



Early Childhood Council
of the San Luis Valley
Working Together for Children

May 6th, 2024





CONGRATULATIONS!

ECC SLV's Esther Vasquez awarded the Parent Possible Leadership Award!

"The Parent Possible Leadership Award is meant to lift up and honor our Colorado PAT & HIPPIY supervisors and coordinators for all of the incredible work that they do to support their home visitors, who are then able to better support their families."

Only **one** Leadership Award is given per year. Esther was nominated and granted the award due to her love and care for children, making her an astonishing leader!

Below is a note from Sherri Valdez, CEO of the Early Childhood Council of SLV to Esther Vasquez:

"I am honored to be able to speak to you all today and tell you why I am so proud to talk about Esther Vasquez. She is one of the strongest leaders I have ever met. She is resilient, she is compassionate, and Esther is a beautiful role

model for us all. As an incredible mother, Esther is raising 5 amazing children. One of her biggest joys in life is to feed them well. And with 4 growing boys and a little princess...that is a lot of kitchen time!

She still makes time for community involvement as board member of the local Boys and Girls Club and does an amazing job with the Parents As Teachers program.

Parents As Teachers transitioned to our organization 5 ½ years ago. This transition included Parent Educators moving with the program. The P.A.T. staff handled the change with grace, never missing a beat with the families they served. From that point in time Esther naturally moved into a leadership role to ensure the program continued.

With her many years of experience with Parent As Teachers, Esther has played a strong leadership role to ensure the curriculum was (and is today) implemented to fidelity. She was able to share her knowledge and expertise about P.A.T. with the Early Childhood Council which was new to this type of direct service to families.

I have been able to witness her in action with families during her home visits. When she is invited into the home it is more like the children's favorite "Tia" has arrived. She brings smiles, love and fun activities! She is a special part of their family and instrumental in the children's healthy development.

On this particular home visit, I learned how Esther had been providing services to them since the birth of their 1st child. So, in the welcoming home she greets the newborn, the preschooler and the elementary aged kiddo...all with an appropriate activity and something of interest to them! Even when one of the children age out of the P.A.T. program, she still includes them on the visit. She operates inclusively!

Esther is passionate about home visitation and particularly about Parents As Teachers. Although she sits in a supervisory role for the program, she prioritizes services herself for a small caseload (although not small enough for her many responsibilities). She strives to continue developing her leadership skills and is now enrolled in early childhood classes pursuing her higher education degree.

Amazing, compassionate, caring, joyful and a true leader!
Esther, I am honored to work with you!

Congratulations on the well-deserved Parent Possible

Leadership Award!"

With all due respect and gratitude,

Sherri





Reminder: Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Event

The ECE Appreciation Event is upon us!

If you are an early childhood educator or early childhood staff member and have not yet received an invitation to the ECE Appreciation event, please reach out to your ECC SLV contact or email Chelle at Office@eccslv.org to request your invitation.

****The deadline to RSVP is TODAY May 6th 2024****

Universal Preschool Colorado



UPK Updates

Hello from the UPK team! Here are the most recent UPK updates :

Important dates :

- **April 23 - May 7:** Providers accept matches for the first matching round.
- **May 8:** Families notified of first round matches. Families must accept or decline by May 15.
- **July 5:** Second family-to-provider matching round runs. Providers must accept or decline matches by July 22.
- **July 23:** Families notified of second round matches.

Families must accept or decline by July 30.

- If you have a student that is 3 years of age prior to your local school district cut off age, and **DOES NOT** carry an IEP, you do not need a UPK application this year. These students will contact their local school district directly for placement and availability.
- If you have a student that is 3 years of age prior to your local school district cut off age that **DOES** carry an IEP, please submit your application, and your application will be directly handled by the district AU for placement.

Providers – If you have not received your Provider Agreement email, please double check the Spam folders. If you have not received it please reach out to the LCO for the correct contact information. Also, be sure to check out the provider Financial opportunities!

Please visit upk.colorado.gov to start your application today!

As always, please reach out to LCOresource@eccslv.org for more information or help with getting started for the 2024/2025 school year.

Always,

SLV LCO Team

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL PROVIDERS

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) is offering an exciting opportunity for registered Universal Preschool providers this Spring.

CDEC will open a one-time incentive opportunity in Spring 2024 for Universal Preschool providers to join the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). Funding is intended to increase

the ability for CCCAP families to access additional low-cost hours of child care through their Colorado Universal Preschool provider.

Any school year 2024-25 Universal Preschool provider who enters into a new CCCAP fiscal agreement with a county between January 1, 2024 and June 15, 2024 will be eligible to receive the \$2,000 incentive bonus. Once the bonus opportunity opens, MetrixIQ will send a link directly to eligible providers to complete the application. For additional information on eligibility and how to become a CCCAP provider, please read the FAQ, and contact your Local Coordinating Organization.

SEEDLINGS

[2024 Spring Seedlings Registration](#)

Each adult attending classes please fill out a registration form by clicking the orange link above.

Classes start **Wednesday, May 8th at 5:30 PM**. They will take place at the Early Childhood Council of the SLV (401 Santa Fe Ave Alamosa). There's a total of 10 sessions. This is a free program, free childcare during the sessions and free dinner each night along with gifts to take home!

If you have any questions please contact your San Luis Valley Facilitators:

Kathryn Trujillo sehealth@eccslv.org (719)850-0977 OR

Kristen Love mobile2@eccslv.org (719)992-4380

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

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.



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

Coaching

The 3R coaching process **RESPECT, REFLECT and RELATE** is based on a relationship-based practice.

What is Relationship-Based Practice?

Primary Caregiving is a Relationship-Based Practice Approach. It's based on the knowledge that infants and toddlers need ongoing enduring bonds with important adults so that they feel safe, learn trust, develop a positive sense of self-worth, engage in reciprocal interactions, develop communication skills, experience joy in relationships and become motivated to learn.

A relationship-based care teacher meets the emotional and social needs of infants and toddlers by ensuring stable and continuous adult-child relationships.

Qualities of a Relationship-Based Care Teacher:

- Warm

- Affectionate
- Sensitive
- Encouraging and Respectful of Individual Differences
- Provides Rich Language Interactions
- Responds to Children's Interests

Every child needs at least one consistent, responsive relationship while in care settings and at home.

"Every child deserves a champion."-Rita Pierson

New Telehealth Hub at the Alamosa Public Library

The Alamosa Public Library has a telehealth hub - a special computer with a webcam and peripheral technology so that people can have virtual doctor visits in the library if they need to.

This computer can also be used for other virtual appointments such as counseling, court, job interviews, etc.

Be sure to stop in and utilize this great convenient resource! It is open to the public now.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EMPLOYER-BASED CHILD CARE GRANT

Frequently Asked Questions

Families in Colorado face a number of challenges accessing child care, including long wait lists, limited locations near work or home, or no local licensed child care options. These issues may worsen with increased demand for care as families return to work, population growth, and the implementation of Universal Preschool. This grant will help address these issues and build more child care capacity by providing up to \$800,000 per award to support non-child care entities in constructing, remodeling, renovating, or retrofitting a child care center for its employees.

In 2022, the Colorado legislature passed Senate Bill 22-213,

which expanded the employer-based child care facility grant program. This expansion is funded by Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) from the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which aims to support families and invest in long-term growth and opportunity. Federal requirements and compliance will apply.

Full article [here](#).

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 or visit our office at 301 E Third Street in Center.

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!

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)

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