



March 4, 2024

Quality Improvement:

Mountain Valley School Dist Re-1

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



**COLORADO
SHINES**
START EARLY
START STRONG
QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

PROGRAM QUALITY RATING



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

Mountain Valley School District

"I started Early Childhood care about 13 years ago, working part time at our local head start program Little Learners. In 2017, When my youngest child was old enough to enter Preschool I decided I wanted to be part of his school experience. So I started a career in Early Childhood Education. I have been an Early Childhood Educator going on 7 years and both a lead teacher and our Programs Preschool Director starting this year.

The community we teach in is plagued by poverty, drug abuse and families who face so many struggles in their daily lives. The children in our community really need a safe and nurturing space to grow and develop successful lives. : It is very rewarding to be able to provide that safe space.

In my career I have taken more of a backseat role with regards to being first an assistant teacher and then the lead teacher in my classroom. This year I went out on a limb and applied for and became our District's Preschool Director. The implementation of UPK and learning how to navigate that system along with my first year being a Colorado Shines rating year had me feeling less confident in my ability to be a good director. When our program received our four star rating I knew that our hard work paid off and we had a quality program we could be proud of."



FAMILY CHILD CARE (FCCH)

Invest in Your Business with up to \$5,000 from the Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grant.

The application window opens on February 12, 2024, and closes on April 22nd, 2024.

Click on the link for more information.

<http://www.ecclacolorado.org/fcchgrant>.

The Professional Development Information System is offering Family Child Care Pre-licensing courses. Here are the upcoming dates and registration deadlines.

- March 4, 2024- March 12, 2024, 6:00pm- 9:00pm
(must register by March 3, 2024. 6:00 pm)
 - March 18th-March 29th 12:00pm-2:30pm
(must register by March 17, 2024, 6:00 pm)
 - April 22nd-25th 9:30 am-1:30 pm
(must register by April 9, 2024, 9:30 am)
-

Childcare Resource and Referral (CCRR)

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



 **Wonderschool**

Universal Preschool Colorado



UPK Updates

With your generous input throughout the year, please see the

first version of an updated UPK [Provider Handbook](#) for the 2024-2025 School Year! While an expanded version is expected, your early feedback is greatly appreciated through [this link](#).

Please note the program update on page 5 regarding 3-year-olds. Due to overwhelming input, school districts will resume primary registration for 3-year-olds through their targeted 3-year-old program. This will reduce confusion regarding Colorado's Universal Preschool Program, which primarily serves all children in Colorado in the year before kindergarten.

The Universal Preschool Program works closely with the Colorado Department of Education and Special Education, School Districts and Administrative Units (AUs) across the state to support any preschool aged child, including 3-year-olds, with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to receive guaranteed funding aligned to the student's IEP.

Pre registration for the 24/25 school year starts Feb. 29th

Families that are currently enrolled should watch out for communication from their UPK provider about application updates.

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
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.

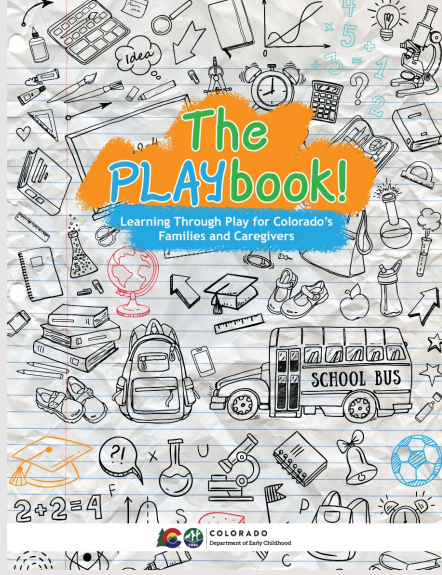
Begin Application Here

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

Service Areas:
Saguache
Costilla
Alamosa
Rio Grande

Welcome to the PLAYbook:
Taking Care of Yourself
Adopted from Head Start

Remember to make time for your own self-care. This way, you are



better prepared to meet the needs of the children in your care. Here are some tips to help with stress

Sometimes you can make choices about how you spend your time that will prevent or reduce stress in your life. These strategies can help you avoid stress or cope with stress. If you take care of yourself, you will be in a better position to take care of others!

