

Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



Family Support Professionals and Professional Development

The world has many challenges that demand family support professionals be effective leaders with an expansive understanding of parenting skills, child development, parent-child interactions, and community systems. When family support professionals engage in professional development events, it helps them expand their knowledge, skills and practices, and be effective leaders.

Professional development includes advancing knowledge, skills, best practices, and competencies that contribute to their success in the workplace. There are many ways for family support professionals to engage in professional development. Some of the multiple ways include webinars, self-studies, in-person sessions, mentoring, coaching, workshops, learning communities, conferences, and online courses. Whatever the format, be sure to prepare ahead of time and allow extra time for hiccups such as technical difficulties or location changes.

Before attending professional development events, the family support professional and supervisor should develop and discuss a professional development plan. A professional development plan should provide guidance and details to a family support professional's career growth. The plan may include goals and objectives that align with the organization's values, specific professional development topics, resources, employer performance requirements, funding sources, and self-assessments that measure the knowledge, skills, and abilities and identify the individual's learning style. The plan may also include a timeline or calendar with the dates and times of the upcoming professional development events.

After family support professionals complete a professional development event, they can evaluate and reflect upon the experience and apply the lessons learned. The professional and supervisor can establish a follow-up plan to review, share, and apply the information.

continued on page 2

It is best to apply the lessons learned as soon as possible so the information is not forgotten, and the knowledge is sustainable. Customize the principles and best practices to what works best. Communicate and share information with co-workers and others in the field and get their feedback. Sharing and discussing lessons learned helps reinforce what was learned. Review information as needed. Remember to record progress and celebrate the accomplishments.

Overall, professional development keeps family support professionals up to date in their industry, provides new and relevant skills, and promotes career growth.

Sources:

Antley, Trevor. (2020). What is Professional Development and Why is it Important? Retrieved from <https://www.webce.com/blog/professional-development>.

Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visiting Technical Assistance Center. Professional Development in Home Visiting: What to Do Before, During, and After the Training. Retrieved from <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/mchb/programs-impact/professional-development-home-visiting.pdf>.

Follow us on social media

To stay up to date, join us online at the [Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers Facebook page](#) or at the [Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Facebook page](#).

Share Your Story

Please send your success stories or program news to share in future News Briefs to [Drewanne Kline](#).

Federal Update: FY25 Appropriations Process Underway

After an extremely delayed completion of Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations, which wrapped up last month, and former House Appropriations Chairwoman Kay Granger (R-TX) putting down the gavel before the end of the Congress session, the Fiscal Year 2025 process is now underway. Representative Tom Cole (R-OK) has been selected to lead the House appropriations panel for the remainder of the year, and advocates have begun appealing to Congress to provide robust funding for key federal programs. However, this year is expected to be austere, with agreed-upon caps on discretionary spending limiting overall increased funding to approximately 1 percent. This could result in key programs supporting children and families receiving small cuts or level funding as inflation continues to be high, further limiting the spending power to support families most in need.

Recently, Parents as Teachers National Center joined others in the human services field to appeal to Congress to find a way to provide the funds necessary to support children and families and other critical domestic programs. The letter notes, “The need for these key investments has only grown over time, leaving important services and activities underfunded by billions of dollars as program funding for vital services... has not kept pace with population growth or inflation.” [Review the letter](#), and the opportunity to join that appeal.

We still need your support for the Child Tax Credit!

The bill to expand the Child Tax Credit is in the Senate, and it's time for our Senators to hear from us so that 16 million young people and their families will receive this much-needed economic relief. Learn more about how to take action on the [national Parents as Teachers website](#).

Family Support Webinar: Trauma Informed Practices That Support Parents

June 5, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Join us to learn about how trauma-informed practices can support parents. Explore how a parents/caregiver's trauma in the past might impact their parenting now and how family support staff can use strengths-based, trauma-informed practices to support caregivers in their parenting.

[Register for June webinar.](#)



Celebrating Growth and Community

Highlights from the 2024 Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Conference Partnering to Build Resilient Families and Communities

The 2024 Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Conference was an enriching event to encourage family support workers to provide environments to strengthen resilience with families and in our communities. With an impressive lineup of speakers and a diverse range of topics, the conference provided valuable insights into family support strategies and initiatives.

