



October 1st, 2024

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## Pauline Palacios Retires: Honoring 20 Years of Dedication to Early Childhood Education

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Pauline Palacios, Parent Educator with the ECC SLV Parents As Teachers program, on her well-deserved retirement!



Pauline has dedicated nearly two decades to Early Childhood Education, with the last 6 years of her inspiring career spent at the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley. Pauline joined our team in April 2018, and since then, her impact has been nothing short of remarkable. Over the years, she has touched the lives of countless families and children with her dedication and care. Pauline has successfully supported 99 families, completing an impressive 2,922

home visits along the way! Her commitment to fostering community connections is equally commendable, as she has played a key role in facilitating 52 group connections. Her contributions have truly made a lasting difference.

As Pauline embarks on this exciting new chapter, we wish her many blessings and endless joy.

Thank you, Pauline, for your unwavering commitment to nurturing and supporting children and families across the San Luis Valley. Your impact will be felt for years to come!

We will miss you!





## The 2024 Pyramid Model Champion Award Recipient

We are excited to announce that the [Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley \(ECC SLV\)](#) is the recipient of the 2024 Colorado Pyramid Model Champion Award!

Since 2007, ECC SLV has been making a big difference in early childhood education in their region by using the Pyramid Model to improve outcomes for children, teachers, and families. 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.

Join us at the [2024 Pyramid Summit](#) on October 15, 2024, where we will present ECC SLV with the Pyramid Champion Award! You will also have the opportunity to hear more about their incredible work during their session at the Summit, where they will share their experiences and lessons learned from their STANCE project.

## Annual Trunk or Treat Event

You are invited to come have a spooktacular time-  
Please join us for our Annual Trunk or Treat Event!

**Where:** Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley  
401 Santa Fe Ave Alamosa, Co 81101

**When:** Friday, October 25th

**Time:** 5:00PM - 7:30PM

\*\*Diapers will be handed out while supplies last\*\*



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## Coaching

What are 6 Active Supervision Strategies to keep children safe?

1. Set up the Environment
2. Position Staff
3. Scan and Count
4. Listen
5. Anticipate Children's Behavior
6. Engage and Redirect

Click [here](#) to read more about the 6 strategies to keep children

safe or scan the QR code below.



## Active Supervision

SIX STRATEGIES TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE



National Center on  
Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety

Everyone has a responsibility to keep children safe!

Scan here to learn more  
about Active Supervision.



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## Health and Safety

### School Preparedness-When Students or Staff are Sick

With fall officially here, so are fall illnesses like the flu, croup, RSV, and more. Keeping children who show signs of illness at home is the best way to stop the spread. Additionally, ensuring our children are up to date on their vaccines is an important preventive measure.

Schools can expect that children and staff will get sick during the school year. In a recent survey, more than two-thirds of children missed at least one day of school for illness or injury in the previous year, and about half of those students were absent 1-3 days ([National Survey for Child Health, 2022](#)).

When children or staff do become ill, schools can implement strategies to help slow the spread of infectious diseases including:

- Staying home when sick.
- Knowing when to return to school.
- Using personal protective equipment for staff caring for sick children.

Click [here](#) to read more about how to prevent the spread of illnesses.

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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.

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**Early Head Start Free  
Quality Child Care  
Services**

**NOW ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS  
for Rio Grande County and  
Center, CO!**

## 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:  
Saguache  
Costilla  
Alamosa  
Rio Grande

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

Click [Here](#) for interest form.

## Professional Development

- Upcoming Live Virtual and In-Person Training [Events](#)
- TEACH Colorado

The time to apply for TEACH's \$1,000 Fall Scholarship is here! **The deadline is December 31st!**

Here's what you'll need to do to submit your entry for this scholarship:

- Create your TEACH account
- Apply to an EPP
- Fill out the scholarship entry form

Apply by  
**Dec. 31**  
for **\$1,000**

TEACH  
.ORG

A young man with curly hair, wearing a red shirt, is smiling and looking at a tablet device. The background is blue with colorful wavy lines at the bottom.



Don't wait! Apply to a prep program today and [enter to win \\$1,000.](#)

- The TEACH Colorado Team

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



Devereux

Register for professional development

For more, visit our [Virtual Trainings Schedule](#) and our [Free](#)

## [Webinars Schedule.](#)

### Supporting Staff with DECA Program Implementation

*One webinar/month from  
October 2024-May 2025*

[See dates](#)

During this eight-part virtual training, participants will gain coaching skills, tips, and tools to guide other adults through the required steps of implementing the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) Program. The training will foster competencies in participants who, in turn, can use these newly learned skills to foster a culture of resilience.

Individual: \$329/person

Group of 2-3: \$299/person

Group of 4 or more: \$269/person

[Register](#)

*\*Registration closes September 29th\**

### Transforming Challenging Behavior: FLIP IT Train-the-Trainer Course

*October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2024  
12 p.m.-2 p.m. ET each day*

Learn how to train and support others on the FLIP IT strategy, a simple four-step process for transforming challenging behavior in young children, ages 3-8.

