APRIL-MAY-JUNE

QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS

CONNECT
CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

---2026---

Professional Development Team

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIALISTS

Heather Barry
Heather.H.Barry@wv.gov
Kristin Smith
Kristin.E.Smith@wv.gov

INFANT TODDLER SPECIALISTS

Laura Amato
Laura.J.Amato@wv.gov

COACHING SPECIALISTS

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BEHAVIORAL CONSULTANTS

Lea Wheeler
Lea.N.Wheeler@wv.gov
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Lindsey.M.Wellman@wv.gov

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Emma Shaffer
Emma.L.Shaffer@wv.gov

TRAILS

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Claire.E.Kelley@wv.gov
Ashley Smith
Ashley.B.Smith@wv.gov
Marissa Hanna
Marissa.L.Hanna@wv.gov

MEET OUR NEW

INFANT/TODDLER *Specialist*

Laura Amato

Hello, my name is Laura Amato. My passion is Early Childhood Education. I have my BA in Early Childhood and my Masters in K-12 Curriculum/Instruction. I am currently working on my PH. D in Education. I have worked in this field for 33 years. I am a mother of two children, Heather and Joseph. Some things I like to do are making quilts and reading to relax before I start the day, a way to clear my mind. I also enjoy writing, history, and love of traveling. I have lived in many places from Alaska to Germany. I am what you call an Army brat as my father served for 20 years in the service and retired many years ago. I have been lucky enough to see many cultures and learn so much from traveling and meeting new people.

I am looking forward to helping other teachers who are new to this field and sharing the joy one finds when working with young children. I believe that children learn through play. Hands on learning is something that will stick with children as they grow.

INFANT/TODDLER TRAININGS

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCs/Level	Professional Development Provider
April 9th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Understanding ACES: ACEs 101	CGD Basic	Lindsey Wellman
April 16th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Spreading HOPE	CGD, FCR Basic	Lindsey Wellman
April 16th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Planning Your Professional Growth	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
April 22nd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
April 29th 6:00pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Summertime Safety	HSN Basic	Candy Morgan
May 19th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Lean On Me	FCR, HSN Basic	Lea Wheeler & Lindsey Wellman
June 2nd 6:30-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Building Connections with Empathy	CGD Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 3rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
June 9th 5:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Medication Administration	HNS Basic	Candy Morgan
June 17th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Making a Difference (Mandate to Report)	HSN Basic	Lindsey Wellman
June 22nd 6:00pm-9:00pm	In Person Connect	Connections Matter	GCD, FCR Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 23rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Utilizing the ERS	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer

Preschool Trainings

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCs/Level	Professional Development Provider
April 9th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Understanding ACES: ACEs 101	CGD Basic	Lindsey Wellman
April 16th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Spreading HOPE	CGD, FCR Basic	Lindsey Wellman
April 16th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Planning Your Professional Growth	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
April 22nd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
April 28th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	ECERS-3 Extending ECERS-R	EC Intermediate	Heather Barry
April 29th 6:00pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Summertime Safety	HSN Basic	Candy Morgan
May 5th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Using Your Senses for Discovery	EC Basic	Heather Barry
May 19th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Lean On Me	FCR, HSN Basic	Lea Wheeler & Lindsey Wellman
May 21st 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Sand and Water	CGD Basic	Heather Barry

Preschool Trainings

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCs/Level	Professional Development Provider
June 2nd 6:30-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Building Connections with Empathy	CGD Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 3rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
June 9th 5:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Medication Administration	HSN Basic	Candy Morgan
June 10th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Stop Wondering, Start Planning	EC Basic	Heather Barry
June 16th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Transition Tactics	EC Basic	Heather Barry
June 17th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Making a Difference (Mandate to Report)	HSN Basic	Lindsey Wellman
June 22nd 6:00pm-9:00pm	In Person Connect	Connections Matter	GCD, FCR Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 23rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Utilizing the ERS	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer

