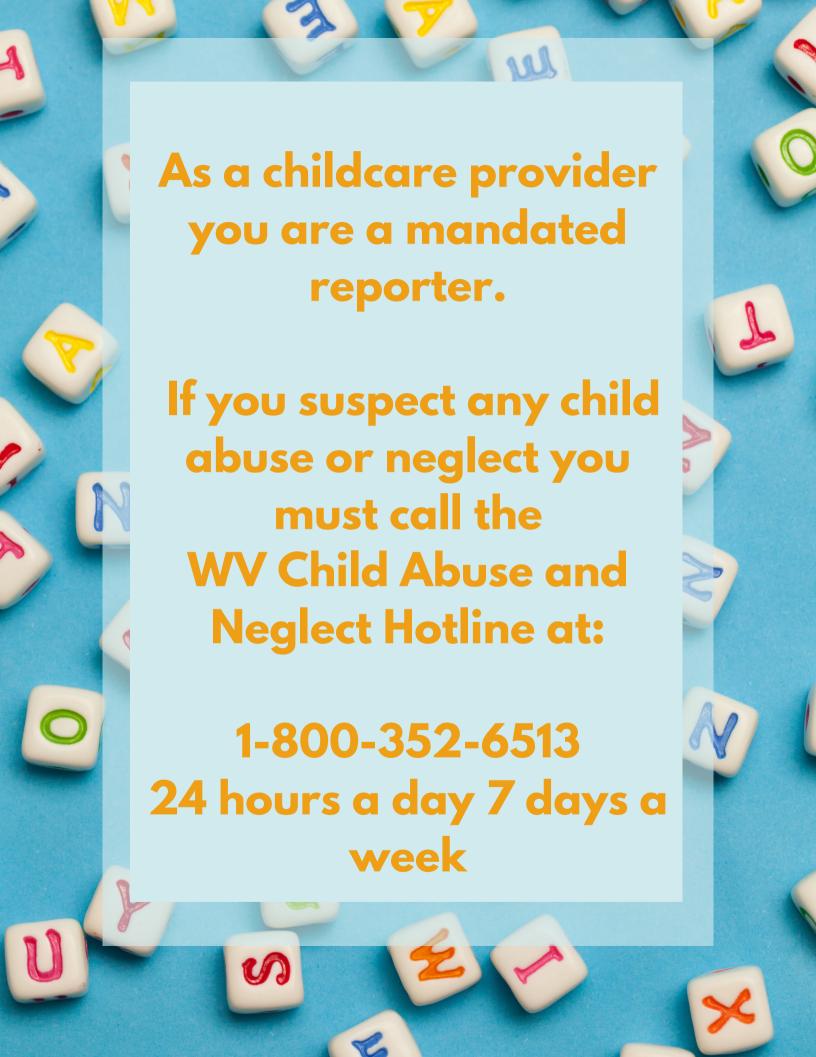
611 Seventh Avenue, Suite 322 Huntington, WV 25701 Phone: (304) 529-7603 - (888)

> WVECTCR Extension: 3437

Cell Phone: (304) 690-5826

Fax: (304) 529-2535

Email: hvance@rvcds.org





STARS Policy Reminder

Beginning January 1, 2020 the following WV STARS Policy will take affect:

In order to receive training credit hours for a repeating face-to-face course, it has to have been at minimi 12 months since this course has been previously completed. This prevision is not applicable to Technica Assistance (TA) sessions offered by the Resource and Referral Agencies. Individuals choosing to repeat course again inside the twelve-month period will be treated as a student auditing a course and will be marked as completed but will receive

no training credit hours.

All courses offered as face-to-face or webinar courses will be subject to this change. Please note self-pace courses are not repeatable for credit.

We hope that this change will encourage the early childhood professionals of West Virginia to take intention professional development to further their knowledge and skills.







