Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in Early Connections' Pre-K Counts Program (PKC), a Free Pennsylvania high-quality Pre-Kindergarten program, for children between the ages of 3 and younger than Kindergarten entry age.

To qualify for the Pre-K Counts program, children and families must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Your child must be at least 3 years of age on or before the Kindergarten (KD) age cut-off for your home school district, and must be younger than your home district's Kindergarten entry age.

KD cut-off dates for some local school districts:

Erie City: Aug 31st	Millcreek: Sept 1st	Iroquois: Sept 1st	Harborcreek: May 31st	North East: May 31st	Union City: Aug 27th	Wattsburg: Aug 31st	Ft LeBoeuf: May 31st	Corry: Sept 1st

2. Your total annual household income may not exceed 300% of the 2024 Federal Poverty levels listed on the PKC application. (Ex: a family of 4 can earn up to $93,600) Proof of household income is required.

Please submit <u>copies</u> of the items listed below with your application: *Please send only copies*.

1. **According to program regulations, total annual household income (earned and unearned) is required to establish eligibility**. **Acceptable proof of income includes**:

- **Earned income**: 2023 W-2 forms, 2023 tax return (only first 2 pages), 4-6 pay stubs, or a written employer statement of anticipated earnings. If self-employed: tax returns, business records or other documents establishing profit from self-employment**.**
- **Unearned income:** copy of current benefit check, award letter stating amount of a grant or benefit such as monthly amount of social security benefits, SSI, unemployment compensation, TANF, or a bank statement, court order or other report that establishes the amount of unearned income.
- **Child Support:** documentation from the PA Dept of Human Services or local Domestic Relations office verifying the amount of support received or paid by the family.

2. Child's Birth Certificate or other proof of birth

3. Photo ID (parent/guardian) or other proof of residency (gas, electric, water or cable bill, or lease agreement,)

4. Return the completed application to the location of your choice in person or by mail.
- City Center, 704 State Street, Erie PA 16501; phone 814-456-4576
- Harbor Homes, 1841 E 18th Street, Erie PA 16510; phone 814-899-3310
- **Union City**, 16380 Rt 8, Union City, PA 16438; phone 814-438-7016 or email to sterry@earlyconnectionserie.org

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact your preferred location at the number listed above.

Thank you!

2024 PA Pre-K Counts Application Form

(This information is confidential to the PA Pre-K Counts program)

Date Form Completed: _____ / _____ / _____
MM   DD   YY

EC LOCATION:

CC   HH   NE   UC

Last Name (Child)	First Name (Child)	Middle Initial

Street Address	County	
City	**State** PA	**Zip Code**
School District of Residence		

Home Phone	Work Phone	Email Address

Child's Date of Birth	Age	Gender
	☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	☐ Male ☐ Female

Race *(optional)*

☐ Black or African American   ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
☐ Asian   ☐ White
☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander   ☐ Other
☐ Not Applicable

Ethnicity *(optional)*   **Primary Language**

☐ Hispanic   ☐ English
☐ Non-Hispanic   ☐ Spanish
☐ Not Applicable   ☐ Other _____
        (please specify)

Name of Parent or Guardian completing this application	Gender
	☐ Male ☐ Female

Relationship to Child

☐ Father
☐ Mother
☐ Guardian
☐ Other _____
     (please specify)

(Select)

☐ Biological
☐ Foster
☐ Adoptive
☐ Other _____
     (please specify)

Role

☐ Primary Guardian   ☐ Legal Guardian
☐ Secondary Guardian   ☐ Other _____
        (please specify)

	Relationship to Child	Age
List Household Members below for determination of family size *(required)*:		
1	ENROLLING CHILD	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Per PKC Statute, Regulations, and Guidance, the following members of the household are included in family size:

- Parent of the child (biological or adoptive mother or father, stepmother or stepfather, caretaker or spouse)
- A biological, adoptive, unrelated or foster child or stepchild of the parent or caretaker who is under 18 years of age and not emancipated.
- A child who is 18 years of age or older but under 22 years of age who is enrolled in high school, a general educational development program, or a post-secondary program leading to a degree, diploma or certificate and who is wholly or partially dependent on the income of the parent or caretaker or spouse of the parent or caretaker.
- Others supported by the income of the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the child enrolling or participating in the program. ***If counted toward family size, any applicable income of these persons must also be counted for eligibility purposes.***

Note: A family size value of one (1) with an income of $0 is entered when a foster child is applying for Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts.

