



August 12th, 2024

**CREEDE EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

**HAS RECEIVED A COLORADO  
SHINES RATING OF:**



PROGRAM QUALITY RATING



**COLORADO**  
Department of Early Childhood

## Congratulations Creede Early Learning Center!

- How long have you been in the childcare business?

In 1996, a group of parents, the city of Creede, and volunteers opened Creede's first and only full-time childcare center. In 2010, the Creede early learning center began contracting with

the local school district to supply Colorado preschool program services. In February 2017, we received a larger center license, increasing our capacity from 15 to 25 children, including elementary students during summer months. In January of 2023, the CELC completed large-scale renovations and additions to our facility, which increased our capacity from 25 to 53 students per day. And in September of 2023, the CELC began serving as the universal preschool (UPK) Colorado program provider for our county.

- What's the most rewarding part of providing such a valuable service?

Creede early learning center strides to partner with parents and community to provide a safe, dependable, affordable and nurturing childcare in a high-quality early childhood environment for the children of Creede and the surrounding communities. With these partnerships we get to see children, and families succeed in life.

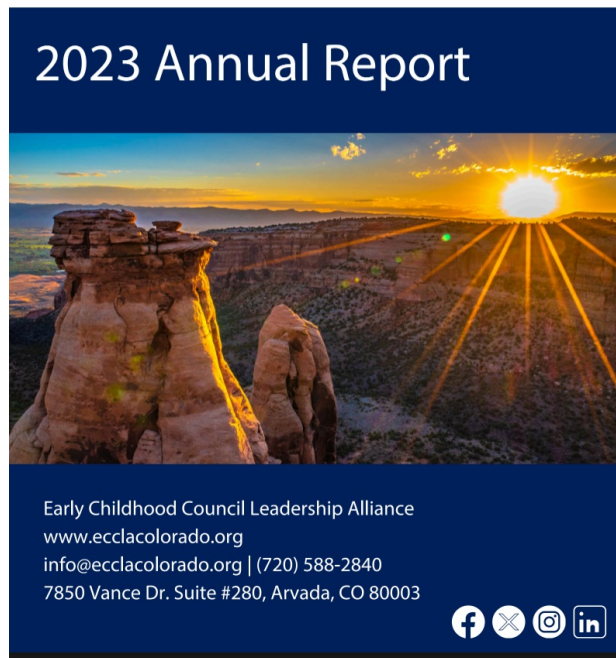
- What's your favorite memory from your career?

I have many great memories from my career, from seeing children and families achieve new things, becoming the director of the CELC, and my most recent is standing beside my staff as they received their first rating, and it was a level 4!

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EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL  
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



## ECCLA - The 2023 Annual Report

It always amazes me to look back and recognize all the work our organization and members did in a year and 2023 was no exception! The Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA) had a busy 2023 that included many opportunities for learning about communities across the state, supporting and increasing equity within our organization and beyond, advocating for strong local systems, using data to communicate Early Childhood Council work, building relationships and connections, and focusing efforts to support a coordinated and aligned early childhood system...

Click [here](#) to be directed to the 2023 Annual Report and continue reading!

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UPDATE



COLORADO  
Department of Early Childhood

## UPK Updates

Family matching rounds are complete! Families received their match notification on July 23rd, and were to accept or decline their match by July 30th.

There's still time to enroll in Colorado Universal Preschool before school starts! The program is now moving to its "walk-in" enrollment phase. Families can work with providers in their area to fill out an application at [upk.colorado.gov](http://upk.colorado.gov) and enroll in the Universal Preschool program on site, as long as the provider has space. Families with children who have an IEP will still be placed through AUs and the school district.

Space is limited! Registering now is the best way to ensure your child has access to your families top preschool choice.

Have you seen the [Provider Handbook](#) for the 24-25 school year? It provides a full overview of UPK this year including details about eligibility, enrollment, matching, funding, and more.

As always please contact [719-214-6202](tel:719-214-6202) for additional information and support with the application.

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## Mental health - Adult Recess

Head Start children, families, and staff thrive when they are safe, healthy, and emotionally secure. Children's well-being is closely connected to the well-being of the adults who care for them. Adults who can regulate their emotions and behaviors, especially in times of stress, are better able to meet social and emotional needs of the children they care for.

One of the most fun ways adults can practice and increase their own emotional regulation is through play. Adult Recess is a series of animated videos that support participants in moving their bodies in mindful ways to promote and practice regulation skills. Each video guides participants in a warm-up, a game, and an ending reflection. Play alone, in a group, or with children!

Click [here](#) for more videos!