Three distinguished keynote speakers, Charlyn Harper Browne, Gerria Coffee, and Sarita Sashington, graced the event with their wisdom and expertise. Their engaging presentations inspired attendees and shed light on key aspects of resilience, family dynamics and support systems.

In addition to the keynotes, the conference featured 44 session speakers who delved into various family support topics, offering practical solutions and innovative approaches. From strengthening parent-child relationships to navigating challenges families face in communities, the sessions provided attendees with actionable strategies to enhance family well-being.

The event also included remarks from esteemed figures in family support, including Constance Gully, chief executive officer of Parents as Teachers National Center, Valerie Arkoosh, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and Deputy Secretary Shanté Brown with Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). Their insights underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in building resilient and thriving families and communities that support families.

With over 250 attendees, the conference was a testament to the collective commitment to strengthening families and communities. The organizers extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. Your support and dedication are invaluable in advancing the mission of empowering families for a brighter future.

As we reflect on the 2024 Pennsylvania Strengthening Families Conference, we are reminded of the transformative power of community, collaboration, and compassion in building strong and resilient families. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of families across Pennsylvania and beyond.

Have some fantastic photos from the conference that you would like to share? We would love to see them! Send your snapshots to FamilySupport@csc.csiu.org and let us capture the memories together. Your photos may even be featured in our conference highlights!



Family Support Team

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities provides training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers providers, Children's Trust Fund grantees, and the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.

Alexia Brown

Family Support Technical Assistance Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 146

Jennifer Esposito

Family Support Data Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 161

Christine Felicetti

Family Support Coordinator
717-763-1661, ext. 104

Drewanne Kline

Family Support Project Specialist
717-763-1661, ext. 169

Rijelle Kraft

Family Support Managing Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 221

Karen Shanoski

Family Support and Community Engagement Director
(717) 763-1661, ext. 139

Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers at Center for Schools and Communities

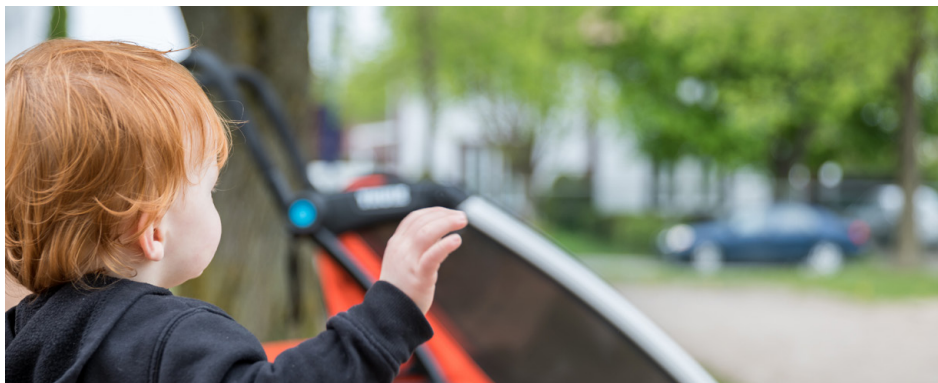
Pennsylvania Children's Trust Fund

Pennsylvania Strengthening Families

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities

275 Grandview Avenue
Suite 200, Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 763-1661

centerforschoolsandcommunities.org



Safe Kids Corner: Driveway Safety

Many tragedies happen in driveways or parking lots when drivers are unaware that children are near vehicles. Tragically, these drivers are often family members or friends of the injured child. But these situations are easily prevented by following a few simple tips.

Hard Facts about Kids Playing in and Around Cars by Themselves

Each year, more than 9,000 children are treated in emergency rooms for injuries that occurred while they were by themselves in or around motor vehicles. Many of these preventable injuries occur when drivers are unaware of children near vehicles.

Top Tips for Driveway Safety

- We know you are often in a hurry, but before you get in the car, take a few seconds to walk all the way around your parked car to check for children.
- Designate a safe spot for children to wait for when nearby vehicles are about to move and make sure the drivers can see them.
- Accompany little kids when they get in and out of a vehicle. Hold their hand while walking near moving vehicles, in driveways, parking lots, or on sidewalks.

Learn More

Making the space in and around your car safe for kids requires a few more steps. Learn more about how to protect your kids from [heatstroke](#) in cars or [getting trapped in the trunk](#). Also check out [more tips on how to keep your driveway safe](#).

[Read full article on Safe Kids Worldwide website.](#)