To learn more about Professional Development Opportunities, visit www.wvstars.org



Apprenticeship for Child Development

ACDS now offers both in-person and virtual classes. If participants live in a region that offers an in-person class, they are expected to attend that session. Priority for virtual classes will go to regions that do not have an in-person option due to circumstances such as not having an instructor, or not having enough students to hold a class. Please note that the registration process has recently changed. There is now a deadline to register each semester. The registration deadline date will vary each semester, but will be two weeks prior to classes beginning. For more information regarding classes, including the latest class schedule and registration deadline, please visit the ACDS website, wvacds.org and the ACDS Facebook page. Below are steps to follow when registering for ACDS classes.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR ACDS CLASSES

- All students must complete an online orientation for the semester they are enrolling in. The orientations are
 available on the WV STARS website, www.wvstars.org. Students can be either on the WV STARS pathway or
 registry. The orientations can be located on the training calendar by searching online courses. The registration form is now included within the orientations. There is no need to submit a separate paper registration
 form to ACDS. This must be completed before the registration deadline.
- 2. All students must submit the \$25.00 registration fee directly to ACDS. ACDS accepts business, personal and bank drafted checks and money orders made payable to River Valley Child Development Services (RVCDS). ACDS now accepts debit and credit card payments. To pay using a card visit the ACDS website or contact ACDS for a credit card submission form. We CANNOT accept payments over the telephone because the credit card submission form must be signed by the card holder. All forms of payments should be accompanied by the payment submission form also located on the ACDS website. Completing this form helps ensure that your payment will be credited accurately and timely. Payment must be received before the registration deadline.

* Failure to complete the full registration process will result in the applicant not being enrolled.

Contact Information

611 7th Avenue Huntington, WV 25701

Phone: 304-523-0433

Fax: 304-697-6613

Email: wvacds@rvcds.org



www.wvacds.org



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.



NOM:

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

What's in it for me?

- Initial bonus awarded upon completion.
- Increased sense of professionalism.
- Demonstrates commitment to profession.
- Potential for increased wages.

What's in it for my employer?

 Creates family and community awareness of higher quality care being affered.



WV Child Care Credential

The first few years of a child's life sets the foundation for future success. As a caregiver and life-long learner, you have the task of providing quality care and education to each child.

The Division of Early Care and Education recognizes the importance of your career and your commitment to continuing education. A credential indicates your desire to stay current on research and best-practice in order to provide individualized, quality care improving the lives of the children and their families.

For more information contact Connect Child Care Resource and Referral

304-414-4488



https://dhhr.wv.gov/bct/ece/ Pages/Child Care Resource and Referral.aspx



For caregivers who are life-long learners.

WV Child Care Credential

- Voluntary, no cost to you.
- A two-part credential.
 - General, completed first.
 - Specialization may be added.
- Based on WV STARS registered trainings all ready required or are currently being offered.
- Open to all child care providers in licensed or regulated sites.
- All course work is completed successfully.
- Professional Portfolio.
- Minimum of one year of employment in licensed or regulated child care within the last five years for general credential.
- Renewal every 3 years

WV Child Care Credential Specializations

Once you have completed the requirements for the general credential, you may go on and complete a specialization.



Director Specialization

FCC Specialization





I/T Specialization

Coming soon!











Parents Welcome

All trainings provided at Connect are open to parents and the families of children in our community

JOIN US

All training sessions are free of charge and hosted by trained professionals.

For more information and assistance with signing up for classes, please contact a member of the PD Team. Individual contact info is located on the Connect website.