- Communicate with other care providers or families to learn new ideas and strategies for caring for children.
- Make sure to maintain your physical health by eating well and exercising. Caring for children requires strength and endurance.
- Eating healthy meals will boost your energy. Try to get lots of protein (fish, chicken, beans and cheese) and good carbohydrates (multigrain bread, nuts) as well as fruits and vegetables.
- Babies take cues from those around them, so your mood is very important. If you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed or upset, try taking some calming breaths. If this doesn't work, ask another caring adult to cover you so you can take a short break if possible.

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

- [In English](#)
- [En Español](#)



Coaching - Teachers Learning and Collaborating (TLC)

Teachers Learning and Collaborating (TLC) is an approach used with Early Childhood Professionals to:

- Encourage dialogue, feedback, and support in a safe and private environment
- Help participants learn and apply effective practices
- Provide ongoing, long-term professional development
- Personalize and enhance practices already being done across content areas throughout the day
- Gain support from each other so the whole group can improve

The February Teacher Connection was a Huge success! Thank you to all in attendance and we appreciate your input about the things that work well for you to provide meaningful time together.

Some of our topics included Self-care, Safety, Home to School Connection, Professional Development, and Pyramid Model strategies.

Click the link below to find out why schedules and routines for young children are important.

The Importance of Schedules and Routines

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/about-us/article/importance-schedules-routines>

PDIS NEWS Directly from CDEC

The PDIS will be unavailable for planned updates on Sunday, March 10th, while they change to the new user interface.

PDIS estará inactivo para las actualizaciones planificadas el domingo 10 de marzo, a medida que hagamos la transición a la nueva interfaz de usuario.

New Look Coming March 11th to the PDIS

The Colorado Shines PDIS is getting a new look! Coming March 11, the PDIS will have an updated look and feel. The PDIS team collected feedback and made focused updates to the site. The updates are the three primary areas: 1) a cleaner, more organized menu, 2) a more useful home dashboard, and 3) a more useful learner home. All your information will stay the same, but hopefully it will be easier to find.

We're excited to share this new look with you. The PDIS Help Desk team is holding weekly demos of the new look. [View the schedule of demos](#) and sign up to see a sneak peak!

ESPAÑOL: ¡El PDIS de Colorado Shines está obteniendo una nueva apariencia! A partir del 11 de marzo el PDIS tendrá una apariencia diferente, pero toda su información seguirá siendo la misma. El equipo de PDIS recopiló comentarios e hizo actualizaciones específicas en el sitio. Las actualizaciones son las tres áreas principales: 1) un menú más limpio y organizado, 2) un panel de inicio más útil y 3) un inicio más útil para el alumno.

Estamos emocionados de compartir esta nueva apariencia con usted. El equipo de la mesa de ayuda de PDIS realiza demostraciones semanales de la nueva apariencia. [¡Vea el calendario de demostraciones](#) y regístrese para ver un adelanto!

Directors: A Wealth of New Training, Just For You

We see you, directors, and we see the many, many hats you wear in your role. Which is why we are pleased to announce a

set of four new self-paced eLearning courses on the PDIS—the Director’s Sequence!

The free courses are available in English and Spanish, and can be taken in any order you find helpful. They are designed with new directors in mind, although there is plenty in there for those who are considering becoming a director, who have been a director for years, or who hold other administrative and leadership roles. The four courses are:

- *Director Foundations* (2 hours): an introduction to basic business concepts and the role of state licensing in child care programs
- *Navigating Early Childhood Systems, Services and Subsidies* (1 hour): a toolkit that summarizes information about systems, services and subsidies available to early care and learning programs in Colorado, as well as how they can support building a quality program for staff and families.
- *EDI-Focused Leadership in Early Childhood Settings* (1.5 hours): This course defines equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and why it is important to early childhood programs. It explores being an EDI-focused leader and three ways to build a culture of EDI to benefit staff and families.
- *Trauma-Informed Early Childhood Organizations* (1.5 hours): This course explains what a trauma-informed organization is and why it is important. It identifies tools and resources to create a trauma-informed organization and explores how staff well-being and self-care are necessary.

