

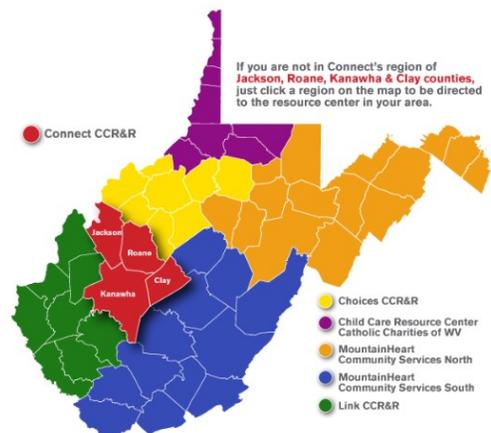
# Quarterly Connections

April, May & June 2022



## CONTACT US!

We are here to serve YOU, our Early Education Professionals. If you need personalized Technical Assistance, have a suggestion for a future Professional Development session, need help registering for classes or just need an ear to listen, contact us! Our goal is to make your lives as teachers and child care providers easier! Let us!



MAY 2, 2022

**COME ONE! COME ALL!**  
**CONNECT PROVIDER**  
**APPRECIATION EVENT!**

1 PLAYERS CLUB DR  
CHARLESTON, WV 25311

9 AM - 2 PM

**FUN & GAMES!**

**DOOR PRIZES!**

**DROP OFF**  
**BILLING!**

**MEET THE**  
**TEAM!**

# Need a little help?

CONTACT  
ANY MEMBER OF OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
TO GET STARTED!



Feel like  
you're in  
a bit of  
a mess?



Request  
Technical  
Assistance!



Technical Assistance is  
**FREE**, individualized  
support from one of our  
trained Specialists!



Work smarter, not  
harder with a little help  
from your friends at  
Connect!

STARS  
HOURS  
ELIGIBLE\*



\*Hours issued at the discretion of the  
Specialist providing assistance

Please wear your mask when visiting the van!

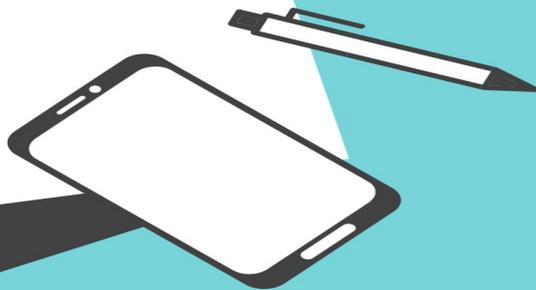
Contact Nikki or Ashley to schedule your appointment!



# TRAILS is back on the road!

Nikki Johnson— [Jackelyn.n.johnson@wv.gov](mailto:Jackelyn.n.johnson@wv.gov)

Ashley Smith— [Ashley.b.smith@wv.gov](mailto:Ashley.b.smith@wv.gov)



## WV CARES

West Virginia Clearance for Access: Registry and Employment Screening

**NOT SURE HOW TO START  
THE WV CARES  
PROCESS?  
HAVE YOU STARTED BUT  
YOU'RE FEELING STUCK?**

**CALL US!**

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**304-414-4488**

Call Monday through Friday anytime between 8am and 5pm and we will be glad to assist you through the WV CARES process!

FAMILY CHILD CARE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

# Building a Firm Foundation with TRAILS

Contact Your TRAILS Specialists today!



- Module 1 - How Children Grow
- Module 2 - Organizing Your Home & Day
- Module 3 - How Children Learn
- Module 4 - Building Positive Relationships

Nikki Johnson  
Jackelyn.N.Johnson@wv.gov  
(304) 348-3673

Ashley Smith  
Ashley.B.Smith@wv.gov  
(304) 348-3668



# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & THE ARTS



- ✦ Family Child Care Community of Practice
- ✦ Host Your Own Family Engagement Event
- ✦ Explore Creative Art With Your Families



This community of practice will host four virtual meetings with other family child care providers. The TRAILS team will help provide needed resources to host your own family engagement event!

