

February

KID BITS

Find and use maps

Maps are everywhere!

And your youngster will use them when he studies history and geography (and goes places). At the mall, zoo, or bus station, have him pick up a map and pinpoint your location (boys' clothes, reptile house, Main Street Station). *Idea:* Let him keep the maps in a folder to look at any time.

Appreciate differences

With your child, take turns naming ways you are alike ("We both have curly hair and like walks in the rain") and different ("I love spinach, but you like carrots better"). You'll help her understand that people don't have to have everything in common to get along.

Join the club

Do you have ideas for making your child's school a better place to learn and play? A parent-teacher group (PTA, PTO, steering committee) lets you share your thoughts and support the school. Watch newsletters or the school website for meeting dates, and plan to attend.

Worth quoting

"Believe you can, and you're halfway there." *Theodore Roosevelt*

Just for fun

Q: What is striped and goes round and round?

A: A zebra in a revolving door.



Building parent-child bonds

A little time and attention can be all it takes to make your child feel special. Turn everyday activities into bonding moments with these simple tips.

Be present

Your youngster knows when she has your attention—and when you are distracted. If she wants you when you're in the middle of something, resist the urge to multitask, and let her know you will give her a turn as soon as possible. "I have to finish filling out this form, and then I can look at your drawing." You'll show her that she is a priority, even if she has to wait a few minutes.

Talk about disagreements

She wants to stay up and watch a movie. You want her to go to bed. Listen to your child's side, and give her the reason behind your decision. "That looks like a good movie, but you have school tomorrow. We'll have to save it for the weekend." Letting her know you're



willing to listen now will make her more likely to discuss important issues with you as she gets older.

Be a team

Squeeze quality time into everyday tasks. Sing silly songs together on the way to the coffee shop. Give her a role to play during errands, like pushing the elevator buttons at the doctor's office or scanning items at the grocery store self-checkout. While you're getting things done, you're connecting with each other and making memories. ♥

Let's read aloud

Reading aloud is a cozy way to spend time with your youngster—and to prepare him for reading on his own. Try these three ideas.

1. Play storybook hide-and-seek. Each day, hide a "surprise" book in a different spot. Your child will look forward to searching for it after school—when he finds the book, it's story time!

2. Share breakfast giggles. Look in the newspaper for a comic strip your youngster might enjoy, such as *Peanuts* or *Garfield*. Then, read it together over breakfast.

3. Look forward to magazines. Consider subscribing to a children's magazine like *Highlights High Five* or *Humpty Dumpty*. Set aside time to snuggle up and read new poems, stories, and articles each month. ♥



Finding winter

Winter is in full swing, and it's a cool time for your youngster to use his five senses. Try these activities to explore the season together while he practices observing and describing.

See: Bundle up, and take a walk together. Ask your child to point out wintry things he notices. *Examples:* bare tree branches, frost on car windows, winter flowers, his breath. At home, he can draw pictures of the sights he saw.

Hear: Together, close your eyes, and listen for winter sounds like the heater running or sleet hitting the roof. Then, take turns making winter noises and guessing what they



(scarf, icicle) to feel their textures. Can he find something for each word?

Smell: Open a window, and encourage your child to take a deep whiff and tell you what he smells. He might notice smoke from a neighbor's fireplace or the scent of pine.♥

are. For instance, zip up a jacket, or stomp your boots on the doormat.

Taste: Let your youngster help you make a recipe your family especially enjoys on cold days, such as chili or stew. Ask him to describe its taste. ("It's spicy, and I can taste peppers and onions.")

Touch: List words that describe how winter-related objects feel (*fuzzy, slippery*). Have your youngster touch items

ACTIVITY CORNER

Be an archaeologist

Reasoning skills are important in all subjects. Let your child practice by pretending she's an archaeologist—a scientist who uses clues to learn about the past.

Have each family member secretly place three belongings in a paper bag. Exchange bags.

Then, each person opens the bag she received and studies the clues. Take turns guessing who your bag belongs to and what you can tell about that person.

Say your child gets a bag containing a crochet hook, yarn, and a pattern. She might say, "Mom likes to crochet. This must be her bag."

Idea: Choose a storybook character, and have her find items to match it. For instance, she might collect a tiara, a magic wand, and a slipper for a princess from her favorite fairy tale.♥



Q & A

Safe and sound

Q: I want to talk to my son about strangers, but I don't want to scare him. What should I say?

A: It's a good idea to discuss strangers—and to tell him that safety rules apply to everyone, whether he knows the person or not.

Remind your son that he should never go anywhere with someone without your permission. To make the conversation less scary, role-play with stuffed animals, and try to convince his animal to go with yours. Your wolf could say to his bear, "I have a pot of honey for you in my den" or "Please help me rescue a wolf cub." Your child's job is to say "No!" and to immediately find a stuffed animal he trusts.

