



November 1st, 2024

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HEALTHY child  
care COLORADO



Congratulations to the

**2024 Colorado Pyramid Model Champion**

**Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley**

During the Pyramid Summit 2024 October 15, 2024, the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley was honored to be named the 2024 Colorado Pyramid Model Champion!

ECC SLV's innovative and intentional implementation of the Pyramid Model has had a profound impact on the San Luis Valley community. Through their latest research project, Supporting Trauma Awareness and Nurturing Children's Environments (STANCE), the ECC SLV leveraged existing resources to further understand the impact that the Pyramid Model and Positive Solutions for Families was having in their region. Over a 5-year period, they delivered intensive Pyramid Model training and coaching to 329 early childhood teachers, reaching 1,751 children in classrooms across the region. Additionally, they

provided family workshops to teach positive and effective parenting behaviors that promote children's social-emotional development at home. The outcomes of this project were remarkable; not only were children increasing their social emotional skills, but teachers and families reported implementing more strategies with increased confidence in the classroom and at home.

ECC SLV has truly been a leader in promoting inclusion, expanding their reach, and sharing their knowledge with their community, making them a true Pyramid Model Champion.



(Pictured here with the famous Tucker Turtle is Veronica Cisneros, Sherri Valdez and Mara Hsu.)

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## Community Update: PAT Team Attends PatCon24 in San Diego

Our Parents as Teachers (PAT) team recently attended the annual PatCon24 conference in San Diego! This year's theme, "Born to Learn – Power of the Past – Building for the Future," celebrated the transformative role of early education and the lasting impact it has on families and communities. The conference provided a wealth of knowledge, ideas, and inspiration for our team to bring back to our community.

We are thrilled to acknowledge and congratulate two of our dedicated team members, Silvia Martinez and Esther Vasquez, for reaching an impressive milestone: 10 years of commitment to the Parents as Teachers program. Their decade of hard work and passion for helping families grow and thrive is a remarkable achievement, and we deeply appreciate all they do. Silvia and Esther embody the spirit of the PAT program, working tirelessly to support and guide parents in giving their children a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Thank you, Silvia and Esther, for your dedication, and thank you to our PAT team for representing us at PatCon24. Here's to the



## 10 Year Milestones

Laura Acker  
Valeria Aguayo Muniz  
Sandra Aguilar de Bardmess  
Cathy Ahiyite  
Teo Andrade  
Iris Anthony  
Ana Cristina Aristizabal  
Alicia Barce  
Rachel Bardwell  
Tina Barnes  
Angelique Bey  
Robbyn Bowman  
Wanda Bradford Corney  
Maha Braish  
Randi Braun  
Aisha Brown  
Solange Burgio  
Catherine Candela  
Maria Carrillo  
Connie Chidester  
Nick Corsi  
Kimberly Cowsette  
Bethany Czepukaitis  
Adelaida Darling  
Crystal Davis  
Kathleen Davis  
Marilyn de la Ossa  
Araceli Diaz

Troy Ellison  
Elvira Felix de Cecena  
Ana Fregoso  
Erica Garcia  
Martha Gilbertson  
Jaclyn Gray  
Constance Gully  
Lorena Gutierrez  
Leigh Hall  
Jamie Hensley  
Maribel Hernandez  
Griselda Hernandez  
Kristen Holloway  
Tammy House  
Lori Hume  
Maria Hurtado  
Danielle Jackson  
Michelle Janosko  
Sophia JieHong Jiang  
Jani Johnson  
Shadana Jones  
Jo-Viviane Jones  
Marena Keys  
Heidi Kranz  
JayCie Langan  
Dietra Lee  
Vanessa LePino  
Rebeca Liriano

Irma Marquez  
Silvia Martinez  
Violeta McKean  
Rebecca Medrano  
Minerva Mendoza  
Blanca Menendez  
David Miller  
Annabelle Miller  
Barbara Moffitt  
Jennifer Mong  
Jennifer Monteforte  
Laura Morgado  
Rosebelle Nelson  
Noel Norris  
Mary Norwood  
Anabel Ocegüera  
Faviela Parrilla Algarin  
Taiwana Pettiford  
Amparo Plaza  
Aleska Queijeiro  
Victoria Ramirez  
Questie Reams  
Cassandra Reeves  
Michelle Rehm  
Krystal Reyna Grubjesic  
Marilyn Rodriguez  
Pamela Rose  
Lakeeshia Sandlin

