



December 11, 2023

Family Child Care Home Provider Spotlight

Family Child Care Home Provider
Spotlight
Juanita Herrera
ABC DAYCARE

“I’ve been in business for 43 years.”

“The most rewarding part of childcare is when adults come up to you and say

“ I remember when you used to watch me” It’s very heartwarming”

“My most favorite memory from my career is when I was awarded the SLV Provider of the Year Award.”

“Universal Preschool is going well, it’s nothing new. It’s something I was already doing anyway.”

TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

Toys for Tots

The Early Childhood Council of SLV is a drop-off location!

Members of the community drop new, unwrapped toys in the collection box positioned just inside our main entrance.

Coordinators pick up these toys and store them in central warehouses where the toys are sorted by age and gender. At Christmas, Coordinators, with the assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local community agencies, distribute the toys to the less fortunate children of the community. Over the years, Marines have established close working relationships with social welfare agencies, churches

and other local community agencies which are well qualified to identify the needy children in the community and play important roles in the distribution of the toys.

Our mission is to provide toys, books, and other gifts to children in need at Christmastime – and beyond! This way we'll be able to bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to children in need throughout the year. Join us in making a lasting impact in the lives of those children by donating today!



CO UPK Updates

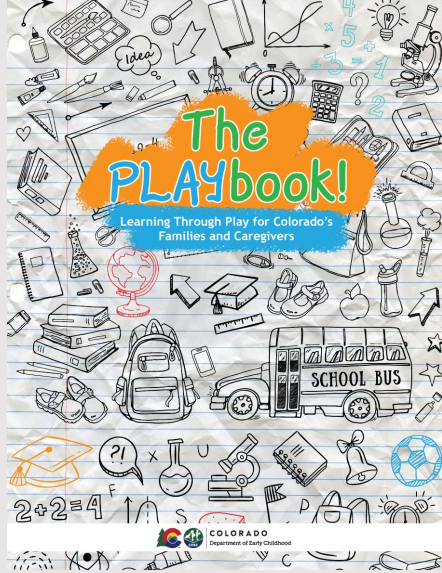
Happy Holidays from the UPK team! We hope that this season brings relaxation, love, and all things you may be wishing and hoping for!

Year 2 for UPK is quickly approaching. As we continue to work with CDEC, providers and families we will update everyone in the coming new year regarding quality standards and estimated enrollment dates, as well as changes to the application process that we hope to continue to make year two the smoothest and easiest for providers and families. To review proposed Quality standards documents, check out the public folder available at: [UPK Quality Standards Public Folder](#).

As always, if you have questions, comments or need any assistance please contact [719-214-6202](tel:719-214-6202) or Lcoresource@eccslv.org

[Click here for more details](#)

Welcome to the PLAYbook:



Toddlers: Children Ages 9–18 Months Old

Growth & Learning - At this age, toddlers are starting to walk and talk. They practice communication by babbling. They understand and can respond to more words. They are likely to show preferences for their parents or other adults in their life. In fact, toddlers form powerful attachment bonds to their primary caregivers at this age. Toddlers will also begin actively exploring their environment, often putting things they find into their mouth. An important way to support a toddler's learning is to encourage them to explore their environment and practice their independence, after ensuring the environment is safe. They may also be fascinated with their peers around this age.

Explore more by clicking the link below for the full Playbook!

- [In English](#)
- [En Español](#)

Early Head Start - Now Accepting Applications!

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

Click [Here](#) for interest form.

Early Head Start^{xy}

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



Social/Emotional:

How to Use Visual Schedules to Help Your Child Understand Expectations

[Full Size Flyer Here](#)



Backpack Connection Series

About this Series

The Backpack Connection Series was created by TACSEI to provide a way for teachers and parents/caregivers to work together to help young children develop social emotional skills and reduce challenging behavior. Teachers may choose to send a handout home in each child's backpack when a new strategy or skill is introduced to the class. Each Backpack Connection handout provides information that helps parents stay informed about what their child is learning at school and specific ideas on how to use the strategy or skill at home.