DETERMINED FAMILY SIZE =

Employment Status of parent/guardian	**Employment Status of 2nd parent/guardian (if applicable)**
☐ Employed Full-Time	☐ Employed Full-Time
☐ Employed Part-Time	☐ Employed Part-Time
☐ Unemployed	☐ Unemployed
☐ Other _____	☐ Other _____

Household Income Sources *(Must check all that apply;*

☐ Employment	☐ Self-Employment	☐ Unemployment Compensation	☐ Worker's Compensation	☐ TANF Cash payments
☐ Social Security	☐ SSI	☐ Child Support	☐ Alimony	☐ Other

Verification of Income: The period of time counted for income verification is the 12 months immediately before the month in which the application is submitted or the child is enrolled, or for the calendar year immediately before the calendar year in which the application is made.

Acceptable income verification documents: **Earned income**: W-2 forms, tax return, pay stubs, or a written employer statement of anticipated earnings. Self-employment: tax returns, business records or other documents establishing profit from self-employment. **Unearned income:** copy of current benefit check, award letter stating amount of a grant or benefit such as monthly amount of social security benefits, a bank statement, a court order or other report that establishes the amount of unearned income. **Child Support:** documentation from the PA Dept of Human Services or local Domestic Relations office verifying the amount of support received or paid by the family.

Other Child Eligibility Risk Factor Criterion *(Must check all that apply):*

☐	**Behavioral Supports:** A child who was referred to PA Pre-K Counts from an appropriately credentialed health or mental health practitioner who is not employed by the PA Pre-K Counts program; a child who is receiving mental health treatment. **Additional verification beyond the interview is required.**
☐	**Child Protective Services:** A child who is a foster child, a kinship care child or receiving Children and Youth services.
☐	**Education Level of Guardian:** Does not have high school diploma or GED or post-secondary degree.
☐	**English Language Learner:** A child whose first language is not English and who is in the process of learning English is considered an English Language Learner.
☐	**Individualized Education Plan (IEP):** A child who is currently enrolled in the Preschool Early Intervention program with an active IEP. Verification would be a copy of the IEP or other source of documentation from the parent or Early Intervention provider. IEP start date (month/year) _____
☐	**Incarcerated Parent:** A child for whom one of the child's parents is currently in prison.

☐	**Homeless:** A child who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to one of the following:
	    A. Children who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, or camping grounds due to lack of alternate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
	    B. Children who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
	    C. Children who are living in cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

☐	**Migrant (Non-Immigrant)/Seasonal Student:** A migrant child has moved from one school district to another in order to accompany or to join a migrant parent or guardian, who is a migratory worker or migratory fisher, within the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain temporary or seasonal employment in qualifying agricultural or fishing work including agri-related businesses such as meat or vegetable processing, working in nurseries such as Christmas and evergreen trees farming.
☐	**Teen Mother:** A child whose mother was under the age of 18 when the child was born.
☐	**Family Structure (circle any that apply):** Single Parent, Divorced Parent, Relatives as Guardians

- To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this application and the associated income documentation is accurate. I understand that I may be asked to verify or substantiate information provided.

- I understand that completion of this application does not guarantee acceptance into the Pre-K Counts program. The number of spots available in any given year is determined by state funding.

- Families are accepted on a 'need' basis and not from the date the application was submitted. Families who qualify financially and also have secondary at-risk factors will be given priority consideration for the program.

- In the event that I am not chosen for the Pre-K Counts program at Early Connections; I give permission to share my contact information with other Pre-K Counts/Head Start programs in the area.

_____   _____
Parent/Guardian (Signature)   **Date**

_____
Parent/Guardian Name (Print Name)

Income Verification

2024 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines

Family Size	100% (Head Start Eligible)	300% (Pre-K Counts Eligible)
2	$20,440	$61,320
3	$25,820	$77,460
4	$31,200	$93,600
5	$36,580	$109,740
6	$41,960	$125,880
7	$47,340	$142,020
8	$52,750	$158,160
Each Additional	+$5,380	+$16,140

Actual Annual Verified Gross Household (Family) Income: $ _____

*Attach copies of documents used to verify income prior to enrollment

Family Size (per PKC guidelines):   _____

☐ Family income is at or below 300% of federal poverty level relative to family size (required risk factor). Consider all sources of income. Must be verified prior to enrollment.

_____   _____
Staff Verifying Income and Risk Factors Signature   **Date**

For Head Start Eligible families (100% of FPL or below)   ☐ **Check if not applicable**

I have been informed of my child's eligibility for Head Start and given the following:

☐ Contact information for the following Head Start location _____
☐ Application and/or assistance with referral
☐ Brochure or website with information about Head Start

My signature below indicates that I have been informed about my options but may still choose to enroll in the Pre-K Counts program.

_____   _____
Parent/Guardian Signature   **Date**

_____   _____
Staff Signature   **Date**

Child is transitioning from Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots funding? Yes No	PKC Classroom Assignment:	PKC Start Date
Enrolling in Wrap Care? Yes or No	Wrap Care Classroom & # days/hrs per wk	Wrap Care Funding Source: