Provider Spotlight

Congratulations to Boyertown Children’s Center on their 30th Anniversary! Our journey has taken us from 1984 to 2020. We have grown in size and location, and as early care and education providers. We are proud to be the FIRST licensed childcare provider in the Boyertown area, the first local center to serve subsidized care families, and the first local center to achieve STAR 4 status, which we have maintained since 2006. In 1976, Dorothy Creevey began to work for the Berks County Intermediate Unit, serving preschoolers, infants and toddlers with special needs. Early childhood education was not the plan, but a love of young children quickly became a lifetime commitment. In 1984, in need of quality care for her own young daughter, Dorothy purchased an existing preschool, located in rental space, which quickly grew into a licensed childcare center. In 1987, we began serving infants and toddlers, and quickly outgrew the rental space. In fall of 1989, we purchased our current building, and moved in January 2, 1990. Both building and outdoor spaces have seen many changes, additions and renovations as we continued to grow.

From 1990-1996, Dorothy continued as director. In 1992, Douglassville Children’s Center joined the BCC family. Both centers continued to grow. From 1996-2005, Dorothy acted as administrator; each center had a director. From 2005-2014, Dorothy took the director reins again at BCC, moving the center from a STAR 2 to STAR 4 within a year. She then supported the DCC director in the move to STAR 4 a year later. From 2014-present Nancy Miller has directed BCC at the same high standards. Nancy started as the Preschool Lead and Curriculum Director in 2010. She obtained her Director’s credentials and took over as the Center Director in 2014. She, along with her staff, have maintained the Star 4 quality. 2020 has presented some new challenges, with the loss of DCC, and all the challenges of COVID 19. We closed the centers on March 13th, 2020 under the Governor’s order. After much planning and research, we were able to re-open Boyertown Children’s Center on June 8th, 2020. We started with less than 20% enrollment and quickly increased to a nearly full enrollment by August. Our dedicated staff have helped with the transition to a post-COVID way of running our center.

We love to support our provider community, if you have a story to share please contact your Quality Coach!

Montco Cares Program

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners launched the Montco Cares Program to support Montgomery County families and child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Montco Cares Program is being administrated by the Early Learning Resource Center, Region 17. The Montco Cares Program family grants can help provide Montgomery County families with financial support to assist them in paying for child care for children enrolled in a PA DHS licensed child care facility. All applications are due by November 2, 2020. Questions regarding the Montco Cares Program Family grants can be emailed to FamilyMCPapplications@montcopa.org.

The Montco Cares Program Provider grants will ensure the financial viability of Montgomery County child care programs that have experienced disruption due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. All applications are due by November 2, 2020. Questions regarding the Montco Cares Program Provider grants and be emailed to MCPProviderapplications@montcopa.org. For more information on eligibility requirements and the application process, please visit www.montcopa.org/montcocaresprogram.
Free PPE Distribution

The second FREE Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution will be held on Wednesday, October 28th from 8:30am until 11:30am at:

101 Brower Avenue
Oaks, PA 19456

No pre-registration is required and PPE will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until all kits are distributed. Supplies are limited to one kit per location.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

From the PA Key: Typically, the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMH) provides free on-site services to early childhood practitioners within Pennsylvania. These services are designed to:

- **Support** staff and families knowledge and understanding of social emotional development and its impact on a child’s overall educational success.
- **Reduce** the number of children expelled from childcare due to behavior issues, and
- **Connect** systems and services on behalf of a child, family, and program.

However, due to the unforeseen nature of COVID-19, the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) and the Pennsylvania Key are currently requiring IECMH consultants to provide these services via teleconsultation. Our on-site practice of completing these steps will be altered and provided in various platforms such as video calls, phone/conference calls, and email. It is our goal that working as a virtual team, we will be able to serve children and all those that support them in improving social development and emotional wellness. Click here for more information and we appreciate your willingness to participate with us in this new format.

Local Leadership Council

ELRC Region 17 hosts the Local Leadership Council (LLC) on a quarterly basis. Through the LLC, we are working in an integrated and collaborative way within the local early learning service community. We have assembled and strengthened strong, clear and shared leadership at the local level by engaging a wide range of community stakeholders in the early learning agenda. We value the work that you do every day to improve outcomes for children. We want YOUR voice to be heard!

Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) Region 17 held our most recent Local Leadership Council (LLC) on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. If you were not able to join us, the materials have been posted to our website:

montcopia.org/LocalLeadershipCouncil

Resources for Care and Education of School-Age Children due to COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, families are having to make difficult decisions about the care and education of their children. OCDEL has released a guide to highlight some available options and requirements that might apply for Pennsylvania families. To view the additional resources, click here to see the infographic.
**Connect with the ECE PDO**

Do you have questions about your career pathway in ECE or need support in finding and enrolling in coursework or degree programs? The ECE PDO at PHMC offers Career Advising Services for the ECE workforce at the program level, or for individuals who are interested in advancing their placement on PA’s ECE Career Pathway.

Visit [ecepdo.phmc.org](http://ecepdo.phmc.org) for more information, and sign up for our weekly newsletter. [CLICK HERE](http://clickhere.com) for a flyer to learn more about Career Advising Services for the ECE workforce. Our ECE/IHE Coordinator Mina Abdollahi, mabdollahi@phmc.org, can meet with directors and teachers to review resources to help with CDA, AA, and BA program enrollment and supports for completion. Contact them today!

**Fire Prevention Month**

October is Fire Prevention Month. The National Fire Protection Association has announced the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2020 is “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen.” Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the U.S. Use the month of October to educate your community on cooking hazards, the dangers of unattended cooking, and precautions they can take to prevent cooking-related fires. Key messages include:

- Keep a close eye on what you’re cooking; never leave cooking unattended
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — at least three feet away from your stovetop.
- Be on alert. If you are sleepy or impaired, don’t use the stove or stovetop.

For more information, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org). Additional resources can be found by visiting [firstalert.com](http://firstalert.com).

**COVID-19 Health and Safety System Supports Trainings Available for Providers**

From the PA Key: The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is happy to announce the COVID-19 Health and Safety System Supports Training Webinars are now available for Providers. We are here to help and we want to make sure we are all on the same page! The Health and Safety System Supports Training Webinars provided to the Regional Health and Safety System Task Force Members are now publicly available.

OCDEL intentionally developed a no-wrong-door approach so each Task Force member has received the same training and to help answer your questions. Please continue to reach out to whomever you feel comfortable talking to in your region but we wanted to offer the training webinars to you as well.

Periodically Task Force members will meet to discuss feedback they have received from you as well as tackle common issues coming up in the field. As a result we’ll implement our own continuous improvement process for supporting you on issues around health and safety.

The COVID-19 health and safety guidance provided here has been updated based on current evidence and information available at the time of publishing. Guidance will be regularly reviewed with regards to the evolving nature of the pandemic and emerging evidence. It is the viewer’s responsibility to ensure they are using current and updated OCDEL and CDC guidance when implementing health and safety plans and decisions.
6 Books To Help Kids Better Understand The Coronavirus

From Patch.com: Over the past few months, the coronavirus pandemic has completely changed the everyday lives of people across the world. And while adults have slowly learned to grasp the idea of this new "normal," it's not quite as simple for our little ones — especially with the start of a new (and strange) school year. That's why we've decided to round up a list of books that will help parents and teachers explain the pandemic to children. With informative-yet-approachable stories and lessons, your kids will better understand everything from wearing a mask and social distancing to remote learning and safely interacting with classmates. Here are six books that will help explain COVID-19 to your little ones to ease their fears and anxieties surrounding the pandemic:

"Lucy's Mask" by Lisa Sirkis Thompson, $11.97 — Kids can definitely be scared or anxious when they have to wear a mask or they see other people in masks. But with the help of "Lucy's Mask," your kids will see masks in a more positive light and feel comforted and reassured about all of the changes happening around them.

"Germs vs. Soap" by Didi Dragon, $8.99 — With everything going on in today's world, it's never been more important for children to learn proper hand hygiene, and this quirky book will help them do just that.

"Our Class is a Family" by Shannon Olsen, $10.99 — School isn't just a classroom — it's a community. That's why it's important for children to feel safe, included and loved at school.

"Stay Home Superheroes: A Kid's Guide to Social Distancing" by Callie and Leonardo Silva, $9.99 — Are your kiddos confused or losing their patience about why they constantly have to stay in the house? Well, this book will help teach your children who are struggling to understand that they can be a super hero if they stay home and stay safe by not spreading the virus.

"When Virona the Corona Came to Town" by Hailey Glynn, $9.92 — Through words and illustrations, this book is meant to help children better understand and ease their uncertainty and fears in a friendly way.

