

# PA Infant Toddler Network Health Resources



Resources for Center Based and Home Based Service Providers

Summer 2011



Each of the DOH's 6 Community Health Districts is host to a Family Health Nursing Services Consultant specializing in Maternal and Child Health. These regionally based specialists can provide information and referrals on a variety of health related issues for families with young children. Additional services are available through local State Health Center offices.

Visit the DOH website to locate the State Health Center or the District Office serving your location.  
[www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=556737&mode=2](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=556737&mode=2)



Administered by the PA Dept. of Health, the Special Kids Network can provide an array of contacts to support families whose child has special health care needs. Their System of Care website will include community profiles - listing localized contacts for a variety of services.

You will find more information at:  
[www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/special\\_kids\\_network/14205](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/special_kids_network/14205)



Local Safe Kids coalitions are present in a variety of PA communities, offering services such as child safety seat clinics, SIDS prevention education and administering Cribs for Kids programs, etc.

Discover more about Safe Kids and their resources at: [www.pasafekids.org/index.php](http://www.pasafekids.org/index.php)



The WIC Programs offers supplemental food, nutritional education, screening, counseling and support for lower income expectant women, breast-feeding women, and families with young children.

Looking for your local WIC office? You can find contact information, eligibility information and more at: [www.pawic.com](http://www.pawic.com)



Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

The EFNEP program provides lessons, displays, newsletters, handouts and other activities designed for a variety of audiences - parents and kids, pregnant teens, and immigrant populations. Nutrition Education Programs take into account variables such as age, culture, reading ability, physical or developmental limitations, and more.

For more information on EFNEP contact your local Penn State Cooperative Extension office or visit: [extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu)



The PA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA AAP) operates the Early Childhood Education Linkage System (ECELS). Now operating Healthy Child Care Pennsylvania, ECELS provides PA's early learning community with an array of services aimed towards improving early childhood education programs in the Commonwealth.

ECELS maintains a directory of Child Care Health Consultants - health professionals from throughout the state who are available to provide consultative services and technical assistance in the areas of health and safety for child care centers and early learning programs.

ECELS also provides professional development opportunities for early learning providers via face-to-face PD events, independent study modules, and webinars / audio-conferences.

Visit the Healthy Child Care PA website to see the variety of resources available through ECELS:  
[www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org](http://www.ecels-healthychildcarepa.org)



Each of the Regional Keys offers Health Consultation services to participants in the Keystone STARS program.

The services of Child Care Health Consultants are quality enhancing and capacity building resources for programs.

"The frequency of visits should meet the needs of the composite group of children and be based on the needs of the program for training, support, and monitoring of child health and safety needs, including (but not limited to) infectious disease, injury prevention, safe sleep, nutrition, oral health, physical activity and outdoor learning, emergency preparation, medication administration, and the care of children with special health care needs." (Caring for Our Children, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., p.36)



## Good Oral Health Begins at Birth

According to the American Society of Pediatric Dentistry: "Every child deserves a healthy start in life, but when it comes to oral health, many children face significant challenges. Children in low-income families tend to have higher rates of tooth decay and have greater difficulty accessing ongoing basic dental care."

The availability of dental services for young children varies greatly throughout the Commonwealth. Medical providers routinely provide oral screenings as an element of EPSDT screenings. Local dentists, and dental hygienists as well as child care health consultants can provide resources and education to families and childcare providers on the importance of early oral care.