Let your youngster know that if anyone makes him uncomfortable or asks him to keep a secret that seems bad or scary, he should tell you or another trusted adult right away.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Remember your manners

It seemed like whenever my daughter Jess and I went out and she got excited—poof—her manners disappeared. Then I'd end up scolding her, which was no fun for either of us.

One day we went to a puppet show with my friend who has a little girl Jess's age. Before the show, my friend reminded her daughter to sit quietly and to clap afterward. Next, her daughter repeated the instructions.



Sure enough, during the show, she was very polite.

It seemed too easy, but I decided to try this with Jess. The next time we visited her great-aunt, I paused outside and reminded her to say please and thank you and not to touch things that didn't belong to her without asking. I had her repeat the reminders.

It worked! Like most kids, Jess still forgets her manners sometimes. But thanks to that simple strategy, it happens less often, and our outings are more enjoyable.♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote school readiness, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.



2880 Pottsville Minersville Highway, Suite 210
Minersville, PA 17954

Early Childhood HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE KIDS, HEALTHY TEETH

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry has developed this brief guide to help parents and caregivers be prepared for the most common types of childhood tooth injuries.

WHAT TO DO IF...

A BABY TOOTH IS KNOCKED OUT



Contact your pediatric dentist as soon as possible. **QUICK ACTION** can lessen a child's discomfort and **PREVENT INFECTION**.



Rinse the mouth with water and apply **COLD COMPRESSES** to reduce swelling.

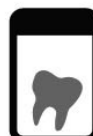


Spend time **COMFORTING THE CHILD** rather than looking for the tooth. Remember, baby teeth should not be replanted because of potential damage to developing permanent teeth.

A PERMANENT TOOTH IS KNOCKED OUT



Find the tooth. Rinse it gently in cool water. **DO NOT** scrub it or use soap.



REPLACE THE TOOTH in the socket and hold it there with clean gauze or a wash cloth. If you cannot put the tooth back in the socket, place the tooth in a clean container, preferably with cold milk. If milk is not available, put it in a container with the child's saliva, but **NOT IN WATER**.



Take the child and the tooth to your pediatric dental office **IMMEDIATELY** or call the emergency number if it is after hours.

A TOOTH IS CHIPPED OR BROKEN



Contact your pediatric dentist **IMMEDIATELY**. Fast action can save the tooth, prevent infection and reduce the need for extensive dental treatment.



Rinse the mouth with **WATER AND APPLY COLD COMPRESSES** to reduce swelling.



If a parent can find the broken tooth fragment, it is important to **TAKE IT TO THE DENTIST**.

AN ACTIVITY INVOLVES RISK OF FALLS OR COLLISIONS



Wear a **MOUTH GUARD** when activity involves a risk of falls, collisions or contact with hard surfaces or equipment.



Pre-formed mouth guards can be purchased in sporting goods stores, or **CUSTOMIZED MOUTH GUARDS** can be made by a pediatric dentist.

OUR PEDIATRIC DENTIST

Name

Phone Number

Visit MYCHILDRENSTEETH.ORG to locate a pediatric dentist near your home and to join AAPD's Monster-Free Mouths Movement.



TOOTH D.K.



GINGER BITE-US





TARTAR THE TERRIBLE



AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
THE BIG AUTHORITY on little teeth

2026-2027 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Any parent of a Child Development student that needs help with the online process at any of the schools, please inform your child's Teacher of Family Advocate.

DISTRICT / SCHOOL	REGISTRATION/SCREENING DATES	CHILD MUST BE "5"
1. Blue Mountain EAST: 570-366-1065, Ext. 5000 WEST: 570-739-4461, Ext. 4	Registration Dates: TO BE DETERMINED You can also keep checking here for updated information: (https://www.bmsd.org/kindergarten-registration)	on or before 9/1
2. Mahanoy Area 570-773-3443, Ext. 4038 or 4039	Registration Dates: TO BE DETERMINED	on 9/1
3. Minersville 570-544-1400, Ext. 1014	Registration Dates: TO BE DETERMINED You can also keep checking here for updated information: https://www.battlinminers.com/ OR 	On or before 9/1
4. North Schuylkill 570-874-3661	REGISTRATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY Parents can call the elementary office beginning 3/23/26 at 570-874-3661 Parents will be sent information and a packet that must be completed and brought to appointment.	on or before 7/1
5. Panther Valley 570-669-9411, Ext. 1	Parents can start calling the elementary school beginning 3/16/26 to set up an appointment and for more info.	on or before 9/1
6. Pine Grove 570-345-2731, Ext. 3	Registration Dates: TO BE DETERMINED Questions: 570-345-2731	before 9/1
7. Pottsville 570-621-2945, Option 1	Screening Dates: WEEK OF 4/13/2026 ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS Scan the QR code or go to the link below to begin the online registration process: https://skyward.iscorp.com/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=w sedupottsvillepa/skyenroll.w 	on or before 8/15
8. St. Clair 570-429-2716, Ext. 1	Parents must call the Saint Clair Elem/Middle School District main office before picking up a packet. Parents will receive a screening date for child only after completed packet is returned, which is due by 3/6/ 2026 . Screening dates are 3/17, 18, and 19/2026 Stay informed at: https://www.saintclairsd.org/for_parents/enrolling_students AND at the Saint Clair School Connections Facebook page.	on or before 8/1

(This information will be revised as we receive updates.)