AFTERSCHOOL TRAININGS

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCs/Level	Professional Development Provider
April 2nd 11:00am-1:00pm	In Person Connect	**Afterschool Rating Scale (SACERS)**	CGD, EC Basic	**Kristin Smith**
April 9th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Understanding ACES: ACEs 101	CGD Basic	**Lindsey Wellman**
April 13th 7:00pm-8:00pm	Online	Afterschool: So Fresh and So Clean, Clean	HSN Basic	**Kristin Smith**
April 16th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Spreading HOPE	CGD, FCR Basic	**Lindsey Wellman**
April 16th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Planning Your Professional Growth	PL, AM Intermediate	**Emma Shaffer**
April 22nd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	**Emma Shaffer**
April 29th 6:00pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Summertime Safety	HSN Basic	**Candy Morgan**
May 18th 7:00pm-8:00pm	Online	All Day with School Age	CGD, EC Basic	**Kristin Smith**
May 19th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Lean On Me	FCR, HSN Basic	**Lea Wheeler & Lindsey Wellman**
June 2nd 6:30-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Building Connections with Empathy	CGD Basic	**Lea Wheeler**
June 3rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	**Emma Shaffer**

AFTERSCHOOL TRAININGS

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCs/Level	Professional Development Provider
June 8th 12:00pm-1:00pm	Online	It's All Fun & Games in Afterschool	CGD Basic	Kristin Smith
June 9th 5:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Medication Administration	HSN Basic	Candy Morgan
June 17th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Making a Difference (Mandate to Report)	HSN Basic	Lindsey Wellman
June 22nd 6:00pm-9:00pm	In Person Connect	Connections Matter	GCD, FCR Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 23rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Utilizing the ERS	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
June 24th 7:00pm-8:00pm	Online	Classroom Chaos	CGD, PL Basic	Kristin Smith

FAMILY CHILD CARE TRAININGS

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCs/Level	Professional Development Provider
April 9th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Understanding ACES: ACEs 101	CGD Basic	Lindsey Wellman
April 13th 7:00pm-8:00pm	Online	Quality Environments 101	EC, AM	Claire Kelley
April 16th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Spreading HOPE	CGD, FCR Basic	Lindsey Wellman
April 16th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Planning Your Professional Growth	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
April 22nd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
May 5th 7:00pm-8:00pm	Online	From Babysitter to Business Owner	PL Basic	Emma Shaffer
May 19th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Lean On Me	FCR, HSN Basic	Lea Wheeler & Lindsey Wellman
June 2nd 6:30-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Building Connections with Empathy	CGD Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 3rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
June 9th 5:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Medication Administration	HSN Basic	Candy Morgan
June 17th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Making a Difference (Mandate to Report)	HSN Basic	Lindsey Wellman
June 22nd 6:00pm-9:00pm	In Person Connect	Connections Matter	GCD, FCR Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 23rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Utilizing the ERS	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer

Director's *Trainings*

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCs/Level	Professional Development Provider
April 2nd 11:00am-1:00pm	In Person Connect	Afterschool Rating Scale (SACERS)	CGD, EC Basic	Kristin Smith
April 9th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Understanding ACES: ACEs 101	CGD Basic	Lindsey Wellman
April 16th 6:30pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Spreading HOPE	CGD, FCR Basic	Lindsey Wellman
April 16th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Planning Your Professional Growth	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
April 22nd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
April 28th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	ECERS-3 Extending ECERS-R	EC Intermediate	Heather Barry
April 29th 6:00pm-8:00pm	In Person Connect	Summertime Safety	HSN Basic	Candy Morgan
May 19th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Lean On Me	FCR, HSN Basic	Lea Wheeler & Lindsey Wellman

Director's *Trainings*

Date and Time	Location	Session Title	CKCs/Level	Professional Development Provider
May 21st 12:00pm-1:00pm	In Person Connect	Quality Through Collaborations	AM, PL Basic	Emma Shaffer
June 2nd 6:30-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Building Connections with Empathy	CGD Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 3rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Reflective Supervision	PL Intermediate	Emma Shaffer
June 9th 5:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Medication Administration	HSN Basic	Candy Morgan
June 17th 6:30pm-8:30pm	In Person Connect	Making a Difference (Mandate to Report)	HSN Basic	Lindsey Wellman
June 22nd 6:00pm-9:00pm	In Person Connect	Connections Matter	GCD, FCR Basic	Lea Wheeler
June 23rd 6:30pm-8:30pm	Online	Utilizing the ERS	PL, AM Intermediate	Emma Shaffer