Sandra Santamaria  
Sarah Shabazz  
Beverly Simpson  
Ashley Steed  
Susan Stroemel  
Jennifer Sykes  
Kuna Tavalin  
Erika Torres  
Cami Trekell  
Claudia Trujillo  
Melissa Udovich  
Esther Vasquez  
Blanca Velgara  
Vanessa Villegas  
Diane Vincent  
Stephany Walker  
Keisha Willis  
Delorse Woods





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## Congratulations to Ruby Hernandez of Kids Korner Daycare!

We're proud to announce that Kids Korner Daycare, led by Child Care Home Provider Ruby Hernandez, has earned a 3-star rating from Colorado Shines! This rating reflects Ruby's dedication to a safe, high-quality learning environment, skilled and caring staff, and meaningful family partnerships.

Thank you, Ruby, for your commitment to excellence in early childhood education and for creating a nurturing space for our community's children!

*Congratulations*

*Ruby Hernandez*



**KIDS KORNER  
DAY CARE!!**

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**Staff Spotlight: A Memorable October Staff Meeting  
with Erin Ramsey**





The Early Childhood Council of SLV was thrilled to welcome Erin Ramsey as our guest speaker at our October staff meeting!

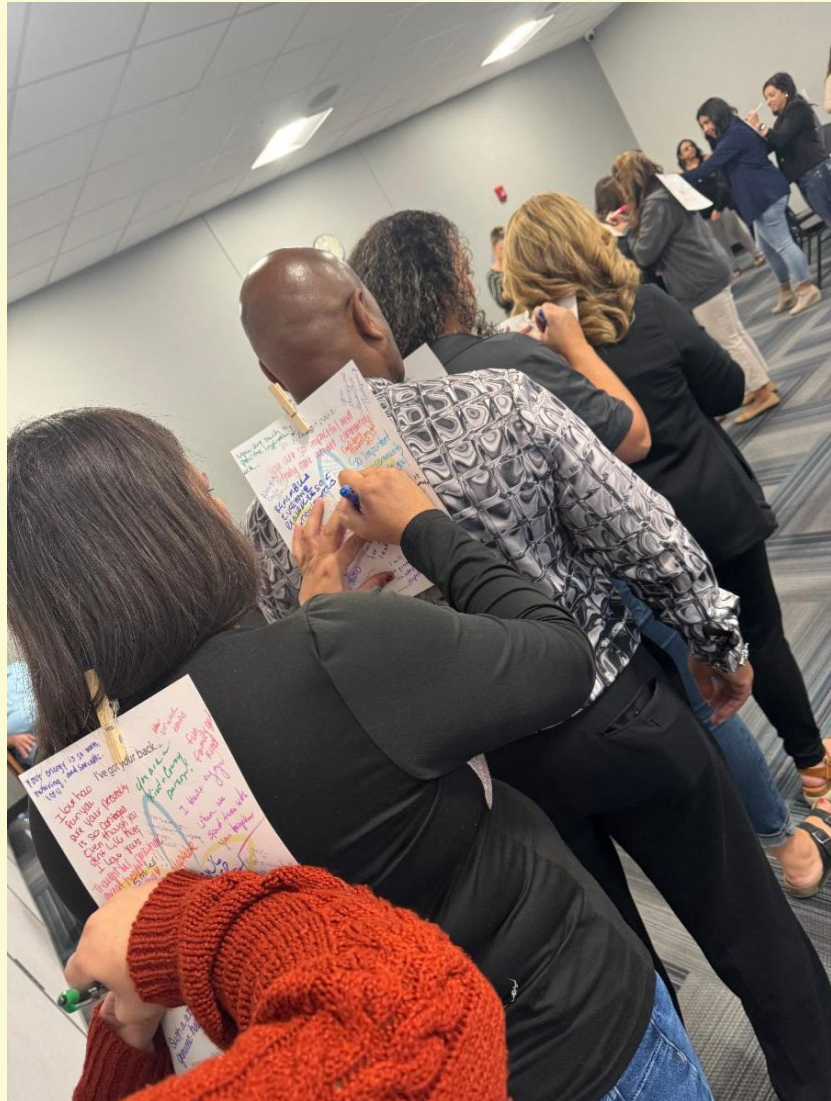
Erin brought an abundance of energy, insight, and positivity that left an inspiring impact on our entire team. Traveling to be with us, she graciously shared her time and wisdom, igniting our spirits and reminding us of the profound impact of our work.