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## Social Emotional - How to Help Children Develop a Growth Mindset

Trying new things is a major part of learning, but children won't be successful every time they try something new. Helping children develop a growth mindset will equip them with the resiliency skills they need to put in the effort and dedication required to overcome any challenges they face in school or in life.

In his book *When Nothing Else Works*, Dr. William DeMeo shares the following six tips on how educators can help children develop a growth mindset and ultimately help reduce challenging behavior in the classroom:

1. Focus on the Struggle and Why It's Important
2. Learning something new can be frustrating for children, but that doesn't mean you need to take the activity away or complete it for them. If an activity is appropriate for a child's developmental stage, it's best to focus on the struggle and why it's important. Let children know you understand it's difficult but that it's important for them to keep trying by using statements such as, "I know you're struggling with this activity, but you're learning how to do it." Finding other ways you can encourage children to embrace learning challenges will also help.
3. Set Realistic, Achievable Goals
4. Children learn at their own pace, so be sure you don't expect too much of them. If children aren't developmentally ready for tasks, then they may become unwilling to learn and behave simply because they can't yet succeed at the tasks you expect of them. Make sure the goals you set for children are developmentally appropriate, realistic, and achievable. Remember to also celebrate small learning successes.
5. Offer Specific Feedback That Identifies Children's Efforts
6. Specific feedback from the caring adults in their lives can help children work through learning challenges. Try not to focus on ability in your feedback. Make it clear that you value hard work, effort, and perseverance instead. Focusing on children's efforts will help you give children useful feedback that will help them in their learning experiences. When giving children feedback, it's also important that you don't micromanage or give them too much feedback. Don't interrupt children's play to offer feedback, and try to ask open-ended questions that will help children solve the problem themselves. Remember, acknowledging children's efforts can encourage children to keep up those efforts in the future.
7. Encourage Risk Taking
8. One way you can encourage risk taking is by offering children small but achievable challenges. Watching and

listening to the children in your care will give you cues about what children are ready to learn. Encouraging children to use what knowledge they have to try something that is just out of their reach but is developmentally appropriate will help children become confident and persistent.

9. Model Persistence
10. Being persistent and narrating your thoughts as you try something new can help show children that everyone has to work hard to solve problems and that learning new things doesn't stop when people become adults. Another good idea is to see if children have any helpful tips to offer you about learning something new.
11. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff
12. Even if children don't accomplish what they set out to, they can still learn something. They may learn that they need to ask for help from someone else or that they need to break the task down into smaller tasks next time. When a child has an unsuccessful attempt at something, make sure you are specific about what worked, identify the emotions involved, and offer encouragement for the next try.

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## From Kaplan - 4 Activities To Promote Social and Emotional Development in the Preschool Classroom



Social and emotional skills are fundamental to school, career, and life success. Children are not born knowing how to navigate social situations appropriately, control their emotions, or make friends. So, they must constantly grow and develop these skills through lived experiences and learned lessons.

The activities in this article will help you implement practical classroom lessons that nurture healthy behaviors in preschool-aged children. As children actively participate, they will learn how

to regulate their emotions, develop empathy, feel confident, and build positive relationships with others.

Click [here](#) for more activities!

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## Childcare Resource and Referral (CCRR)

### About Colorado Association of Family Child Care Foundation.

The Colorado Association of Family Child Care Foundation has received money from the CIRCLE Grant and the Buell Foundation Grant. The money is designed to mentor and provide training to potential new providers at zero cost to them starting in February. Current licensed providers will also be able to participate in trainings at zero cost. Training classes include: Pre-Licensing, First Aid/CPR, Business class for family child care homes.

For more information, please click on the link.

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

If you need further assistance, please contact Amanda Atencio at [ecresource@eccslv.org](mailto:ecresource@eccslv.org)

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# Open Your Own Child Care Program



- Do you have a passion for teaching and supporting the healthy development of infants, toddlers, and young children?
- Are you interested in working from the convenience of your home?
- Do you want to start your own business?
- Would you like to teach preschool at YOUR site for the new Universal Preschool (UPK) program

We have a rewarding career opportunity for you!

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley can share how to become a licensed family child care home provider.

We will cover the steps in the process, cash incentives, grants, UPK and other key points for licensing. Contact us if you are interested using the information below!



**Ready to get started?**  
**Scan the QR code or email Amanda**  
**at [ecresource@eccslv.org](mailto:ecresource@eccslv.org)**



 **Wonderschool**

## Child Care Construction Guidebook Overview

The CDEC is pleased to share child care construction guides that are available on the [CDEC website](#). The purpose of the Child Care Construction Guidebooks is to inform and assist in navigating the many layers of construction projects as they relate to building and or expanding child care. Family child care home and center based providers as well as those considering constructing a child care facility will benefit from these reference guides. Thrive Community Building, the TA Vendor

who created these guides is offering a virtual overview opportunity of these guides on:

- August 13, 1:00pm - 2:00pm
- September 24, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

The same information will be shared at all the overviews. To register to attend any of these virtual overviews click [here](#).