To Register Please Contact:

**Ashley Smith**

[Ashely.B.Smith@wv.gov](mailto:Ashely.B.Smith@wv.gov)

**Nikki Johnson**

[Jackelyn.N.Johnson@wv.gov](mailto:Jackelyn.N.Johnson@wv.gov)

# LITTLE SCIENTISTS: EXPLORING SCIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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This training will focus on science for children. You will learn the basics of science, how and what children learn from science, how important it is and how it can be found throughout the childhood environment. Participants will leave with some great science activities they can do with their classroom!

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May 4, 2022 & June 22,  
2022

6:30-8:30 PM

Connect Office

1 Player's Club Drive

To reserve your seat  
contact:

Ashley Smith

[ashley.b.smith@wv.gov](mailto:ashley.b.smith@wv.gov)

304-348-3668



# WV ELEMENTS OF FAMILY CHILD CARE

A module Series for family child care and facility providers.

**March 4th: Building a Firm Foundation**

**March 11th: Knowing How Children Develop & Learn**

**March 18th: Organizing Your Home & Day**

**March 25th: What Children Are Learning Part 1**

**April 1: What Children Are Learning Part 2**

**April 8: Caring and Teaching**

**April 15th: Building a Partnership with Families**

To register, please contact:

**Nikki Johnson**

Jackelyn.N.Johnson@wv.gov

(304) 348-3673

**Ashley Smith**

Ashley.B.Smith@wv.gov

(304) 348-3668

Connect Office

1 Players Club Drive,

Charleston, WV

9am-1pm

**\*These are NOT online\***





# *SEL: What Is It & Why Is It Important?*

4-week In-person module series

Where: Connect Office

When: 4/5/22; 4/12/22; 4/19/22; &  
4/26/22

Time: 6:30- 8:30 pm

\*Please note there are 2 onsite SEL visits  
and resources associated with this module  
series

\*Registration is limited to providers  
in the Connect region

\*For more information, contact  
Miranda Dunlap @ 304-348-3662  
or [miranda.n.dunlap@wv.gov](mailto:miranda.n.dunlap@wv.gov)

# Anti Bias Education Series

Young children need teachers who can help them understand and grow in a diverse world. Children need teachers who can provide them and their families with the tools to make the world a better place for themselves and for each other. This series is your guide to building a strong anti-bias program, including getting to know who you are. You will find inspiration and support as you take part in three, eye-opening sessions that will shed light on the topic of Anti - Bias.

**A New Dawn**  
with Lea Wheeler

April 4, 2022  
12-1:00 pm

May 9, 2022  
7:45-8:45 pm

June 6, 2022  
7:45-8:45 pm

**Teaching For Change**  
with Ashley Smith

April 11, 2022  
12-1:00 pm

May 16, 2022  
7:45-8:45 pm

June 13, 2022  
7:45-8:45 pm

**The Melting Pot**  
with Nikki Johnson

April 18, 2022  
12-1:00 pm

May 23, 2022  
7:45-8:45 pm

June 20, 2022  
7:45-8:45 pm

**The series consists of three modules that are registered separately, so participants may attend one, two, or all three modules in the same month. If all modules are completed in the same month, participants are then eligible to receive resources for Connect region only.**

**Register at [www.wvstars.org](http://www.wvstars.org)**



# LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Come explore ideas to get students moving indoors and encouraging gross motor activity. Participants will receive new equipment to get students moving in the classroom!

In-Person  
Training  
Opportunity!

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May 3, 2022  
6:30 PM- 8:30 PM  
Connect Office  
1 Player's Club Drive

Space  
is  
Limited!

To Reserve Your Seat Contact  
Nikki Johnson  
Jackelyn.N.Johns@wv.gov  
(304) 348-3673





# Celebrating Connections 2022 VIRTUAL

River Valley Child Development Services | CONFERENCE

Tue, April 05, 2022 — Thu, April 07, 2022



For more information and to register, please visit:

[https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event\\_id=13333](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=13333)



## Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist

# ACDS Virtual Classes

ACDS now has both in-person and virtual classes. Areas that do not offer in-person classes have priority in registering for virtual classes. Students attending virtually will attend either a live 2.5 hour session with their instructor or a 1 hour session and take the course content on WV STARS. All students complete the same registration process.

### To register for class:

1. Complete the orientation that corresponds to the semester you want to register for. All four semesters have an orientation. The orientations can be found by searching self-paced courses on the WV STARS training calendar.
2. Submit \$25.00 registration fee. ACDS accepts checks, money orders, debit and credit cards. Checks and money orders are made payable to RVCDS. To pay with a card you must complete a credit card transaction form that is on the ACDS website, [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org). This completed form can be mailed or emailed.

Both steps of the registration process need completed by the registration deadline date, which is determined before each semester. For more information please contact the ACDS office.

The counties below have priority in registering for virtual ACDS classes. For registration deadline dates contact ACDS or visit the website.

Pendleton	Tucker	Preston	Randolph
Pocahontas	Tyler	Ritchie	Gilmer
Calhoun	McDowell	Monroe	Wyoming

Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist

Phone: 304-523-0433

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

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

Address: 611 7th Avenue Huntington, WV 25701

This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and is administered by West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services.

# Infant Toddler Wellness Summit

## May 6, 2022

Join the Infant/Toddler Specialists for an engaging day together talking about the health issues of children under the age of 36 months.



Location - Charleston, WV (conference venue TBD)

Time - 9:00am to 3:00pm

Morning coffee and lunch provided

Limited enrollment. Resources available.

Meets requirement for a conference for the Tiered Reimbursement Program.

Save the Date

May 6

Registration Opens

March 28

**IT** WEST VIRGINIA  
**SN** INFANT/TODDLER  
SPECIALIST NETWORK

# Nurse Health Consultant Online Trainings

April 2022- June 2022

**\*\*Register through STARS\*\***

4/12	Planting Seeds for Healthy Eating	6:00pm-8:00pm
4/13	Communicable Diseases	6:00pm- 8:00pm
4/19	Medication Administration	5:00pm- 8:00pm
4/21	Oral Health	6:00pm- 7:00pm
4/26	Seizure Disorders	6:00pm- 7:00pm
5/10	All About Allergies	6:00pm- 8:00pm
5/12	Medication Administration	5:00pm- 8:00pm
5/17	Indoor/Outdoor Safety	6:00pm- 8:00pm
5/19	Dealing with Lice	6:00pm- 7:00pm
5/24	Summertime Safety	6:00pm- 8:00pm
6/8	Medical Action Plans	6:00pm- 7:30pm
6/14	Understanding Special Dietary Needs	6:00pm- 8:00pm
6/16	Medication Administration	5:00pm- 8:00pm
6/22	Ear Infections	6:00pm- 7:00pm
6/28	Oral Health	6:00pm- 7:00pm

Need a specialized training relating to health?  
Contact our Nurse Health Consultant, Candy  
Morgan, at [cmorgan@rvcds.org](mailto:cmorgan@rvcds.org).



# STARS Policy Reminder

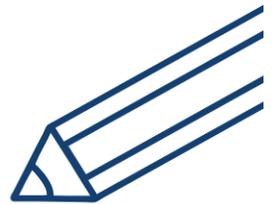
Beginning January 1, 2020 the following WV STARS Policy will take affect:

In order to receive training credit hours for a repeating face-to-face course, it has to have been at minimum 12 months since this course has been previously completed. *This provision is not applicable to Technical Assistance (TA) sessions offered by the Resource and Referral Agencies.* Individuals choosing to repeat a 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-paced courses are not repeatable for credit.