One of the highlights of Erin's session was an uplifting activity she led, called "I Got Your Back." Each staff member pinned a piece of paper to their back and spent time mingling, giving everyone a chance to write down qualities they love about each other. As the activity wrapped up, reading those heartfelt notes was an incredibly rewarding experience, helping us recognize the support and admiration within our team. It's easy to forget, but taking a moment to acknowledge each other's strengths and contributions gave us a boost in morale, leaving us all feeling valued and appreciated.

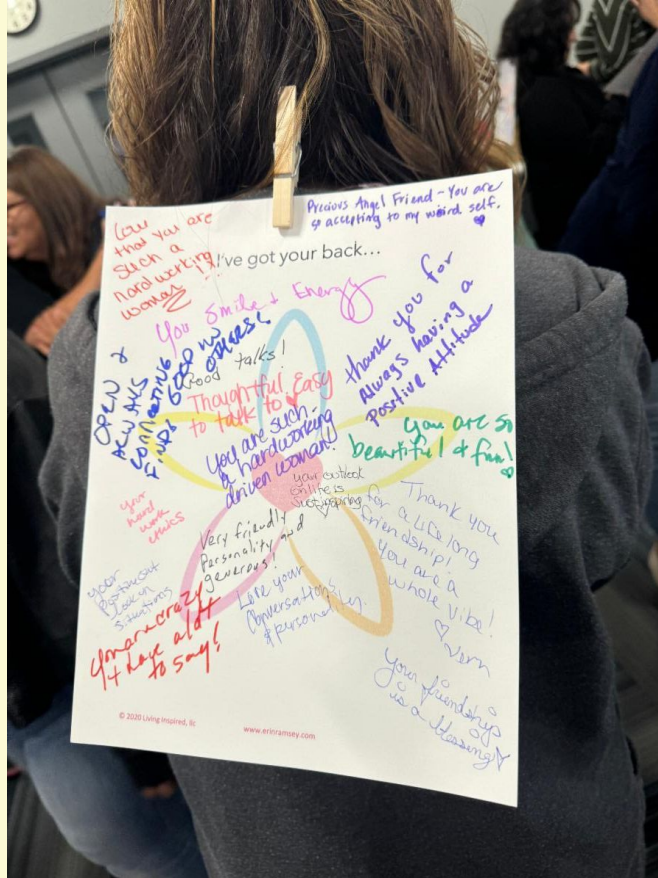
The room was filled with positivity and genuine camaraderie—reminding us that, no matter the challenges, we've always got each other's backs.

Erin's presentation made us think bigger about our work and our lives, sparking a renewed sense of joy and abundance. For those interested in bringing Erin's unique approach to positivity and growth to their own lives or workplace, check out her website: [erinramsey.com](http://erinramsey.com).

Erin has a gift for helping individuals and organizations find joy in the journey, something we were so grateful to experience firsthand. Thank you, Erin, for your time, kindness, and motivation!







## Boys and Girls Club of the SLV-Early Childhood Learning Center

There is a critical deficit in childcare availability in our community.

The number of children under the age of six with all parents in the workforce has increased significantly in the past two decades, especially in Alamosa, Costilla and Rio Grande Counties.

We hope to change that with this first step in creating a new era in early childhood learning in the San Luis Valley.

This state-of-the-art child care facility will be built on the BGCSLV campus to serve up to 160 children, ages 0-6. The design features 17,608 sq. ft. including Flex Space for dynamic learning needs, and observation rooms for immersive student

teaching experiences and caregiver monitoring that doesn't disrupt the learning environment. When open, the child care center will create a minimum of 40 jobs earning a livable wage.