**Early Head Start**  
Free Quality Child Care Services!  
Birth to 3

Expectant Families and Teen Parents

- Child Care 28+ hours per week
  - Year-Round Program
  - Family Services
  - Education Services
  - Health Services
  - Nutrition Services
  - Disabilities Services
  - Community Resources

Families with children with special needs are encouraged to apply  
Military families encouraged to apply  
We do not provide daily transportation to & from the center. However, we may be able to provide transportation in certain circumstances in conjunction with other community agencies.

Begin Application Here

Contact us Today!  
(719) 937-4010  
401 Santa Fe Ave  
Alamosa, CO 81101

Service Areas:  
Saguache  
Costilla  
Alamosa  
Rio Grande

## Early Head Start Free Quality Child Care Services

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**  
for Rio Grande County and Center, CO!

Now accepting applications for Early Head Start! Click the link below to complete the interest form.

Click [Here](#) for interest form.

## Coaching

### Registration is Open!

**Attention:** Calling all Early Childhood Infant and Toddler Care Professionals!

The Early Childhood Council SLV EQIT Team is excited to announce registration for the Fall 2024 Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care Course is now open.

You can complete registration by accessing your PDIS account and searching for EQIT SLV.

*The Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care (EQIT) 48-hour course of training is designed for individuals, specifically, early childhood teachers, center directors, and the specialized family childcare licenses, who currently work with or plan to work with infants and toddlers and are interested in improving knowledge and skills.*

See the flyer and course schedule for more details.

Click [here](#) for EQIT Informational Flyer

Click [here](#) or EQIT Fall Schedule

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## Professional Development

### PDIS Help Session Calendar

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1N\\_ByxT6qJNISVRv1adteHpW5kSVaPKJG/edit#slide=id.p2](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1N_ByxT6qJNISVRv1adteHpW5kSVaPKJG/edit#slide=id.p2)

### PDIS Help Session Sign-Up

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/aa70a22a5cd9421a9a32a88d626bf75f>

### Early Childhood Investigations Upcoming Free Webinars

[Webinars - Early Childhood Webinar](#)

## 3 Possible Roots of Challenging Behavior

Last week, we shared [this video](#), which touched on the message that all challenging behavior has a root or origin. This week, we go deeper and discuss three different categories of what could be at that root. If you have ever felt like a child was behaving in a way you found challenging "for no reason," we highly recommend you make the time to give [this video](#) a watch.

## This fall, welcome families with a gift that can keep on giving

These guides offer families simple strategies to support young children's healthy social and emotional development. It is filled with suggestions of everyday activities that families can enjoy together and promote three key protective factors which

contribute to child resilience.

There is a guide for families of infants or toddlers and one for families of preschool-age children. These booklets are sold in packs of 20 for \$32.95 and are available in English and Spanish. Stock up and use them as welcome gifts this fall!

[Infant and Toddler Booklet](#)

[Preschool Booklet](#)

## Register for professional development

For more, visit the [Virtual Trainings Schedule](#) and the [Free Webinars Schedule](#).

**Begins one week from today!**

*August 5, 7, and 9, 2024*

*1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. ET each day*

## Promote Social-Emotional Development with the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) Program

Learn how the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) Program can support you in promoting the social and emotional development of young children (0-5), and enhance the overall quality of your early childhood program.

Individual: \$229/person

Group of 2-3: \$209/person

Group of 4 or more: \$189/person

*August 20, 2024*

*1 p.m.-2 p.m. ET*

[Register](#)

## Take Care of You, Take On Challenging Behaviors

In this webinar, you will learn how the four steps of the successful child strategy called FLIP IT (Feelings, Limits,

Inquiries, Prompts) can work for YOU! By exploring your own Feelings, Limits, Inquiries, and Prompts, you can build your own resilience and be better prepared to FLIP the script on challenging behavior with children.

**Registration closes August 11th!**

*September 3, 10, 17, 24, October 1 and 8, 2024*

*12 p.m.-2 p.m. ET each day*

FREE

**Sign up**

## **Transforming Challenging Behavior: FLIP IT Train-the-Trainer Course**

Learn how to train and support others on the FLIP IT strategy, a simple four-step process for transforming challenging behavior in young children, ages 3-8.

Early Bird: \$599/person (if registered by 8/4/2024)

Standard: \$659/person

**Register**

**Registration closes August 12th!**

*September 4, 11, 18, 25, October 2 and 9, 2024*

*12 p.m.-2 p.m. ET*

## **Promoting Adult Resilience: Building Your Bounce Train-the-Trainer Course**

Learn how to train others on the important topic of adult resilience and its impact on the young children in our lives.