Connect in Person Training 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.
- You may not, under any circumstances, bring children to any of the professional development sessions.
- Should a training not meet the minimum registration requirements, the session will be cancelled. Participants will be notified 24 hours prior to a session via email if the training is cancelled, when possible.
- A training being held at childcare centers or facilities, must have an administrator present for the entire session and until CCR&R staff clean up to leave.
- 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 if it is rescheduled.

Connect Online Training Guidelines

- All professional development sessions are WV STARS registered and begin and end on time. You must be logged into the online training, no later than 5 minutes after the start of the training. If you are more than 5 minutes late, you will be admitted and able to attend the training; however, you will NOT receive WV STARS credit for this training.
- All online professional development sessions require participants to be active and engaged for at least 80% Active and engaged means you must participate in polls, discussions and be available to answer questions.
- All online professional development sessions require participants to have their camera turned on throughout the entire training. Not being visible and attentive on camera or having the camera available can result in participants not receiving credit for the training.
- Each participant must log in to online sessions using their own unique link from the STARS registration. Each link requires the participant to register and log in using their own email address. If you are not registered with your own link, you will not be able to receive credit.
- Child care providers will not be responsible for the care of children during any online professional development sessions.

You Are Invited To

CONNECT'S

PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

MAY 7TH
10AM-7PM

1 PLAYER'S CLUB DRIVE
CHARLESTON, WV 25311

EARLY CHILDHOOD POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT

DIRECTOR'S MODULE - APRIL 6, 2026 12:00-1:00 PM
MODULE 1- APRIL 27, 2026 6:30-8:30 PM
MODULE 2- MAY 4, 2026 6:30-8:30 PM
MODULE 3- MAY 11, 2026 6:30-8:30 PM
MODULE 4- MAY 18, 2026 6:30-8:30 PM
MODULE 5- MAY 26 6:30-8:30 PM

- Your Director must attend or have attended the Director's module
- You must complete pre- and post- visits with instructor
- You must work with children aged 3 or older
- You must attend all sessions to receive STARS credit.

For more information please reach out to Lea Wheeler by calling 304-348-3671 or email Lea.N.Wheeler@wv.gov

MARCH 25TH - 12PM

QUALITY THROUGH COLLABORATIONS

Interested in becoming Tier III? Want to learn more about NAEYC's new accredidation process?

JOIN US AT CONNECT FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THIR NEW PROCESS

REGISTER ON STARS OR EMAIL EMMA.L.SHAFFER@WV.GOV

MAY 21ST - 12PM

QUALITY THROUGH COLLABORATIONS

Interested in becming Tier III? Want to learn more about NAEYC's new accredidation process?

JOIN US AT CONNECT FOR AN OVEWVIEW OF THIR NEW PROCESS

REGISTER ON STARS OR EMAIL EMMA.L.SHAFFER@WV.GOV

ASQ-SE2 HOW TO'S

ASQ:SE2 How To's is a 3 part module series that will review what social emotional development is and why it is important. This will also help you understand the purpose of the ASQ:SE2 and how to utilize the observation form.

Module 1- April 1, 2026 6:00-8:00 pm
Module 2-April 8, 2026 6:00-8:00 pm
Module 3- April 15, 2026 6:00-8:00 pm

Charleston Childcare and Learning Center
1701 5th Ave
Charleston, WV 25387

Please contact Lea Wheeler at Lea.N.Wheeler@wv.gov or 304-348-3671 if interested in attending or for more information

REGISTER NOW ON WVSTARS.ORG

Quality Improvement Specialist Network

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Presents: Transform Your Team

Join us for a full-day leadership experience designed for earlychildhood education programdirectorswhoareready tomove their teams forwardwithclarity,confidence,and consistency. Beth Cannon willwalkyouthroughhowtofix whatis broken and build whattrulymatters by guidingyou through three essential phases: Diagnosethe Disconnect, Design the Direction, and Develop aTeam That Delivers.