Click [here](#) for the informational brochure.

## Alamosa Program Site

After School Hours 2024-2025

Monday - Thursday

3:00pm - 7:00pm

Friday

7:30am - 5:30pm

CLOSED

Saturday & Sunday

Fall Starts August 8th!

**\$10/month per Child**  
During School Year



## October Event Recap: Trunk or Treat Success!

Our annual Trunk or Treat event was a fantastic success,

thanks to everyone who came out to celebrate!

The festive atmosphere, spooky trunks, and costumed kiddos made this Halloween one for the books. From creepy creatures to friendly ghosts, each trunk was packed with creativity and Halloween spirit, ensuring every child left with a bag full of candy and a heart full of Halloween memories.

A huge thank you to our amazing vendors who set up, decorated their trunks, and handed out treats to make the day memorable and safe. Your dedication to creating a joyful and festive experience for our families and community is truly appreciated. We couldn't have done it without you!

Here's to another successful Trunk or Treat, and we look forward to next year's festivities! ☐



































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## The Rio Grande Hospital would like your opinion!

You're invited to a free dinner where you can share your ideas and take a quick survey! Your thoughts will help us understand what health needs are most important to you and how we can better address them. Check out all the details in the flyer! You can also give your opinion by simply clicking the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rgh2024chna>





RioGrandeHospital.org

# We'd Love to Get **YOUR FEEDBACK**

*The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is the ongoing process by which our hospital evaluates the health needs of the communities we serve. As a nonprofit hospital, we are committed to conducting a CHNA at least every three years and implementing strategies to address priority needs, reaffirming our dedication to serving the community.*

*Your input is valuable for identifying and prioritizing our community's health needs. We will then develop implementation strategies to address health needs, involving stakeholders with public health knowledge and expertise, as well as leaders, representatives, or members of medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations in the community.*



**Thursday 10/10/24**  
**Thursday 11/14 /24**  
**Thursday 12/12/24**

5:30pm complimentary dinner  
6:00pm CHNA session  
Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center  
310D County Road 14, Del Norte, CO 81132

**[surveymonkey.com/r/RGH2024CHNA](https://surveymonkey.com/r/RGH2024CHNA)**

For more information, email [WeCare@RioGrandeHospital.net](mailto:WeCare@RioGrandeHospital.net) or call 719-657-3883

## Join us in recognizing National Adoption Day!

November 22nd 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m at the Alamosa Combined Courts 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101

Please join the 12th Judicial District in recognizing recent families in our communities who have welcomed new additions to their home through the adoption process. A short ceremony will be followed by food and fun for all who come. This event is open to all communities and partners in the Valley.



JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING  
**NATIONAL  
ADOPTION DAY!**

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**UNIVERSAL  
PRESCHOOL**



**UPDATE**



**COLORADO**  
Department of Early Childhood

## UPK NEWS

Happy November!

The 25-26 school year UPK Calendar has been released. Below is a more detailed breakdown of the timeline for the 2025-26 school year, with the provider participation process commencing in the Fall of 2024.

## Provider Seat & Program Set Up Dates

- October 15 - November 8: Program setup forms uploaded to the Provider Portal. Forms entered anytime after November 8 will be uploaded at the beginning of the new year (January 2025).
- Feb 4 - Feb 9: Providers can adjust the number of seats and program through the provider portal in preparation for matching rounds.

### Pre-Registration:

- December 17 - February 3: Pre-registration application window for families requesting Continuity of Care placements, sibling attending or child of employee.
- December 17 - February 3: Providers will receive matches each day for eligible family registrations, and will be able to accept or decline placements.
- February 3 - 10: Families must accept pre-registration matches.

### Family Matching:

- December 17 - February 5: Registration through [upk.Colorado.gov](http://upk.Colorado.gov) opens for families.
- February 10: First family-to-provider matching round runs.
- February 12 - February 21: Providers review and accept or decline matches.
- February 24: Families notified of first round matches. Families must accept or decline by March 3.
- March 10: Second matching round runs.
- March 12 - March 21: Providers review and accept or decline matches.
- March 24: Families notified of second round matches. Families must accept or decline by March 31

### Non-IEP Direct Enrollment:

- April 1 until the end of the 2025–26 school year: Direct enrollment for non-IEP families directly through providers.