2026-2027 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(Continued)

DISTRICT / SCHOOL	REGISTRATION/SCREENING DATES	CHILDREN MUST BE "5"
9. Schuylkill Haven 570-385-6731, Ext. 3, Ext. 1	CALL NOW between 9am- 2pm to register. Screenings will take place the week of 3/9, 10, 11 & 12/2026 YOU MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE SCREENING!	on or before 9/1
10. Shenandoah Valley 570-462-1957, Option 2	REGISTRATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY Call to set up an appointment. The first screening appointment date is TBD. There will be another one in April (TBD) and there will be appointments over the summer.	by 8/15
11. Tamaqua 570-668-2570, Ext. 5, Ext. 0	Screening Dates: 3/23, 24, 25, 26/2026 ~ APPOINTMENT REQUIRED ~ Registration/Screening	BEFORE 8/31
12. Tri-Valley Hubley Elementary School 1801 W Main St Valley View, PA, 17983 Hegins-Hubley Elementary 570-682-9011 Mahantongo Elementary 570-648-6062	3/26/ 2026, and 3/27/2026, between the hours of 8:30AM and 3:00PM at the Hegins-Hubley Elementary School To begin the online enrollment process, go to website: https://sites.google.com/atlvdawgs.net/district01/our-district/hidden-from-navigation/kindergarten-registration	BEFORE 8/16

CHARTER AND NON-PUBLIC

DISTRICT / SCHOOL	REGISTRATION/SCREENING DATES	CHILDREN MUST BE "5"
1. Gillingham Charter School – Pottsville 570-955-3830, Ext. 121	Call the school for more information https://gillinghamcharterschool.org/	On or before 8/15
2. Assumption BVM – Pottsville 570-622-0106	Call the school for more information https://assumptionbvmschool.net/	by 10/15
3. St. Jerome Regional School – Tamaqua 570-668- 2757, Ext. 2	Call the school for more information http://www.sjrschool.com	by 10/15
4. St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School – Minersville 570-544-2800	Registration begins NOW https://www.facebook.com/100063550875041/about/?rdr	by 10/15

Most schools will require the following information in order to complete your child's kindergarten registration:

- Proof of child's age**, which can include any of the following:
 - Birth Certificate
 - Hospital Record
 - or Baptismal Certificate
- Child's Social Security Number**
- Parent Identification**, which can include any of the following:
 - state issued driver's license
 - or state issued ID card
- Proof of child's immunizations record** and **any medical concerns/issues** the child may have
- Any court-ordered custody documents**, if applicable
- At least three (3) forms of Proof of Residency**, which can include any of the following: (**NOTE:** some school districts may request less than 3 forms of this proof – you should confirm this with your school district.)
 - Renter's Agreement/Lease
 - Signed letter from Homeowner (some districts may require this document to be notarized)
 - Utility bills in your name and current residence address
 - Deed/Proof of Home Ownership
 - Income Tax Form

SPOTLIGHTING NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH



Oral Health Facts Every Parent Should Know.

Good Oral Health Starts Early and Helps Set the Foundation for Lifelong Healthy Habits.

By Jessica Brennan, BSDH, RDH, PHDH, Star Community Health – Hometown

Here are key facts to keep in mind:

- Baby teeth are important! They help children chew, speak, and guide adult teeth into place. Baby teeth are vulnerable to decay if not cared for, leading to pain and potential dental issues in adulthood.
- The “2x2 Rule”: Brush your child’s teeth twice daily for two minutes with fluoride toothpaste. Use a rice-sized smear for children under 3 and a pea-sized amount for those 3 and older.
- Flossing matters too: Once your child’s teeth touch, flossing becomes essential to clean between teeth where brushing cannot reach. Make it a part of their bedtime routine!
- First visit by age 1 or when the first tooth appears: Regular check-ups every six months can prevent problems and reinforce healthy habits.
- Fluoride is your child’s best defense against cavities: Fluoride strengthens enamel and reduces the risk of decay.
- Sugar hides in unexpected places: such as fruit snacks, juice, granola bars, and flavored yogurts. Limit sugary foods and drinks to mealtimes only. Water is the best drink for healthy teeth!
- Protect teeth during play: If your child plays sports, a mouthguard can help prevent injuries.
- Thumb-sucking and pacifiers: These habits are normal in early childhood, but prolonged use beyond age 3 can affect how teeth grow and align.
- Stress can impact more than just our mental well-being—it can affect oral health too! Stress may lead to teeth grinding (bruxism) and clenching, usually during sleep, resulting in jaw pain, headaches, and worn-down teeth. Additionally, stress can disrupt daily routines, making it difficult to maintain consistent brushing and flossing habits.