Standard: \$659/person

**Register**

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## **Quality Improvement**

**Colorado Shines Quality Improvement Funds**

Colorado Shines Quality Improvement funds are now available

for licensed childcare programs that are rated at a Colorado Shines Level 1 or higher. Quality Improvement funds are allocated based on program type (center or home-based), the number of classrooms and Colorado Shines quality rating level.

### **Minor Improvement Funds**

Minor improvements funds (Reimbursement funding) to support programs that serve infants and toddlers may be available. Eligible programs must hold a Colorado Shines Level 2 or higher and have an active Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) fiscal agreement. All project requests must be related to the support of infants and toddlers within the program that is making the grant request.


**The Intent to apply deadline is 8/31/2024.**

If you need additional information, please contact Monique Bosch by clicking the email link [eccoach@eccslv.org](mailto:eccoach@eccslv.org)

# COMMUNITY JOB BOARD!

APPLY NOW! **Open Positions:**

- Center Head Start - **Director, Education Manager and Family Services Manager**
- Reach out and Read Colorado - **Regional Coordinator**
- Sargent Early Learning Center - **Lead teacher (Fall of 2024)**



For more information:  
**SEE DETAILS BELOW WITH  
LINKS FOR EACH JOB VACANCY**

## Center Head Start

### Director:

The Director works to support the mission and values of the Head Start while providing a high quality educational experience for all of our families and students.

Qualifications include ability to work collaboratively with families and staff, planning and organizing, strong problem solving skills, time management, patience, and strong leadership and interpersonal skills. Any applicant must have, at a minimum, a baccalaureate degree and experience in supervision of staff, fiscal management, and administration. Responsibilities include,

but are not limited to, review and assess curricular needs, collaborate with parents, maintain effective record keeping of laws, policies, regulations, fiscal needs, and child and employee files.

In order to submit an application, please visit our website, email your application to [amasterson@centurytel.net](mailto:amasterson@centurytel.net) or apply in person at our office: 301 E Third Street in Center.

#### **Education Manager:**

Center Head Start is searching for an Education Manager. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent, experience working with diverse children and families, knowledge of Early Childhood development and ECE reports. Highly advised that applicants have good communication skills, leadership skills and ability to plan and problem solve. Applications can be picked up the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions please call the office at [719-759-9259](tel:719-759-9259).

#### **Family Services Manager:**

Center Head Start is looking for a highly motivated Family Services Manager. Applicants must have strong interpersonal and communication skills. Required to have a degree, certificate or credential in social work, human services, family services, or counseling related field at hire or within 18 months of hire. This position works closely with our families to help them reach their goals and create community partnerships. Highly preferable if bilingual (English/Spanish). Applications can be picked up the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions please call the office at [719-759-9259](tel:719-759-9259).

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## **Reach Out and Read Colorado**

#### **Regional Coordinator:**

Reach Out and Read Colorado is in the process of hiring a part-time, remote Regional Coordinator in Southern Colorado. This position is just 5-8 hours per week for someone living in Southern Colorado. Please click on the link below for more details.

Job details: <https://reachoutandreadco.org/hiring/>

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# Sargent Early Learning Center

## Lead Teacher:

Is hiring for a Lead Teacher beginning in the fall of 2024. Lead Teacher salary begins at \$22,000 per year depending on experience and PDIS level.

The lead teacher must hold a minimum of a level 2 in PDIS and must have the ability to be flexible, open to learning, and to take on new tasks/problems as they occur. He/she must also be able to pass the CBI/FBI/TRAILS background checks.

Benefits include paid holidays, sick pay, vacation time, and a simple IRA.

Learn more about the SELC at

<https://sargentearlylearning.wixsite.com/selc/programs>.

To apply, please send a letter of interest and resume to [sargentearlylearningcenter@gmail.com](mailto:sargentearlylearningcenter@gmail.com).

Position open until filled.

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## Do you have something you would like to share in our newsletter?

If individuals and organizations in the community want to share relevant information through this email list, ECCSLV will do their best to include the information in the next available e-newsletter.

ECCSLV considers requests based on relevance, capacity, and timeliness. We do not guarantee that all information will be shared.

Stay connected with us!

Subscribe to our  
newsletter!

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**Click on the social media links below to follow us on all platforms!**

We post regularly to our social media accounts regarding events and important last minute information that is usually not included in our

bi-weekly newsletters.  
Be sure you are subscribed so you don't miss out!



Early Childhood Council | 401 Santa Fe Avenue | Alamosa, CO 81101 US

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