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



West Virginia  
**STARS**

To learn more about Professional Development Opportunities, visit [www.wvstars.org](http://www.wvstars.org)

# A, P, R, I, L

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCC's/ Age Group/ Level	Professional Development Provider
Monday, 04/04/2022 12-1pm	Online	A New Dawn	CGD/FCR Basic All Ages	Lea Wheeler, Behavioral Consultant
Tuesday, 04/05/2022 6:30-7:30pm	Online	Fill in the Gaps: Planning Transitions in Afterschool Programs	EC Basic School Age	Jessica Montalvo, Quality Improve- ment Specialist
Thursday 04/07/2022 10am-12pm	Connect	Leadership In Action	CGD/EC Basic Mixed Ages	Jessica Montalvo, Quality Improve- ment Specialist
Thursday, 04/07/2022 12-1pm	Online	A Hero's Journey	CGD/EC Intermediate School Age	Miranda Dunlap, Behavioral Consultant
Monday, 04/11/2022 12-1pm	Online	Teaching For Change	CGD/EC Basic All Ages	Ashley Smith, TRAILS Specialist
Tuesday, 04/12/2022 6:30-7:30pm	Online	Fine Motor Fun	CGD/EC Basic Preschool	Heather Barry, Early Childhood Specialist
Monday, 04/18/2022 12-1pm	Online	The Melting Pot	CGD/FCR Basic All Ages	Nikki Johnson, TRAILS Specialist
Monday, 04/18/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	West Virginia PreK Standards	CGD/EC Basic Preschool	Heather Barry, Early Childhood Specialist
Wednesday, 04/20/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	The Perfect Playbook	EC Basic Mixed Ages	Nikki Johnson, TRAILS Specialist
Thursday, 04/21/2022 6:30-8pm	Connect	How To's with Social Stories	CGD/EC Basic Mixed Ages	Lea Wheeler, Behavioral Consultant
Monday, 04/27/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Rocking to the Beat in Early Childhood	CGD/EC Basic All Ages	Ashley Smith, TRAILS Specialist
Thursday, 04/28/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Let's Get Ready to Rumble	CGD/EC Basic Preschool	Miranda Dunlap, Behavioral Consultant



chbird.tumblr.com

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCC's/ Age Group/ Level	Professional Development Provider
Tuesday, 05/03/2022 6:30-7:30pm	Online	Fill In The Gaps	CGD/EC Basic School Age	Jessica Montalvo, Quality Improve- ment Specialist
Tuesday, 05/03/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Let's Get Physical	CGD/HSN Basic School Age	Nikki Johnson, TRAILS Specialist
Wednesday, 05/04/2022 6:30-7:30pm	Online	A Hero's Journey	CGD/EC Intermediate School Age	Miranda Dunlap, Behavioral Consultant
Wednesday, 05/04/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Little Scientists: Exploring Science in Early Childhood	CGD/EC Basic All Ages	Ashley Smith, TRAILS Specialist
Thursday, 05/05/2022 10am-12pm	Connect	Leadership In Action	EC Basic School Age	Jessica Montalvo, Quality Improve- ment Specialist
Monday, 05/09/2022 7:45-8:45pm	Online	A New Dawn	CGD/FCR Basic Preschool	Lea Wheeler, Behavioral Consultant
Wednesday 05/11/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Inviting Interest Centers	CGD/EC Basic Mixed Ages	Heather Barry, Early Childhood Specialist
Monday, 05/16/2022 7:45-8:45pm	Online	Teaching For Change	CGD Basic All Ages	Ashley Smith, TRAILS Specialist
Wednesday, 05/18/2022 6:30-7:30pm	Online	Intentional Teaching and Play	CGD/EC Basic Preschool	Heather Barry, Early Childhood Specialist
Monday, 05/23/2022 7:45-8:45pm	Online	The Melting Pot	CDG/FCR Basic All Ages	Nikki Johnson, TRAILS Specialist
Tuesday, 05/24/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Let's Get Ready to Rumble	CGD/EC Basic All Ages	Miranda Dunlap, Behavioral Consultant
Thursday, 05/26/2022 7-8:30pm	Connect	How To's With Social Stories	CGD/EC Basic All Ages	Lea Wheeler, Behavioral Consultant



Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCC's/ Age Group/ Level	Professional Development Provider
Thursday, 06/02/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Operation ELSF	CGD Basic Infant Toddler	Emma Nelson, Infant Toddler Specialist
Monday, 06/06/2022 7:45-8:45pm	Online	A New Dawn	EC Basic All Ages	Lea Wheeler, Behavioral Consultant
Wednesday, 06/08/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	The Perfect Playbook	EC Basic Mixed Ages	Nikki Johnson, TRAILS Specialist
Thursday, 06/09/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Let's Get Ready To Rumble	CGD/FCR/EC Basic Mixed Ages	Miranda Dunlap, Behavioral Consultant
Monday, 06/13/2022 7-8pm	Online	Spaces that Grow	CGD Basic Infant Toddler	Emma Nelson, Infant Toddler Specialist
Monday, 06/13/2022 7:45-8:45pm	Online	Teaching For Change	CGD/EC Basic All Ages	Ashley Smith, TRAILS Specialist
Tuesday, 06/14/2022 6:30-7:30pm	Online	Fill In The Gaps	CGD Basic Preschool	Jessica Montalvo, Quality Improve- ment Specialist
Tuesday, 06/14/2022 6:30-8pm	Online	How To's With Social Stories	EC Basic School Age	Lea Wheeler, Behavioral Consultant
Wednesday, 06/15/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Open Ended Art	CGD/EC Basic Preschool	Heather Barry, Early Childhood Spe- cialist
Thursday, 06/16/2022 10am-12pm	Connect	Leadership In Action	CGD/EC Basic School Age	Jessica Montalvo, Quality Improve- ment Specialist
Monday, 06/20/2022 7:45-8:45pm	Online	The Melting Pot	CGD/FCR Basic All Ages	Nikki Johnson, TRAILS Specialist
Wednesday, 06/22/2022 12-1pm	Online	A Hero's Journey	CGD/EC Intermediate School Age	Miranda Dunlap, Behavioral Consultant
Wednesday, 06/22/2022 6:30-8:30pm	Connect	Little Scientists	CGD/EC Basic All Ages	Ashley Smith, TRAILS Specialist
Wednesday, 06/22/2022 7:45-8:45pm	Online	Supportive Classroom Environments	CGD/EC Basic All Ages	Heather Barry, Early Childhood Spe- cialist

# Professional Development Session Descriptions

**A New Dawn** Everyone is committed to the value that all children deserve to grow to their fullest potential. Anti-bias education will help support the children in your care, their families, and your coworkers. A New Dawn will examine anti-bias education and the goals that go along with it. This training will discuss how anti-bias education goals can help children, as well as adults. We will discuss having those brave conversations with children about anti-bias issues and the importance of anti-bias education.

**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.

**Fill in the Gaps: Planning Transitions in Afterschool Programs.** This training will discuss the benefits of planning smooth transitions in the classroom. The training will also offer strategies to implement in the classroom to reduce children's wait time and offer more time for engagement to enhance children's learning and development. There will be examples provided to encourage teachers to plan to assist in smooth transitions. The training will also introduce the use of choice boards. Choice boards help offer structure and consistency in the program as well as fosters children's independence by allowing them to choose from the activities or interest areas offered.

**Fine Motor Fun PK** This one hour online session will focus on the value of providing fine motor play for preschoolers. We will examine activities to incorporate fine motor skill practice in daily planning and discuss the lifetime benefits fine motor play can provide young learners.

**How To's With Social Stories** 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.

**Intentional Teaching and Play PK** Come plan and play! This online session will examine the importance of creating an intentional "play-full" preschool environment. Discussion will include the benefits of purposeful planning and ways to facilitate hands-on learning through intentional play opportunities. We will connect the WV PreK standards to these child-based learning experiences that promote independence and individual growth.