This training, derived from Beth Cannon's book, Transform Your Team, is practical, direct, and grounded in the realities of early education. Leaders will leave with tools to clarify expectations, align values with daily behavior, strengthen accountability, and turn the talent they already have into consistent performance.

If you are looking to gain a clear path forward for leading with alignment, ownership, and stability, along with actionable strategies you can implement immediately in your program, this Leadership Summit is for you!

Beth Cannon

Speaker, Leadership Strategist, Author

Saturday, April 18, 2026
At 8:30am
30 Shane Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Register Now:

Space is limited.Registrationdeadline-April3, 2026

Connect's 2026 Afterschool Summit

A SAFE SPACE

Creating a Supportive, Aware, Focused, and Engaging Summer Program

THIS SUMMIT IS ONLY FOR PROVIDERS WHO WORK DIRECTLY WITH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

RESOURCES . LUNCH INCLUDED . 6 HOURS STARS CREDIT

@ THE CONNECT OFFICE

1 Player's Club Drive Suite 150
Charleston, WV 25311

MAY 9TH

9:00-3:30

Registration begins @8:30

Please Contact:

Kristin Smith
kristin.e.smith@wv.gov
304-348-3679

The 3rd Annual

WV AFTERSCHOOL QUALITY *Conference*

STRONGER CONNECTIONS, STRONGER OUTCOMES

24 March 2026 | Embassy Suites **Charleston, WV**

The event is being offered **free of charge** through a collaboration between WVSAN, WV Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) and WV Department of Human Services Early Care and Education. The conference is open to providers serving school-age youths in school-based programs, childcare centers with school-aged youths, licensed out-of-school time programs, community and faith-based programs, and youth development professionals serving youths in out-of-school time.

Registration is limited and closes on March 18th at 6 PM

TO REGISTER, Please Scan:

Guest speaker

MICHELE DUNNINGTON

Or Visit: AFTERSCHOOL QUALITY CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Heartsaver

FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Class covers adult, child and pediatric CPR

To Register Contact:

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

April 8, 2026 5pm-9pm
April 29, 2026 5pm-9pm
May 20, 2026 5pm-9pm
May 27, 2026 5pm-9pm
June 10, 2026 5pm-9pm
June 24, 2026 5pm-9pm

Classes are $30 - money order or business check, written to CAMC Institute, due by start of class.
WV STARS Registered Hours

CONNECT
CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

River Valley Child Development Services

NEW POLICIES

WELCOME TO OUR BUSINESS CORNER

Three new handbook policies have been created to reflect current PSA and subsidized billing information.

Please copy and paste these policies verbadum into your parent hanbooks.

Thank you for your attention and continued support.

See policies on next page

Child Care Resource and Referral - Subsidized Billing Policy

_____ Child Care believes that all children deserve access to education. In an effort to provide access to affordable education, we partner with one or more Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R's).

Families who receive subsidized child care rates can expect to be billed for the following only:

- A reasonable, one-time registration fee
- Payment of the daily child fee listed on the child care certificate - if applicable
- Late pick up fees - outside of regular operating hours
- Transportation fees - transportation of child(ren) to and from the program in a personal vehicle or provider-owned bus
- Charges for time not approved by the agency

Families who receive subsidized rates will not be charged:

- Annual registration or "spot holding" fees
- Field trip fees
- Supply fees
- Late fees on the bill itself
- Credit card processing fees

Child Care Resource and Referral - Subsidized Expectations Policy

Within the provision of accepting families who are awarded subsidized child care rates, state Child Care Resource and Referral agencies have the following expectations:

Families who receive subsidized rates are expected to:

- Provide any supplies needed for care (diapers, wipes, clothes, bottles, formula, etc.)
- Abide by CCR&R approved pick-up and drop-off times, specified on their certificate
- Update paperwork annually
- Sign child(ren) in and out daily
- Sign billing paperwork monthly
- Ask for receipts for each payment made

Child Care providers with an active PSA are expected to:

- Turn in attendance sheets monthly
- Follow approved billing guidelines
- Present families with a receipt upon reception of payment
- Follow all other PSA guidelines