More information:





Child Care Health Educator Trainings January, February, March 2024

online trainings

January

Let's Make a Menu – Harmony Vance 8th 6:30 – 8:30 pm Safe Sleep Practices – Harmony Vance 23rd 6:30 – 8:30 pm Infant Feeding – Renee Stonebraker 31st 12:00 – 1:00 pm

February

New Recipe's 1 – Renee Stonebraker 13th 6:30 – 8:30 pm Childhood Obesity – Renee Stonebraker 21st 12:00 - 1:00 pm New Recipes 2 – Harmony Vance 27th 6:30 – 8:30 pm

March

Stress Management – Harmony Vance
4th 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Indoor and Outdoor Safety – Harmony Vance
20th 12:00 – 2:00 pm
Breastfeeding Basics – Renee Stonebraker
26th 6:30 – 8:30 pm

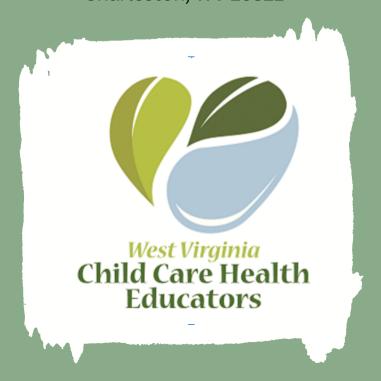
in-person trainings

February 6th

Bed Bugs and Beyond – Harmony Vance 6:30-8:30 1 Players Club Drive Charleston, WV 25311

March 12th

Let's Move – Harmony Vance 6:30-8:30 1 Players Club Drive Charleston, WV 25311





FIRST AID CPR TRAINING

To Register Contact:

Nikki Johnson (304) 348-3673

Jackelyn.N.Johnson@wv.gov Ashley.B.Smith@wv.gov

Ashley Smith (304) 348-3668

Classes are \$25 - money order due by start of class. WV STARS Registered Hours.

January 11th: 5pm-9pm

January 17th: 9am-1pm

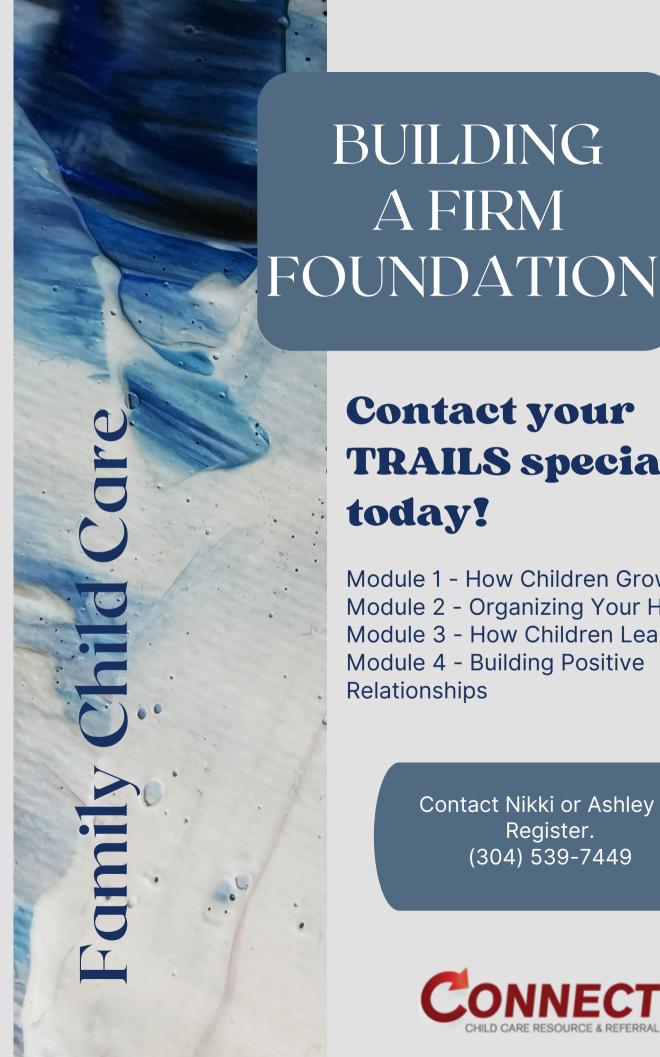
January 25th: 5pm-9pm (Jackson Co.)

