



May 20th, 2024



## National Provider Appreciation Day 2024

YOU nurturing souls are supporting young minds, fostering growth, and shaping bright futures in the realm of early childhood  
**DEDICATION!**

National Provider Appreciation Day is a special day when every community has the chance to give recognition to the professionals that care for our young children.

[AND know you are ALL professionals...very few people can do the job you do]

It's a fantastic opportunity to recognize the key role you loving providers play in the development and well-being of children across the nation.

### **History of Child Care Provider Day**

The story of Child Care Provider Day started in the early 1990s. During that time, there were significant changes in the child care industry that impacted the entire United States.

In 1990, funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act brought tremendous change to the childcare industry.

That pivotal piece of legislation enabled lower-wage earners to receive federal help in paying for child care.

This act was also a turning point in acknowledging the need for high-quality child care for all families and youth, regardless of their economic status.

The creation of this designated holiday happened in 1996. That was when a day was finally set aside to honor those who spend their lives caring for the children in their communities.

At long last, early childhood professionals were to receive recognition for the vital role they play. You are acknowledged for caring for children and nurturing their growth and well-being.

Your work as an Early Childhood Educator & Professional ensures that children are developing & learning, parents are working, the economy is growing, and communities are thriving.

Thank you for your commitment to ECE and for making a difference in the lives of the children and families you serve!

Happy 2024 Provider Appreciation Day from the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley!

Today and EVERY Day, we appreciate you!

Now a hand of applause for each one of you!



Pictured above: Elvia Vialpando, Theresa Gallegos, Jeanie Atencio, Karen Jiron, Jennie Zamora, and Joana Herrera.

The above photo are women who have provided their support to Early Childhood Education for over 45 years!

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the children of the community!



Pictured above: Early Childhood Council of SLV staff



## UPK Updates



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MORE THAN 4,700 CHILDREN IN STATEWIDE UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL SETTINGS TO RECEIVE FREE ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS THROUGH FUNDING FROM DELTA DENTAL OF COLORADO FOUNDATION

*Innovation thrives as diverse sectors come together with a shared goal*

DENVER (May 7, 2024) — Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF) announced over \$1 million to eight local nonprofit organizations across Colorado to integrate oral health as well as screenings and referral within organizations providing universal preschool. The grantees include: Denver Preschool Program, Joint Initiatives for Children, United Way of Weld County, Early Learning Ventures, Early Childhood Council of San Luis Valley and Echo & Family Center Early Childhood Council. Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) and Healthy Child Care Colorado (HCCC) were selected to lead the co-creation and implementation of this ambitious project, titled the “Healthy Universal Preschool Collaborative.”

ABCD and HCCC will lead a two-year project to create a proof of concept for how [child care health consultants](#), which are required by licensing for every child care center, can support integration of oral health through development and use of

policies and procedures, information and resource sharing, and implementation of practices such as screening and referral. Integrating oral health screening and referral into early childhood settings addresses immediate dental needs and also lays the foundation for a lifetime of healthy habits and well-being. Our aim is to support oral health integration through growing knowledge and awareness, building supportive practices, and implementing screening and referral protocols within local communities and programs.

“Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation is dedicated to investing in oral health care for all Coloradans, and we see this is a remarkable example of how the business sector, philanthropy, nonprofit organizations, and local government can work together to improve outcomes for Colorado’s children,” said D.J. Close, DDCOF executive director. “Integrating dental screenings and referrals within Universal Pre-K is an opportunity to coordinate with child care providers and families to improve the oral health of children, some of whom may never have visited the dentist. We are excited to partner across the state to bring these needed services to families within their trusted child care location.”

According to a report from the [National Institutes of Health](#), 50% of American children do not receive regular dental care because of social, economic, and geographic obstacles. When children are unable to regularly access dental care, they lose vital learning opportunities. Elementary school students miss an average of 2.1 days of school per year in Colorado because of dental problems.

“We are thrilled to co-lead this significant and innovative project to build state, local, and program level capacity to ensure oral health education, support, and services are successfully incorporated into universal preschool programs across these six geographic areas,” said Taran Schneider, executive director of HCCC. “This project is the first of its kind to engage the unique and critical role of child care health consultants directly in oral health education, screening, and referral services.”

“With ABCD’s long history of supporting holistic child development and resilient communities, we are excited to support universal preschool programs in improving their ability

to ensure children and families receive equitable, reliable and timely child health information, services and supports,” added Eileen Auer Bennett, executive director, ABCD.