Child Care Resource & Referral - Reporting a subsidized client for nonpayment

In the event that payment from a subsidized family is 5 or more days late, _____ Child Care will take the following steps to receive the late payment:

- Provider will submit a Provider Notice to Agency* after 5-30 days of nonpayment
- The family case manager will be alerted and will mail out a pending letter to the client
- The letter gives the client 13 days to rectify the bill or they will no longer receive subsidized child care rates
- If the fees owed is rectified by the closing end date reported on the Provider eligibility/ineligibility letter, they will continue to receive subsidized child care
- If the bill is not paid within the 13 day timeframe, the provider will no longer be able to bill the R&R for services provided, and the client will become private pay if the client and provider agree upon the arrangement
- If the provider does not want to continue to provide services to the client under private pay, provider will need to give the client a two weeks notice when they submit the Provider Notice to Agency

*Fees must be collected and billing submitted at least once a month to utilize the Provider Notice to Agency

For pdf version, contact: Emma Shaffer
emma.l.shaffer@wv.gov
304-348-3672

For questions or more information, contact: Edy Wildman
eudelia.a.wildman@wv.gov
1-304-595-6401

SEL

IN

AFTERSCHOOL

3-PART MODULE SERIES

Do you work with after school children? Come join us for this brand new module series! We will focus on five competencies of social emotional learning (SEL) including self awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

JOIN US!

Session 1: Thursday, May 21, 2026
Session 2: Thursday, May 28, 2026
Session 3: Thursday, June 4, 2026

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Conect office

TO RECEIVE STARS CREDIT:

You must:

- Work with school-aged children
- Attend all sessions

TO REGISTER:

CONTACT LINDSEY WELLMAN

LINDSEY.M.WELLMAN@WV.GOV

304-348-3675

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

River Valley Child Development Services
CONNECT
CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

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

TRAILS
Made available through DoHS
Traveling Resource And Information Library Service

Interested in becoming a designated breastfeeding space?

CONTACT HOLLY IRWIN
INFANT TODDLER COACHING SPECIALIST
EMAIL:
@HOLLY.B.IRWIN@WV.GOV
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY!

SCAN HERE!

HOW TO REQUEST FROM SOUTRON

1 LOG INTO SOUTRON

Log into Soutron using the username and password provided by TRAILS.

2 SEARCH FOR TOYS

Search for toys by either typing in key words or searching by interest area. Bonus tip: You can also filter results by age!

3 CHECK THE BOX

Click the box to the right of the desired item. If item says "1 copy currently available," then we have it in stock right now!

4 REQUESTING ITEM

Click "Actions" in the left corner, then click "Request." A new screen will load.

5 ENTER EMAIL

Click "Add address" and enter your email address.

6 COMPLETE REQUEST

Click "Complete Request" in the bottom right corner.

7 YOUR TOYS ARE ON THE WAY!

TRAILS will deliver your requested items (if available) at your next visit!

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 minim 12 months since this course has been previously completed. ***This prevision is not applicable to Technic 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 intentio professional development to further their knowledge and skills.

West Virginia STARS

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

RIVER VALLEY CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ACDS REGISTRATION

ABOUT ACDS

ACDS is a four 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 term starts June 1 and for the spring term November 1 each year. Interested participants should follow the outlined steps to register for class each term.

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 wvacds@rvcds.com

Important Announcement!

WV STARS Pathway to Earnings

WV STARS is updating how Pathway to Earnings applications are processed beginning with the April 2026 enrollment period. These changes are intended to ensure fairness and consistent distribution of available funding.