February 7th: 5pm-9pm February 14th: 9am-1pm February 29th: 5pm-9pm March 20th: 9am-1pm March 21st: 5pm-9pm









Contact your TRAILS specialists

A FIRM

Module 1 - How Children Grow

Module 2 - Organizing Your Home & Day

Module 3 - How Children Learn

Module 4 - Building Positive

Relationships

Contact Nikki or Ashley to Register. (304) 539-7449



CIRCLE TIME WITH SCHOOLERS...

A Daily Approach to Develop Positive Relationships

Do you find it a
struggle for your
afterschool kiddos to
listen, engage
and connect
with you and their
classmates?



Register on STARS

*January 17th from 7-8

*March 11th from 12-1

For more info or help please contact:

Kristin Smith

Afterschool Early Childhood Specialist

Kristin.E.Smithewv.gov

(304)348-3679

This 1 Hour, Online training aims to lay the foundation for building those skills in your classroom through a daily meeting. You will learn strategies for creating an effective meeting to create those positive relationships!

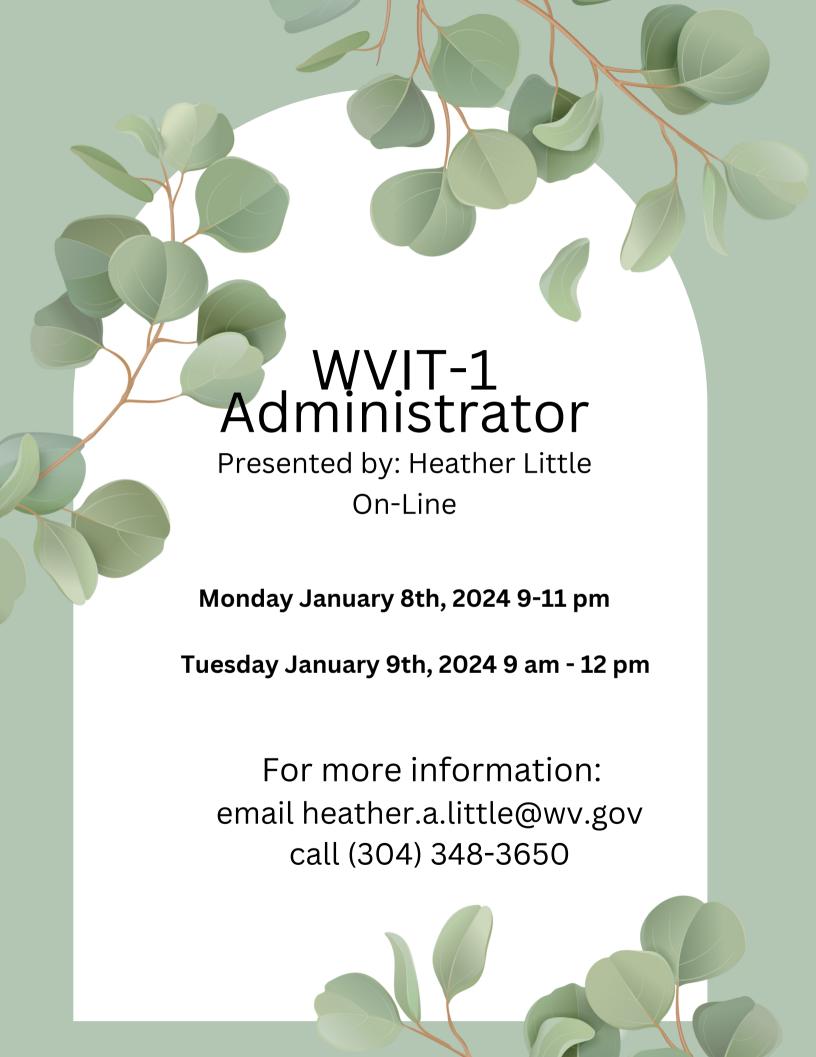


ABETTER FUTURE STARTS WITH HELP ME GROW!