This investment is central to DDCOF’s commitment to funding preventive oral health care for children ages 0–6, which means a child has access to regular oral exams within a dental home and maintains good oral hygiene habits at home—practices that are key to improving overall health. ABCD and HCCC will be collaborating with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment to roll out the program in fall 2024 with an estimated 160 Universal Pre-K programs serving over 4,700 children in schools, child care centers, and family child care homes across the state.

#### About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation believes every person can have a healthy mouth regardless of life circumstances. By partnering with communities, the foundation works to re-imagine how all of our neighbors access, benefit from, and value the importance of oral health care. As a 501(c)(3) organization funded by the nonprofit Delta Dental of Colorado, the foundation intends to advance oral health equity throughout local communities across Colorado by implementing transformative programs and initiatives. To learn more about Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, visit [www.deltadentalcofoundation.org](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org).

#### About Delta Dental of Colorado

Delta Dental of Colorado is a nonprofit dental benefits company with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. The nonprofit serves nearly 1.8 million members, providing them the ability to use and manage their dental benefits easily. Through its plans, dentist network, and expert customer service, the nonprofit makes dental care accessible, affordable, and simple, leading to a healthier smile and life.

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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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**FCCH**

# 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**

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**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.

## Early Head Startx

**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:**  
Saguahe  
Costilla  
Alamosa  
Rio Grande

## Health and Safety

New Car Seat Requirements for the state of Colorado.

[HB24-1055](#) - The bill changes the child restraint system requirements in existing law as follows:

Increases the age at which children are required to use a child restraint system from under 8 years of age to under 9 years of age and adds that a child under 57 inches in height, regardless of age, must use a child restraint system;

Increases the age, from under one year of age to under 2 years of age, and the weight, from under 20 pounds to under 40 pounds, of children who must be restrained in a rear-facing child restraint system in a rear seat of the vehicle;

Increases the age, from one year of age or older to 2 years of age or older, of children who must be restrained in a rear-facing or forward-facing child restraint system in a rear seat of the vehicle, if a rear seat is available;

Adds a requirement that children who are at least 4 years of age but under 9 years of age and who weigh at least 40 pounds utilize a booster seat, which must be situated in a rear seat of the vehicle, if a rear seat is available; and

Adds a requirement that children who are at least 9 years of age but under 13 years of age sit in the rear seat of a vehicle, if a rear seat is available, and be properly secured with a safety belt.

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## Coaching

Each child experiences responsive care from care teachers using a process called, **RESPECT-REFLECT-RELATE**.

Specific caregiving strategies have been found to be important for supporting healthy brain and body development during the unique period of infancy.

### Relationship-Based, Responsive Care Experiences:

- Each child will experience and have relationships that create connections in the brain and lay the foundation for all future learning and development by taking advantage of quiet moments to really watch and RESPECT the things the child is experiencing.
- Each child will be cared for by care teachers that have knowledge of infant and toddler learning and development by helping them regulate, use rich language, giving them individual attention, helping them feel safe, encouraging peer relationships, and providing an engaging environment based on their interests.
- Each child will experience responsive care from care teachers by understanding and supporting their learning and development while wondering about the child's experience and responding to the child's needs in the moment.

*"All learning takes place in the context of relationships and is critically affected by the quality of those relationships."*

*-Norman-Murch, 1996*

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## MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know May is Mental Health Awareness Month? According to SAMHSA, Mental Health Awareness Month was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. This May, check out and share the resources above as well as SAMHSA's website on Mental Health Awareness Month , the AFSP's Talk Away the Dark campaign, including a short but powerful video about the warning signs of suicide and their #RealConvoGuide on how to talk to someone struggling who is hesitant to reach out for help here.

[FindSupport.Gov](https://www.findsupport.gov)

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## Professional Development

### PDIS

Did you know you can find professional development programs & scholarships when you login to your PDIS account? All you have to do is click on the RESOURCES tab at the top of the page, then under the drop-down menu you will click on programs & scholarships. This is available to **ALL PDIS** users. If you need any PD support please reach out to Denise Benavides

at [pd@eccslv.org](mailto:pd@eccslv.org).

## **\*ECCSLV SCHOLARSHIP**

\*We still have funds to support you with your education. Please click on the following link to access an application, or email Denise Benavides at [pd@eccslv.org](mailto:pd@eccslv.org) .  
<https://eccslv.org/scholarship-application/>

June 2024 Upcoming Live Virtual and In-Person Training Events announcement with the early childhood professionals you support.