ESPAÑOL: Los vemos a ustedes, directores, y vemos las muchas, muchas funciones que desempeñan en su papel. Es por eso que nos complace anunciar un conjunto de cuatro nuevos cursos de aprendizaje electrónico a su propio ritmo sobre el PDIS: la secuencia del director!

Los cursos gratuitos están disponibles en inglés y español y se pueden tomar en el orden que considere útil. Están diseñados pensando en los nuevos directores, aunque hay muchas opciones para aquellos que están considerando convertirse en directores, que han sido directores durante años o que desempeñan otras funciones administrativas y de liderazgo. Los cuatro cursos son:

- *Fundamentos del director* (2 horas): una introducción a los conceptos básicos de negocios y el papel de las licencias estatales en los programas de cuidado infantil

- *Navegar por los sistemas, servicios y subsidios para la primera infancia* (1 hora): un conjunto de herramientas que resume información sobre los sistemas, servicios y subsidios disponibles para los programas de cuidado y aprendizaje temprano en Colorado, así como también cómo pueden apoyar la creación de un programa de calidad para el personal y las familias.
- *Liderazgo centrado en EDI en la primera infancia* (1.5 horas): este curso define la equidad, la diversidad y la inclusión (EDI) y por qué son importantes para los programas de la primera infancia. Explora cómo ser un líder centrado en EDI y tres formas de construir una cultura de EDI en beneficio del personal y las familias.
- *Organizaciones de primera infancia informadas sobre el trauma* (1.5 horas): este curso explica qué es una organización informada sobre el trauma y por qué es importante. Identifica herramientas y recursos para crear una organización informada sobre el trauma y explora cómo el bienestar y el autocuidado del personal son necesarios.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities!

View [Upcoming Live Virtual and In-Person Training Events](#) to learn about professional development opportunities happening through April. There are many free and low-cost opportunities, including:

- An Introduction to Ages & Stages Questionnaire-3 and Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional-2
- Trauma-Informed Practices
- ONE Step Colorado - Secondhand Smoke and Asthma Training
- Disciplina consciente: comience un aprendizaje socioemocional sólido para bebés y niños pequeños
- Calming Chaos by Promoting Positive Behavior
- Combating Bias in Early Education: From Conversation to Practice
- Guiding Children's Behavior: It Starts with Us
- Social-Emotional Awareness: Understanding the Impact of Temperament and Emotions
- Gigi's Playhouse Educator Symposium: Teaching Strategies for Individuals with Down Syndrome
- Fostering Inquiry by Scaffolding Curiosity

Program Directors and Professional Development Coordinators:

Visit [Colorado Shines PDIS Instructor-Led Training Events Recognized by TAP](#) to view a list of opportunities you may arrange for your program.

ESPAÑOL: Vea [los próximos eventos de capacitación virtuales y presenciales en vivo](#) para conocer las oportunidades de desarrollo profesional que tendrán lugar hasta abril. Directores de programas y coordinadores de desarrollo profesional: visite [los eventos de capacitación dirigidos por instructores de Colorado Shines PDIS reconocidos por TAP](#) para ver una lista de oportunidades que puede organizar para su programa.

ECPC Applications

The Early Childhood Professional Credential is currently maintaining a two-week turnaround on submitted applications. If your credential is expiring within the next 30 days, please consider submitting an application to update your credential. Please note that PDIS 2.0 Early Childhood Professional Credentials will expire on or before June 30, 2024. Your credential expiration date can be found on your PDIS home dashboard. If there is no credential level showing on your dashboard, you do not have an active credential. Please visit [Learn about Credential Offerings](#) to read more.

ESPAÑOL: La Credencial Profesional de Primera Infancia mantiene actualmente un plazo de entrega de dos semanas en las solicitudes presentadas. Si su credencial vence dentro de los próximos 30 días, considere crear y enviar una solicitud para su revisión. La fecha de vencimiento de su credencial se puede encontrar en el panel de inicio de PDIS. Si no se muestra ningún nivel de credencial en su panel, no tiene una credencial activa. Visite [Más información sobre las ofertas de credenciales](#) para leer más.