Participants will learn about a national program that connects families to resources right here in WV. This free referral service, Help Me Grow, is funded by the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health through the West Virginia Home Visitation Program. Attendees will understand how Help Me Grow (HMG) can partner with them to connect families to the resources they need for children birth through five. Participants will be shown the new search and referral platform that was created with an innovation grant to help close the feedback loop for agencies.

FEBUARY 8, 2024 7:00-8:00 PM

More information please contact Lea Wheeler at Lea.N.Wheeler@wv.gov or call 304-348-3671



WVIT-1 Caregiver Revised

Presented by: Heather Little

Hybrid

In-Person for Kanawha County
Online for Clay, Roane and Jackson
11:00 am - 2:30 pm

Session 1: January 23, 2024

Session 2: January 303, 2024

Session 3: February 6, 2024

Session 4: February 13, 2024

Session 5 : February 20, 2024

Session 6: March 5, 2024

Session 7: March 12, 2024

Session 8: March 19, 2024

Session 9: March 26, 2024

Session 10: April 2, 2024

Session 11: April 9, 2024

Session 12: April 16, 2024

You must Session I, 5

For more information: email heather.a.little@wv.gov call (304) 348-3650

PRE-REQUISITE- COMPLETED WVIT 1-R

WVIT 2

IN PERSON***



February 5,12, 26 March 4,11,18,25 April 1,8,15

3:30-7PM

Please Contact Holly Irwin Phone: 304-348-3704 email: holly.b.irwin@wv.gov

THE GROWING BRAIN

A 7 PART MODULE SERIES

21 HOURS STARS CREDIT

JANUARY 24, 31

FEBRUARY 7, 21, 28

MARCH 13, 20



PARTICIPANTS
MUST ATTEND
THE FIRST
AND LAST
SESSIONS AND
CAN ONLY
MISS ONE
CLASS.

PRESENTED AT THE CONNECT OFFICE ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:30-8:30 PM

TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT:

KRISTIN SMITH
(304) 348-3679
KRISTIN.E.SMITH@WV.GOV

OR

HOLLY IRWIN
(304) 348-3704
HOLLY.B.IRWIN@WV.GOV





February ~ April 2024

Director's Overview February 1st ~	10 am - no	on
Session 1: Introduction	February	6
Skill 1: Focus and Self Control		13
Skill 2: Perspective Taking		20
Skill 3: Communicating		27
Skill 4: Making Connections	March	5
Skill 5: Critical Thinking		19
Skill 6: Taking on Challenges		26
Skill 7: Self-Directed/Engaged Learning	, April	2

Two Technical Assistance Required: February and April
Participants must attend 1st and last class
26 STARS credit hours and resources awarded
All sessions Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30
Connect Office – 1 Players Club Drive, Charleston, WV 25311

For more information contact:

Heather Hatcher Barry 304-348-3669

heather.h.barry@wv.gov FAX# 304-414-4694



Connect Housekeeping Guidelines



All professional development sessions are WV STARS registered and begin and end on time. You must be present in the classroom by the start time, or you will not receive WV STARS credit. No late entry into sessions will be admitted.

All online professional development session participants must arrive prior to the start of the session, stay for the duration of the session and be active and engaged in the session for at least 80% of the session. Active and engaged means participating in polls, discussions and available to answer questions. Webcams are not required but are encouraged.

For online professional development sessions, only one person may be logged in per device or computer in order for participants to receive credit. You may log in from a cell phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer.

Each participant must log in to online sessions using their own unique link from their STARS registration. Links can not be share if participants want to receive credit.

Child care providers will not be responsible for the care of children during any online professional development session.

You may not, under any circumstances, bring children to any of the professional development sessions.