There are several new sessions including two from Assuring Better Child Health & Development on developmental screening activities and another from Denver's Early Childhood Council on precautions when transporting children.

### **Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance**

Please see the following link for scholarship opportunities:  
Scholarships and Grants - Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA) (ecclacolorado.org)\

## **Pyramid Plus Approach Training**

### **Expedited Pyramid Plus Approach Training June 2024**

The next expedited Pyramid Plus Approach training starts on June 1st with the mandatory orientation on Friday, May 31st at 6 PM.

The Pyramid Plus Approach training provides a comprehensive framework for teachers dealing with problem behavior. It focuses on positive behavior support, inclusive practices, and fostering strong family partnerships. Teachers learn effective strategies to manage challenging behaviors and support children's social-emotional development.

This training meets state requirements for Child Guidance Strategies (ECE 103) and is delivered by a certified

trainer, teachers earn points and a badge in their PDIS account.

Space is limited, so don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your ability to create a positive and nurturing educational environment.

**Pyramid Plus Approach Training:**

Dates: June 1st- 15th 2024

3 weeks. See flyer for full details

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Platform: ZOOM

Cost: \$410/person

Click here for

[Registration Link](#) and [Flyer with details](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge, network with fellow educators, and earn a certificate upon completion.

Register now to secure your spot!

**Directors and Admin: Please contact us for group registrations, or to schedule a training specifically for your staff. Looking forward to seeing you soon.**

We can also help with other professional development trainings and observations for various tools, from baseline CLASS or ERS-3 observations (to see where the classroom is currently at) to ERS-3, Trauma-Informed Practices, or Social and Emotional Trainings.

We can help wherever you need us. We customize our services to meet your needs. We work with a variety of large and small centers. Our goal is for your staff to know where they are at, build their knowledge base, and support them with their professional needs.

Please use this [Link](#) to schedule a no-obligation 30-minute consultation. We look forward to learning about your program.

Read more about our services in this [Flyer](#).

Great news! They've extended their TEACH scholarship deadline. You now have until May 31st to get your application in for \$1,000 toward your teacher prep program. Here's what you'll need to do to [submit your entry for this scholarship by May 31st](#).\*

Get to it! Apply to a prep program today and enter to win \$1,000.

*\*If you weren't selected for a previous scholarship application, you can apply again.*

- The TEACH Colorado Team

### **Upcoming trainings by Early Childhood Investigations**

TEACH Colorado Great news! They've extended their TEACH scholarship deadline. You now have until May 31st to get your application in for \$1,000 toward your teacher prep program. Here's what you'll need to do to submit your entry for this scholarship by May 31st.



Get to it! Apply to a prep program today and enter to win \$1,000. \*If you weren't selected for a previous scholarship application, you can apply again. - The TEACH Colorado Team Upcoming trainings by Early Childhood Investigations Webinars in August 2024 and beyond! NEW WEBINARS ADDED FREQUENTLY! Bookmark our upcoming webinars page

Nurturing Play and Creativity in Young Children Through Everyday Conversation, by Rebecca Rolland, Ed.D. August 7, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

A Calm Brain is a Thinking Brain: Designing calm, engaging early learning environments, by Dr. Kathryn Murray August 8, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

The Power of Leadership: Transform Yourself to Transform Your Team, by Ben Poswalk August 14, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Getting and Keeping Insurance for Your Early Childhood Program, by Samantha Phillips August 15, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

>>>NEW<<<< Large Physical Art Activities for Energy Release to Calm Squirring Bodies and Minds, by Anna Reyner, MA, ATR, LMFT September 18, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Rethinking Relationships and Bias in Early Childhood, by Olga Lacayo and Eliana Elias October 17, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Beyond the Shelves and Manipulatives: Learning Environments That Nurture Young Children, by Berna Artis, MA. Ed. October 30, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Building a Financial Framework for Your ECE Program's Future, by Kathy Ligon November 6, 2024 6

[REGISTER NOW](#)

>>>NEW<<<< The Happiest Preschool: The Transformation and Future of Early Childhood Education, by Martha Heineman Pieper and Kelly Perez November 7, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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# COMMUNITY JOB BOARD!

APPLY NOW! **Open Positions:**

- Center Head Start and Early Head Start Project - **Director**



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

The Center Head Start and Early Head Start Project are looking for a new 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.

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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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