### IEP Direct Placement:



- March through the end of the 2025–26 school year: Special Education Administrative Units (AUs) and school districts will request placement of students in accordance with their IEPs and CDEC will support direct upload of those identified placements. Providers will accept matches within 2 weeks of receiving a match; families will have until the start of the school year to accept matches.

### December through the end of the 2025-26 school year:

As soon as a family submits their application and is assigned to an AU, the AU can place the student into a program using the Program ID through the AU Portal.

If you have any questions please reach out!

[Lcoresource@eccslv.org](mailto:Lcoresource@eccslv.org)

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## Coaching

ExchangeEveryDay

Free Resource of Early Childhood Inspiration and News

EED Classic: Infants and Toddlers as Scientists

The most interesting thing about babies is that they are so enormously interested; the most wonderful thing about them is their infinite capacity for wonder.

– *Alison Gopnik, [The Scientist in the Crib: What Early Learning Tells Us About the Mind](#)*

*This ExchangeEveryDay Classic, originally published June 13, 2002, quotes Judith Leipzig in an intriguing chapter to **The Wonder of It: Exploring How the World Works**, called "Supporting the Development of a Scientific Mind in Infants and Toddlers." While our phones may have surpassed TV commercials as interrupters, the rest remains relevant today: There is a special kind of focus that scientists bring to bear upon the subject of their investigations. This is an intense beam of interest, an absorption which cannot be deterred by the enticements of less important activities. We have an image of the serious scientist working in her lab into the wee hours of the*

morning, absorbed in her work in a way that makes her disregard all else.

This ability to concentrate on a matter of interest is, in part, something that many babies are born with. Babies are paradoxical—on the one hand, much of their learning is global and undifferentiated, but on the other hand, it is an incredibly minute examination of experience. How many adults would not only notice, but also explore, the variations of feeling when brushing up against blanket edge and blanket middle? It is the rare adult who would display the impressive ability to become involved in a question that the toddler shows when he pushes a chair back and forth from one side of the room to the other, while he learns about space and movement, and himself and more.

Adults can either assist children in developing their concentration further, or we can teach them to derail their trains of thought in mid-journey in much the same way that television commercials interrupt our absorbed experience of a story and program our minds to expect these breaks from cognitive engagement.

In this area, one of the important things that teachers can think about is learning the skill of watching and waiting. It's important for adults to recognize when not to interrupt as a baby crawls in and out of a box on the floor repeatedly, or a toddler concentrates for a full five minutes on sponging off an already clean table. Children need time to process their experience, so if they continue to look absorbed, we can know that they are still working on learning and integrating information. They also need the time to gain a sense of completion in the task. When possible, a teacher should think about whether that baby really needs her diaper changed this very minute, if it's absolutely necessary to go to the store right now, or if the adult can honor the child's absorption for a little while longer.

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## Winter Car Seat Safety

### WHY CAN'T I USE A WINTER COAT IN A CAR SEAT?

During a crash all the material of a bulky winter coat or those comfy thick sleeping bag like aftermarket products or other bundling products will **compress making the harness straps too loose** on the child. When the harness straps are not snug on the child, they don't do their job of helping the child come to a *gentle* stop during a crash. It's possible the straps could even be so loose the child could slip through the straps and come out of the child restraint, definitely not a good situation. Also, as the car warms up, the kids can start to overheat if they have all these warm materials between them and the harness straps which they can't remove.

### SO, WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO AS THEY ARE RUNNING OUT THE DOOR ON THOSE COLD WINTER MORNINGS?

#### *For infants:*

- Dress the infant as if they were going to be indoors.
- If using a carrier style car seat, put them in and secure the harness straps nice and snug (remember if you can pinch the harness strap together between your thumb and finger it's too loose).
- Top them off with a hat and some blankets over the top of the harness straps and carry baby out to the car.
- As the car warms up you can remove blankets and replace them over the baby when you arrive at your destination.