Should trainings not meet the minimum registration requirements, the session will be cancelled. Participants will be notified 24 hours prior to a session via email if sessions are cancelled. Sessions will be rescheduled as a trainer's schedule allows.

Trainings held at childcare centers or facilities must have an administrator present for the entire session

If there is a school cancellation or delay due to extreme weather conditions in a county in which training is scheduled, the training will be cancelled for the day. You will be contacted when it is rescheduled.



JANUARY

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCC's/ Age Group/ Level	Professional Development Provider
1/8/24 7-8pm	Online	A Hero's Journey: Character Development for School-aged Children	CGD, EC, School-age	Lindsey Wellman
1/11/24 5-9pm	In-Person	Heartsaver CPR and First Aid	HSN, All Ages	Nikki Johnson
1/11/24 6:30-8:30pm	In-Person	Partnering with Parents	FCR, EC, All Ages	Heather Barry
1/15/24	Online	ACES 101	CGD, All Ages	Lea Wheeler

Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

Circle Time with Schoolers

Making a Difference

Spreading HOPE

HSN, All Ages

HSN, Afterschool

HSN, All Ages

CGD,FCR, All Ages

Ashley Smith

Kristin Smith

Lindsey Wellman

Lea Wheeler

7-8pm

1/17/24

9am-1pm

1/17/24

7-8pm

1/18/24

6:30-8:30pm

1/22/24

6:30-8pm

In-Person

Online

In-Person

In-Person

JANUARY

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCC's/ Age Group/ Level	Professional Development Provider
1/22/24 6:30-8:30pm	In-Person	It's Routine	EC, PREK	Heather Barry
1/25/24 5-9pm	In-Person	Heartsaver CPR and First Aid	HSN, All Ages	Ashley Smith

FEBRUARY

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCC's/ Age Group/ Level	Professional Development Provider
2/1/24 7-8pm	Online	Quality Environments	EC, All Ages	Nikki Johnson
2/5/24 7-8pm	Online	A Hero's Journey: Character Development for School-aged Children	CGD, EC, School-age	Lindsey Wellman
2/7/24 5-9pm	In-Person	Heartsaver CPR and First Aid	HSN, All Ages	Ashley Smith
2/8/24 7-8pm	Hybrid	A Better Future Starts With Help Me Grow!	CGD, FC, All Ages	Lea Wheeler
2/14/24 9am-1pm	In-Person	Heartsaver CPR and First Aid	HSN, All Ages	Nikki Johnson
2/15/24 7-8pm	Online	ACEs 102	CGD, HSN, All Ages	Lea Wheeler
2/21/24 7-8pm	Online	Developmentally Appropriate Practices	CGD,EC PreK	Heather Barry
2/29/24 5-9pm	In-Person	Heartsaver CPR and First Aid	HSN, All Ages	Nikki Johnson

MARCH

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Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCC's/ Age Group/ Level	Professional Development Provider	
3/4/24 6:30-8:30pm	Online	Facilitating Friendships	CGD, EC PreK	Heather Barry	
3/11/24 12-1pm	Online	Circle Time with Schoolers	HSN, Afterschool	Kristin Smith	
3/11/24 7-8pm	Online	ACE's 103	CGD, HSN All Ages	Lea Wheeler	
3/14/24 6:30-8pm	In-Person	Spreading HOPE	CGD, FCR, All Ages	Lindsey Wellman	
3/18/24 7-8pm	Online	A Hero's Journey: Character Development for School-aged Children	CGD, EC, School-age	Lindsey Wellman	
3/20/24 9am-1pm	In-Person	Heartsaver CPR and First Aid	HSN, All Ages	Nikki Johnson	
3/21/24 5-9pm	In-Person	Heartsaver CPR and First Aid	HSN, All Ages	Ashley Smith	
3/25/24 6:30-8pm	In-Person	How-To's with Social Stories	EC All Ages	Lea Wheeler	

SUMMARIES

CPR/FIRST AID

Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED provides students the highest quality training in the lifesaving skills of first aid, CPR, and use of an AED. This course empowers students to act with confidence in the event of an emergency at work, home, or in the community.