What's Changing

- **Denied applications cannot be resubmitted during the same enrollment period.** Denied applicants will be placed on a list in the order their original application was submitted. **If funding remains** at
- the end of the enrollment period, WV STARS will begin contacting denied applicants – following the original submission order- to allow them an opportunity to submit a corrected application. Applicants contacted during this phase will have **72 hours** to fix errors and resubmit all required
- documentation. This process will continue until **all funds are depleted**. WV STARS will notify all denied applicants once funding is exhausted.
-

What This Means for Applicants

- **Submit a fully complete application the first time.** Double check that the application is signed, that you have submitted the right documentation, and that your renewal requirements have been met. **If your application is denied, prepare your corrections immediately.** Review your denial
- email carefully so you can resolve any issues and be ready if you receive a chance to resubmit. Review Pathway to Earnings resources, how-to guides, and checklists for additional guidance. **If contacted to resubmit your application, act fast!** You have just 72 hours to submit a completed application and documentation. Failing to respond will forfeit the opportunity and you will need to
- wait until the next enrollment period. **Denied applicants will be contacted once funds are fully depleted.** At this point, all denied applicants will be eligible to reapply during the next enrollment period.
-

Additional Help

A step-by-step photo how-to guide and example documentation are already available at www.wvstars.org/earnings, and WV STARS will release additional resources in the coming weeks.

West Virginia State Training and Registry System
611 7th Ave, Suite 322 Huntington, WV 25701 * Phone: (304) 522-7827 or (855) 822-STAR * Fax: (304) 529-2535 www.wvstars.org * Email: scholarship@rvcds.org
This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Human Services and is administered by WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services

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

- Voluntary, no cost to you.
- A two-part credential:
  - General, completed first.
  - Specialization may be added.
- Based on WV STARS registered
- trainings already required or
- are currently being offered.
- Minimum of one year of employment in licensed or regulated child care within last five years for general credential.
- Renewal every 3 years.

WEST VIRGINIA
Child Care Credential
GENERAL

"What's in it for me?"

Initial bonus awarded upon completion.
Demonstrates commitment to the profession.
Potential for increased wages.

"What's in it for my employer?"

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

WEST VIRGINIA Child Care Credential DIRECTOR SPECIALIZATION

WEST VIRGINIA Child Care Credential INFANT / TODDLER SPECIALIZATION

WEST VIRGINIA Child Care Credential PreSchool Specialization

WEST VIRGINIA Child Care Credential FAMILY CHILD CARE SPECIALIZATION

For more information contact Connect Child Care Resource and Referral
304-414-4488

As a childcare provider you are a mandated reporter.

If you suspect any child abuse or neglect you must call the
WV Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at:

1-800-352-6513
24 hours a day 7 days a week

MEET YOUR NURSES

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

Child Care Health Educator

Harmony Vance-Tissenbaum

About Me

Hello!
My name is Harmony Vance-Tissebaum, and I am the Child Care Health Educator for the Link, Connect, and MountainHeart South Regions. I worked in childcare for several years working with children ranging from infancy to school age before becoming a Child Care Health Educator

This position offers me the opportunity to support and teach Child Care Educators with health, safety, and nutrition in the child care world. If you have any questions, concerns, or are need of WV STARS registered trainings reach out. I am happy to help!

Thank You!

West Virginia
Child Care Health
Educators

Contact

Child Care Health Educator
WV Early Childhood Training
Connections and Resources
www.wvearlychildhood.org

Address: 611 7th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
Phone: 304-529-7603 ext. 3437
·Email: hvance@rvcds.org

How Can Early Childhood Health Educators Help You?

- Training – The West Virginia Child Care Health Educators provide trainings that are registered through WV STARS. These trainings can be taken online and in person. We are available to schedule trainings at your convenience and if you are interested in scheduling for your center please give us a call.

- Technical Assistance – If you have any questions or concerns regarding the health or safety of your center, we can provide professional guidance and can be reached through email or phone.

Nurse Health Consultants

Online Trainings

Date and Time	Training Topic	Trainer
April 2nd 6:00pm-7:00pm	Infection Control	Lisa Galford
April 6th 12:00pm-1:00pm	Dealing with Lice	Allison Taylor
April 6th 5:30pm-8:30pm	Medication Administration	Candace Morgan
April 10th 6:00pm-7:30pm	Diabetes in Child Care	Kelly Amos
April 14th 6:00pm-7:30pm	First Aid for Minor Injuries	Candace Morgan
April 27th 6:00pm-8:00pm	Summertime Safety	Brittany Parsons
April 30th 5:30pm-8:30pm	Medication Administration	Allison Taylor
May 4th 6:00pm-7:30pm	Diabetes in Child Care	Kelly Amost
May 5th 6:00pm-8:00pm	Communicable Diseases	Lisa Galford