Dental services at **Star Community Health**, a Federally Qualified Health Center, offer care for a healthy smile and include routine cleanings, exams, fillings, and preventive treatments. Their experienced dental team is committed to providing accessible, affordable, care for all ages. To learn more about Star Community Health, contact one of their local offices at:

Star Community Health – Hometown
34 S. Railroad Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252
(570) 645-1950



For information on community resources or Geisinger St. Luke's services, contact Angela Morgan, Community Health, Geisinger St. Luke's 484-658-4022 or email at angela.morgan@sluhn.org.



Things you need to know—all in on place!

Emergency Closings and Delays



In case of an emergency closing or delay due to weather, an announcement will be made on the local radio and television stations.

All decisions regarding the emergency closing or delay of either Program-wide or a specific centers will be made with your child's safety and well-being as our primary concern. The cancellation or delay will be aired on the stations below:

WMGH	Tamaqua	FM 105.5
WPPA	Pottsville	AM 1360
T102	Pottsville	FM 101.9
WPAM	Pottsville	AM 1450
WNEP TV	Scranton	Channel 16*

* Download the WNEP APP at:

Androids: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/>

iPhones: <https://apps.apple.com/us/iphone/today>

Cancellations and delays will be made as early as possible. We will be specific as to whether it is the Head Start and PreK Counts Programs only or the Child Care Program (which includes the Administrative Office) that will be closed or delayed.

MEETINGS

Finance Committee

Thur., Feb. 12th

9:30 AM In-Person Meeting

(a ZOOM link for the meeting will also be emailed to members)

Program Planning Committee

Fri., Feb. 13th

10 AM In-Person Meeting

(a ZOOM link for the meeting will also be emailed to members)

Policy Council

MONTHLY MEETING

Mon., Feb. 23rd at 9:30 AM

In-Person Meeting

(a ZOOM link for the meeting will also be emailed to members)



Old Man Winter is here!!! With that in mind we wanted to remind you that Child Development, Inc. uses a message system to alert parents and staff when our centers or classrooms are closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies.

We also use this message system to inform and remind families of other important Program and center events.

It is **important** that we have a **current e-mail address** for you to receive these e-mail messages.

Please make sure you also keep all your **emergency contact information accurate and up-to-date.**

You can check with your Family Advocate to confirm or update you emergency contact information.

The month of February is PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES/Home Visits
Check your child's Communication Folder for the date of your conference.

REMINDER TO FAMILIES

Friday, February 6th
ALL centers/classrooms
 will be **CLOSED.**
 Centers/classrooms will
 re-open on Monday, February 9th.

**PROFESSIONAL
Development/
Wellness
Day**

All centers & main office will be
CLOSED
Monday, February 16th
President's Day
 We will re-open on
 Tuesday, February 17th




PRESCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT

**It's time to enroll
your child for the fall!**

CALL 
TODAY
570-544-8959
Ext. 12

CENTERS LOCATIONS:
 Fountain Springs, Mahanoy City, Pottsville,
 Saint Clair, Schuylkill Haven, Shenandoah and Tamaqua

*Qualified Teaching Staff
Individualized Learning Activities
Family Style Meals*

PROUD PARTNER AGENCY OF
 Schuylkill
UNITED WAY

   "like" us on
 facebook
 Child Development, Inc.
 (Schuylkill County, PA)
www.childdevelopment.org

~ REFER A FRIEND ~

Do you have a friend or relative with a preschool age child (or children) and lives within Schuylkill County? If so, please give them this coupon to complete and return to you so you can turn it in to your child's teacher or family advocate.

Date: _____

Referring Family: _____ Child Name: _____

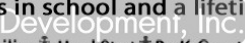
Referred Family: _____ Child Name: _____ DOB: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Best time to call: ☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon

Family is interested in the following center: ☐ Fountain Springs ☐ Mahanoy City ☐ Pottsville ☐ Pottsville 2
☐ Saint Clair ☐ Sch. Haven ☐ Shenandoah ☐ Tamaqua

MISSION STATEMENT

We work with families and the community to provide high quality, comprehensive early childhood education with an emphasis on family involvement and supportive services that prepares each child for success in school and a lifetime of learning.


 Families * Head Start * PreK Counts
 Child Care * Early Intervention * Community