SPREADING HOPE

The HOPE training will aim to shift how we see and talk about the positive experiences that support children's growth and development into healthy, resilient adults. This training will cover the research showing how positive childhood experiences influence healthy development and reduce the effects of adverse childhood experiences. We will learn about the four building blocks of HOPE and how we can provide access to them. Together we will learn how we can incorporate the HOPE framework into practice to advance the health and well-being of the children in our care.

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PRACTICES PRE-K

What does DAP look like in preschool? This one-hour online training will provide insight for intentional teaching strategies, developmentally appropriate environments and activities that can help create optimal learning experiences for preschool children.

A HERO'S JOURNEY: CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

This 1-hour online training will introduce participants to Character Development and focuses on the strategies for teaching character development to school-aged children. Participants will learn the importance of character development and strategies for teaching character development to school-aged children.

QUALITY ENVIRONMENTS OVERVIEW

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

HOW TO'S WITH SOCIAL STORIES (1.5 HRS EC)

Social stories are created and used in a lot of different situations. They can help with things from difficult behaviors in the classroom to routine changes. How To's With Social Stories with help define social stories and explore how social stories can be used. This training will also examine the benefits of using social stories and will go over the process of creating your own social story.

CIRCLE TIME WITH SCHOOLERS

Circle Time is a popular activity that's used in many programs to help develop positive relationships between children. This I hour online training aims to give them tools to engage with and listen to each other. Providing a daily meeting with school age children is a powerful tool that nurtures their social, emotional, cognitive, and language development. This dedicated time for group interactions sets the stage for meaningful learning experiences and lays the foundation for your classroom. This training will cover strategies for creating an effective daily meeting to help create positive relationships and structure of your room.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: MANDATE TO REPORT

Making a Difference: Mandate to Report, is a training session for mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect.

UNDERSTANDING ACES: ACES 101

During this one-hour professional development the participant will be introduced to the concept of Adverse Childhood Experiences through awareness and education.

ACES 102: OVERCOMING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

ACEs 102: Overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences will provide a brief overview of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and learn ways to overcome them. This training will examine and help you understand the variables related to resilience, protective factors, and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments.

ACES 103: PREVENTING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

ACEs 103: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences will provide an overview of adverse childhood experiences and the impact of trauma. It will also help you identify some of the root causes of adverse childhood experiences and look at the best practices for preventing ACEs through individuals, families, schools, and communities.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS PRE-K

This in-person session will help participants create a welcoming preschool classroom environment for parents and families. We will examine various ways to communicate, encourage, and involve the child's most influential teachers to become partners in their child's learning.

IT'S ROUTINE! PRE-K

This in-person session will examine how an effective daily routine can enhance a preschool child's development. Discussion will include ideas to help create a predictable routine and environment that promotes interaction and learning, while being responsive to children's needs.

FACILITATING FRIENDSHIPS PRE-K

This one hour online session will focus on assisting preschool children to establish and maintain meaningful peer relationships. Discussion will include why early friendships are important and the needed skills for developing friendships. We will examine the WV PreK Standards' social relationship domain and highlight literary resources that focus on friendship making skills.

A BETTER FUTURE STARTS WITH HELP ME GROW!

Participants will learn about a national program that connects families to resources right here in WV. This free referral service, Help Me Grow, is funded by the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health through the West Virginia Home Visitation Program. Attendees will understand how Help Me Grow (HMG) can partner with them to connect families to the resources they need for children birth through five. Participants will be shown the new search and referral platform that was created with an innovation grant to help close the feedback loop for agencies. (LeeAnn Blankenship will be providing the training)







COME SEE US!



1 Player's Club Drive Charleston, WV 25311 304-414-4488

