



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

COUNTIES WITH IN-PERSON CLASSES

- Berkeley/Morgan/Jefferson
- Cabell/Wayne
- Greenbrier/Summers
- Kanawha/Boone/Clay
- Hardy/Grant/Mineral
- Harrison/Taylor/Doddridge
- Jackson/Roane
- Logan/Mingo
- Mercer/Monroe/McDowell
- Monongalia/Marion
- Nicholas
- Ohio/Marshall/Weirton
- Putnam/Lincoln/Mason
- Raleigh/Fayette
- Upshur/Barbour/Randolph
- Wood/Wirt



Virtual Classes

Regions that do have offer in-person classes have priority for virtual classes. If space is available after registration has closed other requests will be considered.



Promoting Kindness

The ability to understand and relate to another person's feelings develops as a child grows. It is usually around age two that children first begin to recognize when another individual is upset and may offer comfort. This ability to understand another person's feelings continues to mature with age. By the age of five children are more likely to offer comfort to others and recognize behaviors that are considered kind. In an article published by Scholastic Parents Staff, titled *13 Ways to Raise a Caring and Compassionate Child*, strategies for encouraging kindness are discussed. The article was shared on the ACDS Facebook page on September 24, 2025. The link for article is <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/social-emotional-learning/social-skills-for-kids/13-ways-to-raise-caring-and-compassionate-child.html>. The 13 strategies outlined in the article are listed below.

1. Believe that your child is capable of being kind.
2. Model positive action.
3. Treat your child with respect.
4. Coach your child to pay attention to people's facial expressions.
5. Let your child know often that how they treat others matters to you greatly.
6. Don't let rudeness pass.
7. Acknowledge kindness.
8. Understand that your child's perception of differences in others comes into play.
9. Be sensitive to messages that your child picks up from media.
10. Explain that calling someone names or excluding them from play can be as hurtful as hitting.
11. Avoid setting up competition within your family.
12. Show your child how to help people in need.
13. Be patient with your little one.

These strategies can be supported in the early childhood classroom to help children learn kindness and compassion. For more information on how to implement these strategies please read the full article.

ACDS Mentors Needed

Did you know that ACDS graduates (journeypersons) can serve as mentors for students? Apprentices that do not have immediate supervisors, such as directors, owners, and family providers, are provided mentors by the program. Mentors are a source of support and guidance for students while they are in the program. Mentors are contracted with RVCDS for six month periods. Mentors have several responsibilities including monthly contacts/visits, approving student on the job training logs, completing supervisor evaluations, and offering support. Mentors must have excellent communication and record keeping skills. Mentors are contracted on an as needed basis. If you are interested in mentoring, please contact the ACDS office for additional information.



Artificial Intelligence and Assignments

Artificial Intelligence or AI is becoming more common as a tool for finding and analyzing information. Although, there are very positive ways to use AI for gaining knowledge, ACDS does not permit students to use AI for purposes of completing homework assignments. The homework assignments are meant to help students apply and better understand the material taught each week. That knowledge is lost if the student is not applying the information for themselves. Also, in the agreement ACDS has with the Department of Labor, students are credited for the time it should take them to complete the homework assignments. That is also why all assignments are required to be submitted to pass a semester. We added a statement to the Conduct and Confidentiality form that states "Using artificial intelligence (AI) to complete assignments is considered unethical and is not acceptable. Any student suspected of using AI will be asked to resubmit the assignment and can be excused from the semester." Instructors do not have to prove the use of AI, only suspect it. Instructors have reasonable expectations for students' homework, they do not expect perfection. Please do your own original work, without the use of AI. Perfection is not the goal, gaining knowledge to help you in your early childhood career is the goal.



REGISTRATION

Registration for the Spring 2026 semester will open November 1, 2025 on WV STARS. Check the ACDS website for exact registration dates, including the registration deadline. Any registrations completed after the deadline will be charged a late fee of \$5.00. Late registrants are not guaranteed placement.

WV STARS PATHWAY ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available for child care providers and directors that work in a licensed program. It will assist with paying tuition and related expenses toward an Associate or Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood. For additional information including eligibility criteria and submission deadlines visit the WV STARS website, www.wvstars.org.

ACDS Staff Contact Information

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STUDENT QUOTE

"I learned so much all four semesters, but I really saw the most growth into who I am today during my final semester."