\$659/person

[Register](#)

*\*Registration closes September 30th\**

### Promoting Adult Resilience: Building Your Bounce Train-the-Trainer Course

*October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, and 19, 2024  
12 p.m.-2 p.m. ET each day*

Learn how to train and support other adults on the important topic of adult resilience and its impact on the resilience and

\$659/person

[Register](#)

# Transform Challenging Behavior: An Introduction to the FLIP IT Strategy

*October 17, 2024*

*1 p.m.-2 p.m. ET*

In this webinar, hear all about the creation of the FLIP IT strategy, which is designed to help young children (ages 3-8) learn about their feelings, gain self-control, and reduce challenging behavior.

Free

[Sign up](#)

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# Understanding Lead

Learn about lead and how to protect children



**Date: October 8, 2024**

**Time: 6:00-7:30 PM MDT**

**Join us for an online session on how you can help protect your community members from lead exposure!**

Receive professional development credit!

If you plan to request professional development credit through Colorado Shines, please provide us with same unique email you use for your PDIS log in.



**Sign up today!**

To register, scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone or visit: [bit.ly/MorganCountyLead](https://bit.ly/MorganCountyLead)



For more information, visit:

[epa.gov/lead/community-lead-awareness-sessions](https://epa.gov/lead/community-lead-awareness-sessions)



## Are you a Family Child Care Provider looking for insurance?

Here is some information you need to know!

There's basically two types of insurance coverage for FCCHs and their business:

1. Child Care Endorsement that is added to the homeowner's

policy. You MUST disclose that you have a home child care business to your homeowner's policy.

2. General and/or Professional liability that is completely separate from the homeowner's policy.

### **Insurance info we have discovered in our research**

1. From our research, it appears that State Farm (depending if it's a new or existing policy), American Family Insurance, and Farmers Insurance will add a child care endorsement to the homeowners policy that will cover either 6 children or the state allowed capacity on the provider's license. Most other insurance companies will limit the number of children to 4 on the child care endorsement or not offer homeowners insurance at all due to the child care business. This can create a dangerous situation. This is the issue we are hearing a lot about and are currently focusing on.

2. CAFCC is aware of two or three different insurance companies who underwrite general/professional liability policies for FCCHs. Assure, Markel (several companies use Markel as the underwriter), and Michelle Yardney with Farmers Insurance has an underwriter who is not Assure, but CAFCC is not sure of who the underwriter is.

Assure will only cover FCCHs who are state licensed.

Markel will consider license-exempt programs, but it is subject to underwriting approval.

CAFCC has not heard of any FCCHs having issues receiving coverage for general/professional liability from Assure or Markel.

### **General and/or Professional Insurance Options CAFCC is aware of:**

- **Assure** 1-855-818-5437 [www.assurechildcare.com](http://www.assurechildcare.com)
- **Markel** 1-888-515-8537 [www.markelchildcare.com](http://www.markelchildcare.com)
- **New England Insurance Services, Inc (Markel underwriter)** 1-888-845-8288 [www.neisinc.com](http://www.neisinc.com)
- **Child Care Insurance Professionals (Markel underwriter)** 1-888-812-9992
- **Farmers Insurance** (has a carrier that can write the Commercial GL for in Home Daycare operations - and it is not Assure) Michelle Yardeny 720-499-

## Family Childcare Home Providers

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

The application window opens on September 16th 2024, and closes on October 28<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Click [here](#) for more information.





## PDIS News

The PDIS has a new Income and Benefits Survey to collect information on the current state of compensation and benefits for the early childhood workforce in Colorado. CDEC is committed to supporting improved compensation for our workforce, and we need data to know how we are doing and to help us tailor the supports we provide

**Please complete the survey today: 50 early childhood professionals who complete the survey by September 30 will be randomly selected to receive a \$100 gift card.** You can access the survey using the blue 'Income & Benefits Survey' button at the top right of your PDIS Home Dashboard.

For more information about this survey, you can see [the FAQs page on the PDIS](#).

### Long Version

The PDIS has a new Income and Benefits Survey available to all members of the early childhood workforce in Colorado! This survey is meant to collect information on the current state of compensation, benefits, and social service usage for the early childhood workforce in our state.

## WHAT

- A brief and voluntary 11-question survey
- Open every year from May through September
- Asks about job roles, wages, annual income, benefits, and social service use
- Open to any PDIS user (including you!)

## WHY

- CDEC is committed to supporting improved compensation policy for our workforce, but we need data to know how we are doing and to help us tailor the supports we provide

**Please complete the survey today: 50 early childhood professionals who complete the survey by September 30 will be randomly selected to receive a \$100 gift card.** You can access the survey using the blue 'Income & Benefits Survey' button at the top right of your PDIS Home Dashboard. The more responses we get, the more helpful the data will be! Please complete the survey if you are able, and share this information with your network.

For more information about this survey, you can see [the FAQs page on the PDIS](#). If you have further questions, please reach out to the PDIS Help Desk at [cdec\\_pdishelp@state.co.us](mailto:cdec_pdishelp@state.co.us) or 844-447-4441.

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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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