Nurse Health Consultants

Online Trainings

Date and Time	Training Topic	Trainer
May 12th 5:30pm-8:30pm	Medication Administration	Kelly Amos
May 16th 8:00am-11:00am	Medication Administration	Kelly Amos
May 19th 6:00pm-7:30pm	First Aid for Minor Injuries	Candace Morgan
May 21st 6:00pm-8:00pm	Summertime Safety	Brittany Parsons
May 26th 5:30pm-8:30pm	Medication Administration	Lisa Galford
May 27th 12:00pm-1:00pm	Dealing with Lice	Allison Taylor
June 6th 9:00am-11:00am	Summertime Safety	Brittany Parsons
June 9th 5:30pm-8:30pm	Medication Administration	Brittany Parsons
June 11th 12:00pm-1:00pm	Dealing with Lice	Allison Taylor

Nurse Health Consultants

Online Trainings

Date and Time	Training Topic	Trainer
June 15th 6:00pm-7:00pm	Infection Control	Lisa Galford
June 18th 6:00pm-7:30pm	Diabetes In Child Care	Kelly Amos
June 24th 6:00pm-8:00pm	Summertime Safety	Brittany Parsons
June 25th 6:00pm-7:30pm	First Aid for Minor Injuries	Candace Morgan
June 30th 5:30pm-8:30pm	Medication Administration	Kelly Amos

Online Trainings

WEST VIRGINIA CHILD CARE HEALTH EDUCATORS

APR 07	IDENTIFYING ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS 1 6:30PM - 8:30PM
APR 08	IDENTIFYING ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS 2 6:30PM - 8:30PM
APR 28	BREASTFEEDING BASICS 6:30PM - 8:30PM
MAY 04	CHILDHOOD OBESITY 12:30PM - 1:30PM
MAY 11	NEW RECIPE IDEAS 1 6:30PM - 8:30PM
MAY 18	NEW RECIPE IDEAS 2 6:30PM - 8:30PM
JUNE 03	FUN & HEALTHY SNACKS 12:30PM - 1:30PM
JUNE 11	BED BUGS AND BEYOND 6:30PM - 8:30PM
JUNE 23	LET'S MAKE A MENU 6:30PM - 8:30PM

To register go to www.wvstars.org

PD Summaries

Course	DESCRIPTION
All Day with School Age	Afterschool programs are designed to provide a safe place for students to explore their creativity, experience new things and have positive interactions by building a sense of community. Is your program ready for providing these things during the summer? In this training we will cover the basics of a full day school age program. Creating a full day schedule with intentional activities, routines and transitions along with rules and expectations can help make that time with them effective, inspiring and fun!
Afterschool Ratings Scale (SACERS)	This training at the CONNECT office focuses on the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale also known as SACERS. Participants will learn the basic components of quality care. Participants will understand what the SACERS rating scale is designed to do and how to use it, along with the importance of its purpose to your program. All centers will receive their own SACERS booklet.
Afterschool: So Fresh and So Clean, Clean	Healthy environments are essential for school-age children's development. The most important part of your job is to keep children safe and healthy. In this training you will learn how to create and maintain healthy environments for all school-age children and how to address school-age children's personal health and emotional wellness. Observing children and responding to their issues help avoid problems before they occur which helps their emotional wellbeing.
Building Connections with Empathy	Empathy is a complex concept especially when it comes to children learning empathy. With this training we will learn what empathy is and what it looks like in different age groups. We will also examine the importance of empathy and ways we can teach it to the children we work with.
Classroom Chaos	Classroom Chaos focuses on the importance of establishing expectations for behavior and routines in your classroom. Showing attention to positive behaviors can help raise expectations for everyone. Taking time to plan and follow a daily schedule can help provide predictability and consistency for students. Participants will understand the importance of having self control. Also, demonstrating problem solving skills to help build strong relationships with their students.
Connections Matter	Connections Matter is a community-based initiative that explores how the connections we make in life profoundly impact our brain's ability to grow and our own individual abilities to cope and thrive. We utilize an evidence-informed program, along with real-world and concrete examples, to demonstrate how ACEs adversely affect brain development and health outcomes – and how caring connections serve as a primary buffer in the negative effects of trauma.