Una nota sobre las traducciones al español: pedimos disculpas por las malas traducciones. Estamos trabajando para implementar un servicio de traducción. Los futuros boletines deberían tener un contenido mejor traducido. Gracias por su paciencia.

The Early Childhood Educator Income Tax Credit
The CDEC reported each professional's highest active 2023

Early Childhood Professional Credential (ECPC) to the Colorado Department of Revenue. This income tax credit will also be available for tax years 2024 and 2025. Please see [Colorado Department of Revenue Taxation Division](#) to check your eligibility and find more information. For free tax filing help, go to [GetAheadColorado.org](#).

ESPAÑOL: Para respaldar el Crédito Fiscal para Profesionales en la Primera Infancia, el CDEC informará la Credencial Profesional en la Primera Infancia (ECPC) más alta de cada profesional que estuvo activa en cualquier momento de 2023 al Departamento de Ingresos de Colorado. Puede encontrar más información sobre este crédito fiscal a través de la [División de Impuestos del Departamento de Ingresos de Colorado](#). Para obtener ayuda gratuita para la presentación de impuestos, visite [GetAheadColorado.org](#).

CREEDE
REPERTORY
THEATRE

TINY

TOUR IN ALAMOSA

Roy G Biv

FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2024

10:30 AM (25 MINUTES)

FRIDAY, MARCH 22ND @ 10:30AM

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

401 SANTA FE AVENUE | ALAMOSA, CO 81101

FRIDAY MARCH 29, 2024

5:00 PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH @ 5:00PM (25 MINUTES)

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

401 SANTA FE AVENUE | ALAMOSA, CO 81101

Tiny Tour is an engaging, interactive 25min performance for our youngest learners (ages 5 and under).

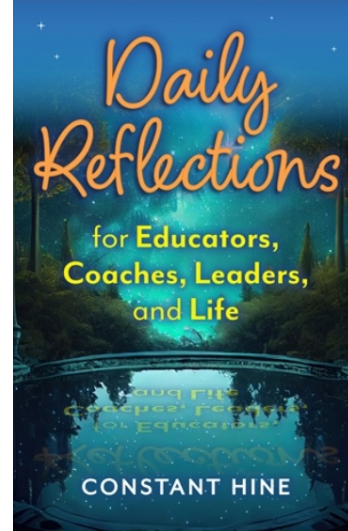
Jee is an Artist. Jee LOVES the color Green. Jee paints green SQUARES, green CIRCLES, and even green SQUIRCLES! But when a new artist comes to share Jee's space, his world is turned upside down, as he is introduced to all colors of the rainbow.

Daily Reflections Available April 15, 2024

Build a practice of daily reflection
to transform your teaching and
leadership

Coaches, leaders, and all agents of
change need to hone their reflective

practices to gain self-awareness and make mindful decisions, so that in turn they can better facilitate reflection with the people they support. Reflection is the best way to bring “sticky” sustainable change. Through reflection, we make intentional choices to achieve the success we desire. Reflection is not an event, not just an activity, but a lifestyle.



This book offers twelve reflective themes for cultivating both personal and professional self-realization and becoming a transformational change agent who helps others do the same. There are 365 entries, one for each day of the year. Each entry features a thought-provoking quotation with a commentary to feed the day’s reflection, followed with a suggestion for reflective practice. Developing a reflective mindset helps us become self-empowered, lifelong problem solvers who create meaningful and fulfilling lives both personally and professionally.



About the Author:

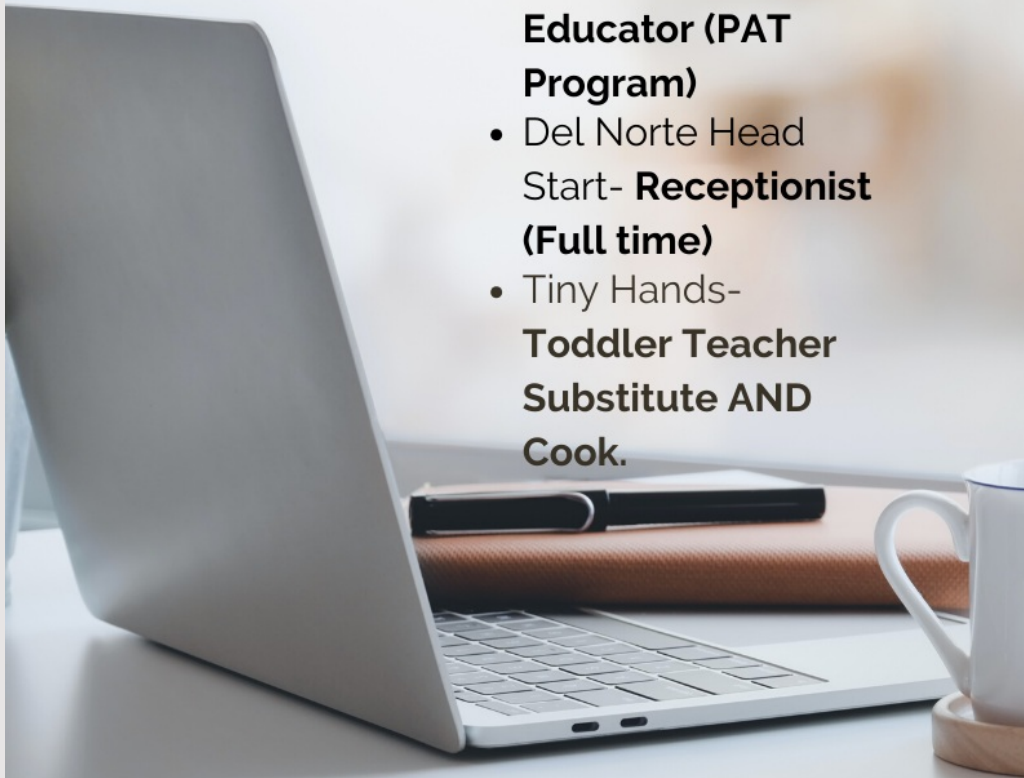
Constant Hine, MA, is an early childhood consultant, trainer, and coach. She specializes in providing dynamic transformation strategies for early childhood professionals. Constant supports teachers, leaders, coaches, and adult educators to create lasting

change through authentic engagement, empowered learning, and intentional practices. She hosts the "Coaching Connections" radio show and presents on the topic of coaching to national audiences. Constant also offers online learning, video conference training, and webinars.

COMMUNITY JOB BOARD!

APPLY NOW! **Open Positions:**

- ECC SLV Board of Directors - **Legal Representative**
- ECC SLV - **Parent Educator (PAT Program)**
- Del Norte Head Start- **Receptionist (Full time)**
- Tiny Hands- **Toddler Teacher Substitute AND Cook.**



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@ecslv.org



WE ARE HIRING!



The Early Childhood Council of SLV is seeking a Parent Educator to join the Parents as Teachers Program!



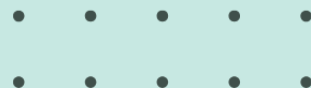
Requirements:

Qualified applicants must hold a high school diploma, a minimum of two years working with young children and/or parents, strong communication and interpersonal skills, ability to build strong relationships, strong computer skills and the ability to work independently.

This position offers a 3% IRA match, generous time off benefit, and salary range of \$35,700-\$39,035 per year. No health benefit available.

Email your resume to:

Outreach@ecslv.org



Now Hiring Del Norte Head Start-Receptionist (FT)

Rio Grande Child Child Development & Family Services / Del Norte Head Start is currently accepting applications for a full-time Receptionist. Applications can be picked up and dropped off at 440 Sixth Street Del Norte CO 81132. Resumes can be sent

to rgcds@gmail.com or donnamarie5659@gmail.com.

The position will be open until filled.



Tiny Hands Day Care Center, Inc
922 Main St., P.O. Box 272
[Blanca ,CO 81123](mailto:Blanca_CO_81123)



Tiny Hands Day Care
in Blanca, CO is
seeking to hire a
Toddler Teacher, Substitutes,
and a Cook

For more information contact
Christina Medina @ 719-379-2607



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

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

[Unsubscribe office@eccslv.org](mailto:office@eccslv.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@earlychildhoodcouncil.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!