

TRAINING

Sequential training offered or arranged by Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania covers a range of topics. Among these are: infant and toddler health issues, emergency preparedness, preventing injuries, preventing infection, pediatric first aid training, managing difficult behavior in young children, and care for children with chronic illness such as asthma. Also, ECELS teaches health professionals how to work with local child care providers as child care health consultants and trainers.

Child care programs may need training of new staff at any time. Health and safety problems come up that cannot wait for a scheduled workshop. Audio-visual materials are a flexible mechanism for training of center and family child care providers. Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania maintains an audiovisual lending library to support on-site training for new staff and experienced child care providers. Self-learning modules that require active learner participation using print or audio-visual materials have increased the scope of training activities. Many modules are now available including topics in health promotion, injury prevention, and infection control.

For a current list of self-learning modules and workshop training visit our web site or contact ECELS.

MATERIALS

Materials developed by the PA AAP for child care include training curricula, a model “fill-in-the-blank” set of health policies, the Immunization Dose Counter, fact sheets on childhood health problems, and care plan forms for children with asthma and other chronic illnesses. Other materials include videos, DVDs, forms for recording health assessments, symptom record forms, active play supervision schedules, communication between

parents and staff, medication administration, evacuation drills and many other activities for child care programs.

Many of the print materials are posted on the web site. Some are distributed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to a national audience.



FUNDING

ECELS/Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania is an example of a successful state and federal, public and private partnership. Start-up funding came from the federal Title V, Maternal and Child Health Improvement Program and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants.

Now, state funds from the PA Department of Public Welfare and PA Department of Health support ECELS/Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania. ECELS is Pennsylvania's health and safety initiative for child care programs.

ECELS/HCCPA

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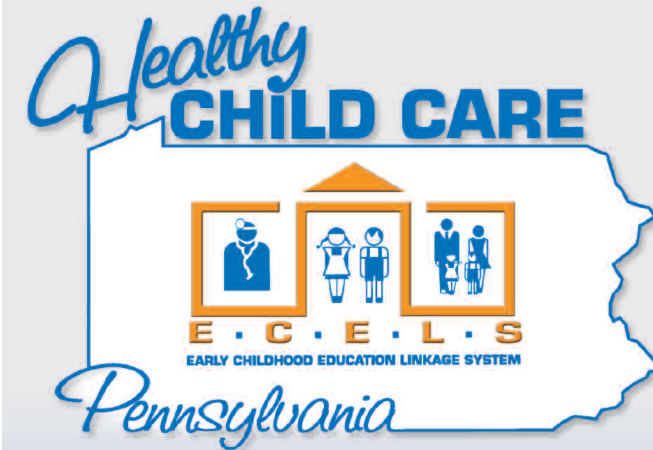
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of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Pennsylvania Chapter



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ORGANIZATION

Since December 1989, the PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA AAP) has operated the **Early Childhood Education Linkage System (ECELS)**. Now operating as ECELS/Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania, ECELS provides health professional consultation, training, and technical assistance to improve early childhood education programs in the Commonwealth. To carry out this work, the PA AAP links the resources of government, early childhood educators, and health professionals.

SERVICES

ECELS serves PA's regulated and unregulated child care facilities that together enroll more than 418,000 children. The programs include child care centers (child care and Head Start), large and small family child care homes, nursery schools and unregulated non-parental, part-day care.

With so many young children in child care facilities, control of injuries and infectious disease in these settings is crucial. Early childhood settings also offer many opportunities for health promotion.



INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

To improve the quality of group care, ECELS provides six basic services:

- 1) Linkages between health professionals and programs that care for young children in groups
- 2) Technical assistance about health and safety issues for early childhood professionals, regulators and others
- 3) Free lending library of audiovisual materials
- 4) Quarterly newsletter, **HEALTHLINK**, distributed to all identified PA early childhood care and education programs and health consultants
- 5) Arrangements for health and safety training for caregivers, licensing staff, and health consultants for early childhood programs
- 6) Helping child care providers ensure that children are up-to-date with preventive health services using WellCareTracker™ and other tracking tools.



TARGETED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Child health and child care performance data identify common problems. Frequent communication with providers gives an informal mechanism for ongoing surveillance as well. Based on the data collected from self-assessment, surveys of providers and health professionals as well as requests for technical assistance, ECELS has targeted many areas for intervention. Some examples of these are: immunization, vision screening, oral health, obesity prevention, written health policies, active play safety, traffic safety, emergency preparedness, inclusion of children with special health care needs, and removal of hazards in child care settings.



LINKAGES WITH HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

A key goal is to help child care providers link children with a source of ongoing preventive health care. Regulations require that providers document complete, up-to-date immunizations and

other routine health services. ECELS helps child care providers and health professionals work on correcting the problems found.

ECELS encourages local health professionals to work with child care providers to improve documentation and link children who need services with a medical home.

CONSULTATION

ECELS provides telephone assistance to about 500 callers per month. In addition to providing materials and advice, the staff offer linkage with a local health professional for further support as required. Nurses are the largest pool of health professionals working as on-site consultants in child care settings. Many of these nurses are public health and school nurses, but some work in private and academic settings. Some work as volunteers. ECELS links nurse-consultants with physicians for further medical professional support and taps the expertise of specialists for technical advice.

LENDING LIBRARY AND TRAINING



EVERY CHILD UP-TO-DATE WITH PREVENTIVE CARE