**Inviting Interest Centers PK** This two hour in person preschool session will investigate the importance of providing high quality interest centers in the preschool setting. We will discuss materials to be included in the classroom's interest areas to help motivate and extend learning of each child.

**Leadership In Action** This training is designed for Directors or individuals in a child care administration role. The session will cover the skills and competencies required for effective leadership and support with understanding the values and beliefs that shape leadership behaviors. Participants will also have a chance to assess their unique leadership style and learn how to use authority to empower and support others.

**Let's Get Physical** This training is going to look at ways to get school-aged children moving in the classroom. Incorporating gross motor in your daily schedules and ways to do it even with the weather being bad. Even when teachers have very limited indoor space, this training will explore ways to keep school-aged children moving in order to promote healthy life-styles and ample opportunities for physical activity. Participants will learn about obesity in West Virginia and ways to incorporate physical activity into their daily routine.

# Professional Development Session Descriptions

**Let's Get Ready To Rumble: Benefits of Rough and Tumble Play** This 1-hour online training will introduce participants to Rough and Tumble Play and its benefits. Participants will learn about the relationship between rough and tumble play and social emotional development in children. Participants will also learn about developing a "boy friendly" classroom.

**Little Scientists: Exploring Science in Early Childhood** This training will focus on science for children. Participants will learn the basics of science, how and what children learn from science, how important science is in the program and how science can be found throughout the childhood environment.

**Open Ended Art PK** This two hour in person preschool training will examine open-ended art activities and discuss how art has the ability to enhance all areas of a child's development. Participants will have an opportunity to get creative and receive resources to extend classroom art experiences.

**Operation ELSF** This training will explore the ELSF-IT as a whole document and how to utilize it. We will dissect the document into its building blocks and identify the purpose, benefits, and specific outcomes of the ELSF-IT. We will use that information to translate the ELSF-IT into individualized, purposeful planning. We will explore what an individualized lesson plan looks like and how to construct one using the ELSF-IT and observation.

**The Melting Pot** If you look for diversity, you will see it everywhere! Even when all or most of the children appear to come from the same cultural group, there are differences within the group. This training is going to examine anti-bias classrooms and materials. Culture, race, gender, economic status, and family make up are part of creating an inclusive classroom. This training will also explore the TRAILS program and how this can enhance your classroom environment. The toys, materials and equipment you put out for children influence what children learn. What children do not see in the classroom, teaches them as much as what they do see.

**The Perfect Playbook** This training will showcase the importance of lesson plans in family childcare programs. The training will not only look at the benefits, but also break down the parts of the lesson plans. This training will practice creating lesson plans for both group planning and individualized planning for providers who care for infants and toddlers. This training will also touch on the WV Early Learning Standards Framework for both infants and toddlers as well as preschool.

**Rocking to the Beat in Early Childhood** This training is going to discuss how to create a music center in your classroom. The training will discuss circle time activities and other ways to bring music into your classroom. Transitions with music will also be discussed. The training will explore what musical options the TRAILS program has to offer as well as creating your own musical instruments with items from home.

**Teaching for Change** Now more than ever there is a need for Early Childhood providers to be responsive to the diversity within their programs. Teaching for Change will explore guidelines for planning a classroom environment rich in anti-bias curriculum. The session will also highlight ways to create an inclusive, secure, and supportive environment for all families.

**Spaces That Grow** This training will explore quality spaces and how to make them meaningful. We will explore the messages our environments send and how they can impact our experiences. This will be done by understanding the relationship between the physical environment and Infant-Toddler behavior and learning. Additionally, we will plan and prepare a learning environment that nurtures children's initiative and encourages active exploration of materials



**COME SEE US!**

# CONNECT

**CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL**

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**1 Players Club Drive  
Charleston, WV 25311  
304-414-4488  
Fax: 304-414-4694**

