

## Why is access to high quality early childhood education so important?

“Children are born with an incredible capacity and desire to learn. More than 40 years of research confirms the foundational importance of early education and care for children’s school and life success. It is essential that children’s first experiences are robust ones, steeped in activities that develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, a deep understanding about themselves in a social society, and age-appropriate content.”

*Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early Childhood Infants-Toddlers, [pakeys.org](http://pakeys.org)*

### Milestones

#### **Birth to Six Months:**

- Smiles spontaneously
- Can grasp a rattle
- Vocalizes, Rolls over

#### **Six Months to One Year:**

- Sits without support
- Thumb-finger (pincer) grasp
- Waves “bye-bye”
- 2-3 word vocabulary

#### **One Year to 18 Months:**

- Removes clothes
- Walks without support
- Drinks from cup
- Knows 5-20 words

#### **Two Years:**

- Puts on clothes
- Knows six or more body parts
- Understands two-step commands
- Knows at least 50 words

#### **Three Years:**

- Knows name, age and gender
- 250+ word vocabulary
- Goes up and down stairs without support
- Pedals tricycle

## Helpful Links

### [Department of Human Services](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx)

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

### [Child Care Works](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/Child-Care-Works-Program.aspx)

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### [COMPASS](https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome)

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### [Early Learning Resource Center](https://www.pakeys.org/elrcs/)

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### [Keystone STARS](https://www.pakeys.org/keystone-stars/)

<https://www.pakeys.org/keystone-stars/>

### [OCDEL](https://www.education.pa.gov/Early Learning/Pages/default.aspx)

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Early Learning/Pages/default.aspx>

### [PA Keys](https://www.pakeys.org/)

<https://www.pakeys.org/>

### [Pre-K Counts](https://www.pakeys.org/getting-started/ocdel-programs/pre-k-counts/)

<https://www.pakeys.org/getting-started/ocdel-programs/pre-k-counts/>

### [Raise Your STAR](https://raiseyourstar.org/)

<https://raiseyourstar.org/>



### **Region 1**

*Serving Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango Counties*



In partnership with

**3823 West 12th Street, Erie PA 16505**

**800-860-2281**

**[pwsvcelrcregion1@pa.gov](mailto:pwsvcelrcregion1@pa.gov)**

**[www.nwirelrc.org](http://www.nwirelrc.org)**



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## **Infant Toddler Contracted Slots Program (ITCSP)**

The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development & Early Learning (OCDEL) has envisioned, funded and expanded a very exciting program, the Infant Toddler Contracted Slots Program.

This program is available in several locations throughout Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Venango Counties.

The Infant Toddler Contracted Slots Program (ITCSP) will reduce the time that infants & toddlers spend on the subsidy waiting list while ensuring that child care providers have the resources and supports that they need to achieve and maintain high quality services.

## **Learn More Today!**



# Infant Toddler Contracted Slots Program (ITCSP)

## I'm interested, where do I begin?

Please contact one of the listed locations near you to check availability.

This program is open to children who are eligible for the Child Care Works program (subsidized child care).

## What does the ITCSP have to offer me and my child?

- Children in this program will have up to three years of eligibility.
- Children will receive care in a high quality program with a Keystone STAR rating of STAR 3 or STAR 4.
- The program requires a classroom ratio of 1 teacher for every 4 children.
- Participants in the ITCSP will not be required to complete an annual redetermination of eligibility to remain in this program.
- Participants will not be asked to pay additional fees towards the cost of care (late fees may apply if a child is not picked up by the time of closing).
- Co-Payments will be discussed based on each family's enrollment.
- The program promotes Continuity of Care. Strong relationships with the caregiver will be supported throughout the program.
- Participants will have priority for Pre-K Counts.

## Who qualifies for ITCSP Program?

Children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 36 months who are eligible for Child Care Works (CCW - subsidized child care) are eligible for enrollment into the ITCSP.

## Transitions

Providers will develop plans for children transitioning out of the ITCSP. Children will be eligible to remain in the program beyond their 3rd birthday if they are awaiting enrollment in PreK Counts.

If a Pre-K Counts slot is not available, families will be invited to reapply for subsidized child care services. If a family is found to be eligible for Child Care Works, the 3 year old child will be placed on the Prioritized Waiting List.

If other children in a family are enrolled in Child Care Works (CCW - subsidized child care), the ITCSP case will remain open without any changes to the rights and/or responsibilities.



## Program Locations

### **Early Connections**

200 West 11th Street, Suite 200  
Erie, PA 16501  
(814) 874-0144  
earlyconnectionserie.org

### **Child Development Centers, Inc.**

702 Liberty Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
(814) 670-0838  
www.cdcenters.org

### **Timber Ridge Child Care Center**

1015 Main Street  
Conneautville, PA 16406  
(814) 587-0002

### **YMCA of Corry**

906 N Center Street  
Corry, PA 16407  
(814) 664-7757  
www.ymcacorry.org

### **YMCA of Greater Erie**

31 W 10th Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
(814) 452-3261  
www.ymcaerie.org

### **Zion Education Center**

602 Roemer Blvd,  
Farrell, PA 16121  
(724) 866-9292  
www.zioneducationcenter.org