"A Little SPOT Learns Online" by Diane Alber, $11.99 — Great for parents or teachers whose children are doing school online due to the coronavirus, this story teaches kids that while virtual learning is a bit different from what they're used to, it can still be a fun place to learn.
# Caseworker Assignments

## STARS Quality Coach

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## Child Care Specialist

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## Fiscal Unit

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| Theresa McLaughlin | 610-278-3261 | tmclaugh@montcopa.org                  | Provider Coordinator  |

## Delinquent Co-payments

Phone: (610) 278-5802 or email ELRCRegion17@pa.gov

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services collaboratively provides an accessible network of resources that fosters, supports, and enhances the health and well-being of Montgomery County residents. Embracing a comprehensive approach, we treat each person with care and dignity.
To support Montgomery County families and child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners has launched the Montco Cares Program. The Montco Cares Program is being administrated by the Early Learning Resource Center, Region 17.

**FAMILIES:**
This program can help provide Montgomery County families with financial support to assist them in paying for child care for children enrolled in a PA DHS licensed child care facility. **All applications are due by November 2, 2020.**

**Eligibility Requirements:**
- Families must have a gross medium income less than 100% of the area median
- Applicants must reside in Montgomery County
- Applicants will be requested to submit documentation to verify eligibility
- Maximum payment amount of $40.00 per service day will be paid per child, per day—not to exceed $2,480.00 or 62 service days from Oct. 5th—Dec. 30th.
- Payments will be paid directly to providers

Questions? Please email FamilyMCPapplications@montcopa.org

**PROVIDERS:**
The Montco Cares Program will ensure the financial viability of Montgomery County child care programs that have experienced disruption due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. **All applications are due by November 2, 2020.**

**Eligibility Requirements:**
- Program must be a 501(c)(3) or for-profit entity, licensed by the PA Department of Human Services, that was in operation on or before March 1, 2020 and must be located in Montgomery County, PA
- Program must have a licensed capacity not greater than 600 children
- Programs that are in active default with taxes or fees owed to local, county, state and/or the federal government may not apply

Questions? Please email MCPProviderapplications@montcopa.org

For more information on eligibility requirements and the application process, please visit www.montcopa.org/montcocaresprogram
Para apoyar a las familias del Condado de Montgomery y a los proveedores de cuidado infantil durante la pandemia COVID-19 La Junta de Comisionados del Condado de Montgomery ha lanzado el Programa Montco Cares. El Programa Montco Cares está siendo administrado por el Centro de Recursos de Aprendizaje Temprano (ELRC) Región 17

FAMILIAS

Este programa puede ayudar a proporcionar a las familias del Condado de Montgomery apoyo financiero para ayudarlos a pagar el cuidado infantil para los niños inscritos en un centro de cuidado infantil con licencia del DHS en PA.

**Todas las solicitudes vencen antes del 2 de Noviembre de 2020.**

**Requisitos de Elegibilidad:**

- Las familias deben tener una renta media bruta inferior al 100% de la zona mediana
- Los solicitantes deben residir en el Condado de Montgomery
- Se solicitará a los solicitantes que presenten documentación para verificar la elegibilidad
  - El monto máximo de pago de $40.00 por día de servicio se pagará por niño, por día-no exceder $2,480.00 o 62 días de servicio a partir del 5 de Octubre hasta el 30 de Diciembre
  - Los pagos se pagarán directamente a los proveedores

  ¿Preguntas? Por favor, envíe un correo electrónico: FamilyMCPapplications@montcopia.org

PROVEEDORES:

El programa Montco Cares garantizará la viabilidad financiera de programa de cuidado infantil del condado de Montgomery que han experimentado interrupciones debido a la pandemia mundial COVID-19

**Todas las solicitudes vencen antes del 2 de noviembre de 2020.**

**Requisitos de Elegibilidad:**

- El programa debe ser una entidad 501(c)(3) o con fines de lucro, licenciada por el Departamento de Servicios Humanos de PA, que estaba en funcionamiento el 1 de marzo de 2020 y antes y debe estar ubicado en el condado de Montgomery
- El programa debe tener una capacidad con licencia no superior a 600 niños
- Los programas que están en incumplimiento activo con impuestos o cargos adeudados a los gobiernos locales, del condado, estatales y/o federales pueden no aplicar.

Preguntas? Por favor, envíe un correo MCPProviderapplications@montcopia.org

Para obtener más información sobre los requisitos de elegibilidad y el proceso de solicitud, visite:

http://www.montcopia.org/montcocaresprogram