The Pyramid Model



The Pyramid Model is a framework that provides programs with guidance on how to promote social emotional competence in all children and design effective interventions that support young children who might have persistent challenging behavior. It also provides practices to ensure that children with social emotional delays receive intentional teaching. Programs that implement the Pyramid Model are eager to work together with families to meet every child's individualized learning and support needs. To learn more about the Pyramid Model, please visit ChallengingBehavior.org.

More Information

More information and resources on this and other topics are available on our website, ChallengingBehavior.org.

 National Center for
Pyramid Model
INNOVATIONS
ChallengingBehavior.org

How to Use Visual Schedules to Help Your Child Understand Expectations

Alyson Jiron, Brooke Brogle & Jill Giacomini

Adults often use calendars, grocery lists, and "to do" lists to help complete tasks and enhance memory. Children as young as 12 months can also benefit from these kinds of tools and reminders. Often, children do not respond to adult requests because they don't actually understand what is expected of them. When a child doesn't understand what he or she is supposed to do and an adult expects to see action, the result is often challenging behavior such as tantrums, crying or aggressive behavior. A child is more likely to be successful when he is told specifically what he should do rather than what he should not do. A visual (photographs, pictures, charts, etc.) can help to communicate expectations to young children and avoid challenging behavior. Unlike verbal instructions, a visual provides the child with a symbol that helps the child to see and understand words, ideas, and expectations. Perhaps best of all, a visual schedule keeps the focus on the task at hand and negotiation about tasks is not provided as an option.



Visual schedules (activity steps through pictures) can be used at home to teach routines such as getting ready for school. These types of schedules teach children what is expected of them and reminds them what they should be doing.

When you create a visual schedule, the CHILD should be able to use the schedule to answer the following questions: (1) What am I supposed to be doing? (2) How do I know that I am making progress? (3) How do I know when I am done? (4) What will happen next?

Try This at Home

- Include your child in the creation of the visual schedule as much as possible. Let your child draw the pictures or take photos of your child doing the activity. Children LOVE seeing themselves in photos. You can also ask your child's teacher for help with creating a visual schedule.
- Remember! Following a visual schedule is a skill that children need to learn. You can teach your child how to do this by referring to the schedule often.
- Allow your child to remove the photo of an activity once the activity is done. We all loving checking things off our list!
- Choose a difficult time of day (i.e. getting ready for school, bedtime, etc.) to begin. Once it becomes routine, you can easily expand the visual schedule to include your entire day.

Practice at School

Visual schedules are used to show a clear beginning, middle and end. Visuals empower children to become independent and encourage participation. At school, visual schedules can be used to show a daily routine, a sequence of activities to be completed or the steps in an activity. Visuals can also help a child remember classroom rules or other expectations without adult reminders.

The Bottom Line

Visual schedules can bring you and your child closer together, reduce power struggles and give your child confidence and a sense of control. Visual schedules greatly limit the amount of "no's" and behavior corrections you need to give throughout the day, since your child can better predict what should happen next.



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Parents as Teachers - How Young Children Approach Learning

How Young Children Approach Learning

Parents often think their first baby is a genius. They aren't completely wrong. Any adult who learned as much as quickly and as well as an infant would almost have to be a genius.

Babies are incredible natural learners, masters of gathering and applying new information. The aspects of how they approach learning can be thought of in three clusters:

1. To begin
2. To stay in
3. To dig deep and expand out

All of the learning approaches are so natural to babies that a large part of parents' job is to just not get in the way. That can be challenging because infants' early communication, motor, and social abilities are so tiny that parents might not notice their child's earliest attempts to

communicate or realize that she is trying to move her arm in an early attempt to touch something interesting.

Parents and caregivers who are sensitive to intent on the part of an infant – who can notice that the child is interested, trying to move, or trying to communicate and who can help that infant reach goals, or see what she is trying to see, or get what she wants – are on the path to raising a child who is a capable learner thrilled by the process of learning.

