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Supporting Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset Counties

A Newsletter for ECE Programs Dedicated to Quality

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PCA-NJ operates a broad range of preventative services designed to support the improvement and quality of professional workforces and programming, resulting in significant positive impacts on family functioning and health in all 21 counties.

PCA-NJ programs include:

- ◆ Grow NJ Kids TAC
- ◆ Healthy Families
- ◆ Parents as Teachers
- ◆ Parent Linking Program
- ◆ Middlesex County Council for Young Children
- ◆ Human Trafficking
- ◆ The Essex Pregnancy & Parenting Connection
- ◆ Parent Education & Technical Assistance

Your Technical Assistance Center

Your Technical Assistance Center, "Prevent Child Abuse-NJ", (see *left*) provides individualized support to your program to help attain the rating for which you strive. This support is provided through Technical Assistance Specialists (TAS) who possess specialized, practical knowledge and skills that will empower you and your staff to implement the most effective programming.

Technical Assistance (TA) will be provided to your program through:

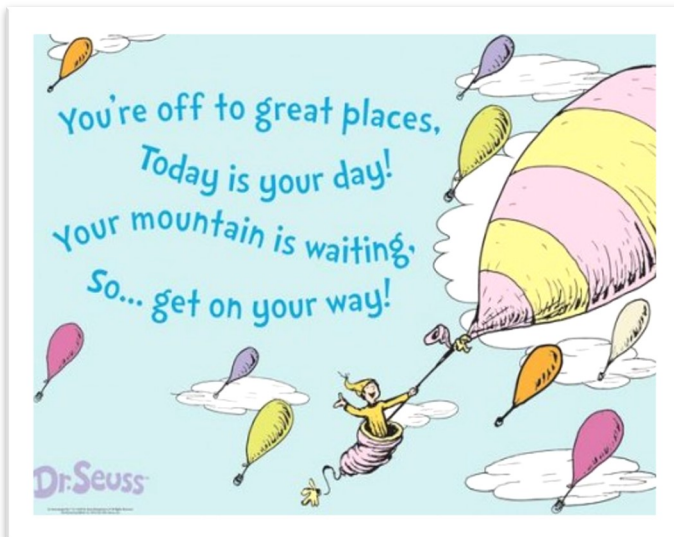
- ◆ Personalized Planning
- ◆ Goal Setting
- ◆ Resource Referral
- ◆ Mentoring
- ◆ Coaching
- ◆ On-Site Discussion
- ◆ Peer Learning Communities
- ◆ Modeling Sessions
- ◆ Consistent Communication (phone & e-mail)

Strength-Based Approach Your Talents are Your Tools

Technical Assistance Specialists (TAS) will be using a **Strength-Based Approach** to support centers in moving through the GNJK process. Using this approach involves a **collaborative partnership** between you, your staff and your TAS. You are the expert on your center and it's important that your TAS has a clear understanding of the goals and direction that you envision for your center. Individualized Technical Assistance will be provided with a focus on building upon existing strengths and the best ways to address any challenges.



Advantages of Enrolling in GNJK



By enrolling in GNJK, you are telling families in your community that you are committed to quality. Your center will benefit from an assessment tool to review your program, a clear roadmap for improving quality and an avenue to educate and market to parents in your area. Technical Assistance Specialists will visit your center to fully support you through the process by sharing Early Childhood expertise and best practices. Teachers also benefit and can receive Professional Development and Educational Scholarships and even needed materials for their classrooms. Your whole team will become a part of a larger community of centers with a common goal. The benefits are countless, and all in the name of quality early care and education for New Jersey's children. **CONGRATULATIONS** on choosing to be part of such a positively influential journey!

The Grow NJ Kids Community

When you enroll in GNJK, you immediately become part of something much bigger—a community of professionals who have also made a strong commitment to raising the quality of care and education. Moving through the GNJK process is a challenging journey, but you are not alone! We have created systems of support to bring peers together to share time, resources and experiences, helping to successfully move through the stages of change. We invite and encourage you to actively participate in Peer Learning Communities, Networking Meetings and monthly webinars that will be facilitated by your TA Center.





Coming Soon!

Peer Learning Communities (Topic Specific)

Peer Learning Communities (PLC) are topic specific learning sessions that will take place quarterly in each county. The topics discussed will be determined by the participants and will be focused to support centers on their path towards improving quality. The sessions will provide an opportunity to come together with peers to share expertise, troubleshoot challenges and collaborate on best practices to improve the quality of care and education.

What to expect when you participate in a PLC:

- ◆ Shared vision and leadership
- ◆ Mutual trust and respect
- ◆ Connection with peers in the spirit of learning
- ◆ Knowledge sharing and collaboration
- ◆ Collective inquiry and creativity
- ◆ Engaging dialogue to explore new possibilities
- ◆ Brainstorming to solve challenging problems

Networking Meetings (Discussion around GNJK topics)

Networking Meetings provide a venue to meet with staff from centers that are enrolled in GNJK. A typical agenda may include program updates, breakout sessions to discuss topics of interest and networking activities to grow your system of support. These quarterly meetings will take place regionally allowing attendees the opportunity to broaden their network to include GNJK participants from other counties.

The benefits of attending a Networking Meeting include:

- ◆ Opportunities to meet with peers in an informal setting
- ◆ Receiving the most up-to-date GNJK program information
- ◆ Discussion of relevant topics based on interest
- ◆ Support from peers participating in GNJK

Webinars

In addition to the PLC's and Networking Meetings, webinars provide another way to stay connected to your peers, from the comfort of your center. Live and recorded webinars will take place monthly and the topics will be determined based on the feedback provided by Center Directors through a formal needs assessment.



Meet Your Technical Assistance Center Team at PCA-NJ

The Grow NJ Kids Team at PCA-NJ is comprised of professionals with extensive experience in the fields of Early Childhood Education and Family Engagement. We come together from varying relevant backgrounds with more than **185 years** of experience combined!

Team members have worked in a variety of early care and education settings and community agencies in the following roles:

- ♦ Infant, Toddler and Preschool Teacher
- ♦ Head Start Teacher
- ♦ Lead Teacher
- ♦ Assistant Director
- ♦ Center Director
- ♦ Education Manager
- ♦ Education Consultant
- ♦ Regional Manager
- ♦ Community Health Educator
- ♦ Accreditation Facilitation Coordinator
- ♦ Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- ♦ Infant/Toddler Specialist
- ♦ Curriculum Coordinator
- ♦ School Liaison Officer
- ♦ Special Education Instructional Assistant
- ♦ Early Childhood Education Coordinator
- ♦ Family Worker Coordinator
- ♦ Court Appointed Special Advocate
- ♦ Family Development Credential Advisor
- ♦ Family Child Care Provider

With a broad range of experience, skills and expertise, your TA Team is
READY, WILLING & ABLE
to support your center on the journey to success!



Central Region TA Center 103 Church Street, Suite 210 New Brunswick, NJ 08901 732.246.8060
Northeast Region TA Center 550 Broad Street, Suite 1105 Newark, NJ 07102 973.371.5301

www.preventchildabusenj.org/programs/growtac