This also helps ensure the baby doesn't get overheated.

- Car seat in the car? Wrap the baby in a blanket for the walk from house to car. Unwrap the baby and harness the baby correctly in the car seat. Use the still warm blanket over them till the car warms up.

*For toddlers and preschoolers:*

- Dress the child comfortably and put on their coat and hat for their walk out to the car.
- Take off the coat and buckle the child snugly in the harness straps.
- Put the coat on over the child. They can put their arms in the sleeves backwards. Or use blankets.

In general, do not dress a child in anything thicker than a sweatshirt or fleece jacket or sleeper. Cover hands, feet and head in colder weather. In our ever-changing Colorado weather, keep an extra baby blanket in the car to add a layer of warmth OVER the properly harnessed child, and take off as the car warms up.



**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.

## Office of Head Start updates

Explore content posted to the [Early Childhood Learning and](#)



Knowledge Center (ECLKC) These email announcements and resources are helpful for Head Start programs and other early childhood staff. Find information and tools related to your work with the children and families you support daily. Select the links below to get started. Use the Español button on each ECLKC page to see its Spanish translation.

### News from the Office of Head Start

- ACF-OHS-IM-24-03 Affirming the Use of Indigenous Knowledge to Meet Curricula and Assessment Requirements in American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start Programs
- Available in Spanish (español)
- Celebrate Head Start Awareness Month with the Office of Head Start! (email)
- Available in Spanish (español)
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Head Start Monitoring Protocols
- Head Start Awareness Month (video)
- Nurturing the Promise: Final Rule Webinar Recordings (email)
- Updates to the Performance Standards: Nurturing the Promise (video)
- #GetaHeadStart Community Partnerships (email)

## Training and Technical Assistance Resources

### Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

- Needs Assessment Survey for Supporting Infants and Toddlers (email)
- Available in Spanish (español)

### Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety

- Head Start Programs, Indigenous Families, and Addiction (video)

### Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

- Engaging Parents with Disabilities and Learning Differences (email)
  - Goal Setting with Families Course (email)
-

# Professional Development

## Large Center Director Qualifications

### November 2024 TAP Upcoming Events

Upcoming Live Virtual and In-Person Training Events Following are upcoming virtual and in-person instructor-led training events recognized through the Colorado Shines Training Alignment Process (TAP). Certificates will be available through your Colorado Shines PDIS account after the training event.

Highlights include several social/emotional sessions:

- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health: Do You Make a Difference? – Clayton Early Learning
- Calming Chaos by Promoting Positive Behavior – Congenial Consulting
- Managing Classroom Challenges: Utilizing the Behavior Escalation Cycle & Support Planning – Colorado Early Childhood Mental Health Support Line

Plus other opportunities supporting teaching practices, cultural sensitivity, health, quality improvement, coaching, and more!

[The Happiest Preschool: How to Foster Playful Learning and a Curious, Cooperative, and Joyful Classroom by Martha Heineman Pieper and Kelly Perez](#)

November 7, 2024

**REGISTER NOW**

&gt;&gt;&gt;NEW&lt;&lt;&lt;

[The Child Care Data Gap Challenge: Transforming Vacancy Data from Manual to Real-Time, by Laura Weeldreyer](#)

November 13, 2024

**REGISTER NOW**

[Evidence-Based Protocols for Effective Staff Supervision in Early Childhood, by Ashley Varouhas, M.A.](#)

November 14, 2024

**REGISTER NOW**

[Pedagogy of Care for Infants and Toddlers, by Nellie Hodda and](#)



[Kristy Thomas](#)

November 20, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[Teaching Critical Thinking About TV, Videos, Online Games, and Apps in Early Childhood, by Faith Rogow, Ph.D.](#)

December 4, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[Coaching Home Visitors: A Parallel Process to Nurture Hope and Growth](#)

December 11, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

>>>NEW<<<

[Measuring Classroom Equity to Drive Quality Improvement, by Stephanie Curenton, Ph.D.](#)

December 12, 2024

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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Click here to view Upcoming Live Virtual and In-Person Training Events

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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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