Newborns come into the world with extremely limited abilities to do anything, and within three years they will have

mastered the basics of moving around the world (locomotion), of socially connecting with the people in their world, of using successful strategies to solve problems, and of speaking whatever language or languages are being used around them. Each infant has taken in vast amounts of information and transformed herself from a baby who could eat, cry, sleep, and barely control her own gaze to a toddler who can run, jump, speak, get people's attention in many ways, and communicate her wants, needs, thoughts, and emotions.

They learn many other things and, depending on their culture :

Coaching

Part 2: How Do I "Serve and Return"?-Continued

Did you know that you can help build a child's brain – starting even before babies can talk? Simple Serve and Return between adults and young children help make strong connections in developing brains, and it's easy and fun to do! This how-to video breaks down serve and return into 5 simple steps and features adults and young children doing each step together.



View the Spanish version below:



SHOUT OUT!

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL TEACHERS, DIRECTORS,
AND OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS FOR
PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY. WE RECEIVED OVER 100
RESPONSES!! THE INFORMATION IS INVALUABLE.**

Professional Development

Scholarship Opportunity

The Early Childhood council would like to share a scholarship opportunity for the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) training being offered by Clayton in the new year. Virtual ITERS-3 training will be held on January 23rd & 24th, from 9-1 pm. Virtual ECERS-3 will be held on February 27th & 28th, same time, and virtual FCCERS-3 will be held on March 5th & 6th, from 9-1 pm as well.

These trainings will allow for observation, scoring, and supporting teachers with environmental ratings. The Council Coaches currently offer these services through Ms. Monique Bosch and possibly a new coach in the coming year, however, we want to extend this training to you as well.

Please note that after you complete the training, you will incur

the costs for bringing Clayton here to observe and certify you. The annual average cost to sustain certification is approximately \$800-\$1000. This application closes on February 29th, 2024 (Yes, it is a leap year). I have included the link for you to find out further information, or to apply. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you!

[Fall 2023 Clayton News \(claytonearlylearning.org\)](http://claytonearlylearning.org)

Scholarships

***We still have funds for scholarships, please click on the link below to fill yours out today!**

[Scholarship Application | Early Childhood Council of SLV \(eccslv.org\)](http://eccslv.org)

***Here is the link to TEACH CO. Please check into everything they can offer for ECE.**

[TEACH Colorado | Homepage | TEACH.org](http://TEACH.org)

***ECCLA is currently offering several different scholarships.**

<https://ecclacolorado.org/scholarshipsandgrants/>

Upcoming Trainings

Here is the link for the [December 2023 Upcoming Training Events Announcement](#)

Highlights and Opportunities:

- Look for new opportunities offered by Clayton Early learning including a couple that offer social-emotional hours.
- Jennifer Sommer Sheppard is offering the following Circle of Security opportunity: Are you interested in having your program staff increase their abilities to form secure relationships with the children in their care? Contact Jennifer Sommer Sheppard (jennifersommersheppard@auroramhr.org) to arrange for a free 12-hour in-person or virtual training that includes

relationship-based strategies to respond to children's social-emotional needs for safe, secure, relationships in the classroom. Individuals may reach out to learn about upcoming sessions they may join. Available in English or Spanish. Hours awarded support the Social-Emotional Health and Development competency domain.

Professionals needing help with PDIS registration for a synchronous in-person or virtual training may view the [How-to Video: Registering for a Live Training Session on PDIS](#) or [How-to Guide: Registering for a Training Event Session](#).

COMMUNITY JOB BOARD!

APPLY NOW!

Open Positions:

- ECC SLV Board of Directors- **Legal Representative**



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



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley Governing Board is seeking a Legal Representative to join the Board of Directors. Qualified applicants must be an attorney at law.

Please email letter of interest and resume to sherri@eccslv.org



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.

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