PD Summaries

Course	DESCRIPTION
ECERS-3 Extending ECERS-R	This 2-hour preschool session will examine the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-Third Edition. Discussion will include information about the six (6) subscales, scoring and the teacher's role in creating a quality classroom environment. Participants will be given the opportunity to assess their childhood environment.
From Babysitter to Business Owner	If you are a home provider and are wanting to get the most out of your Family Child Care Business, this two-hour session will give providers insight into important aspects of fine tuning the organization and operation of your Family Child Care Business.
Heartsaver 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.
It's All Fun and Games in Afterschool	It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt, mad, loses or breaks materials. Play with school-age children doesn't always have to be that way. Introducing, practicing and setting expectations for play even with school-age children is critical for success. Guidance enhances children's play by responding to their needs and interests. This 1 hour training will help you prepare for play and learn new games and materials to keep your afterschool children focused and engaged.
Lean On Me	A new initiative from Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia, focused on helping community members learn how they can support families through Listening, Empathy, Affirmation, and Non-Judgement. Participants will learn how to engage families who may need support, find resources for families, and gain tools to better understand the differences between poverty and neglect in order to reduce unwarranted reports to CPS. The face-to-face workshop includes discussion and information about: our shared responsibility for child well-being, checking our assumptions about families, what it means to support families.

PD Summaries

Course	DESCRIPTION
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. This will be the updated training information.
Planning Your Professional Growth	This training focuses on professional growth of early education providers and how to identify goals for the future.
Quality Environments 101	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.
Quality Through Collaborations	This training focuses on trending topics, goals, and challenges in the early childhood field faced by facility-based and center-based directors and administrators of child care programs.
Reflective Supervision	This training will introduce administrators to the process of reflective supervision, the benefits of the process in regards to improving relationships with caregivers and ways to implement the technique in their program. Administrators will learn ways they can increase staff confidence and participation in decisions.
Sand & Water Play	This 2-hour in-person session will discuss the benefits of sand and water play. Participants will examine how to set up this sensory center to provide children open ended opportunities for play and discovery. We'll explore how sensory play crosses developmental domains and practice connecting that learning to the WV PreK Standards.
Spreading HOPE	The HOPE training will cover the effects of ACEs on health outcomes, the importance of positive childhood experiences, and the research showing their mitigating effects on ACEs as well as the biological basis for these effects. We will introduce the four building blocks of HOPE and discuss type 1 vs. type 2 thinking. The presentation will present some ideas of how to incorporate the HOPE Framework into practice. The training will also include skill building exercises focusing on how to incorporate the HOPE Framework into practice. This part will be highly interactive and include breakout groups and opportunities for sharing. The session is appropriate for people working with children of all ages and their families.

PD Summaries

Course	DESCRIPTION
Stop Wondering, Start Planning	Good planning is essential in the preschool classroom. This in-person session will include information about effective planning to assist teachers and children in their daily routines. Discussions will include the when, what, and how of planning and how to connect plans to the new WV Pre-K Standards.
Transition Tactics	This in-person session will examine participants' daily schedules/routines to raise awareness of current transitions practices. Participants will explore techniques to incorporate learning and encourage positive behaviors during daily transitions and discover some tactics to make transitions more effective.
Understanding ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences): ACEs 101	During this one and a half-hour professional development the participant will be introduced to the concept of Adverse Childhood Experiences through awareness and education.
Using the "Senses" for Discovery	This in-person session will focus on preschool children's learning through the 5 basic senses – sight, sound, taste, smell and touch. We will discuss how the senses help children perceive and understand the world. Come discover ways to enhance your environment in this informative and interactive session, and begin providing more engaged learning classroom experiences.
Utilizing the ERS	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 information 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.

CONNECT

CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

1 Player's Club Drive
Charleston, WV 25313

COME SEE US!

(304) 414-4488

Connectccrr@wv.gov

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

River Valley Child Development Services