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EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

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Every child can learn, play & succeed!

March 2024 Newsletter

Announcements

This month's feature provider is **Sterling Early Learning Center**. The center has been in operation since 2012 under Randy and Susie Stahley's leadership. **Jessie Hadeen** and husband Doug purchased the business and took over operations in June 2023. That is when Jessie became Director, following 18 years in the early childhood field. She spent 14 years teaching at Hagen Early Education Center, 2 years at Ayres as a Reading Interventionist, then found her way back to a preschool/childcare setting at SELC. She is so thankful for the opportunity to teach alongside some of the most incredible educators over her career, and is even more grateful that the Stahley's trusted her to take over after having built a solid reputation of serving, teaching, and growing alongside this community's children for many years. With Susie remaining as the Assistant Director, along with staff support, they feel very blessed. They serve around 75 families each year of children ages 2 1/2 to 12. They love the families they serve, and the relationships that begin when families entrust their precious children to them. They feel it is a great privilege to help influence the lives of children, and it truly takes everyone working together to influence a wonderful future. They feel honored to be part of the wonderful community here in NECO. Thank you so much Jessie and the entire staff at SELC! They are rated a 2 in CO Shines, but rate so much higher in the hearts of their families!

ECCLPS News

Have you ever thought about how great it would be to be able to stay home with your own young children, AND bring in income for your family? If so, ECCLPS is looking for YOU! Within our three counties, we are what is referred to as a child care desert - which means, there are not enough slots in childcare facilities to accommodate the number of children that need care. One way to address this issue is by helping people like you to start their own child care business. ECCLPS will assist you through the process, from submitting your licensing application to preparing you for your inspection. We will also help you to meet all of the training requirements, along with providing the 15 hour pre-licensing class at no cost to you. If you are interested, please reach out to [Stacey](#) or call 970-526-2440.

*DYK April 8th is the last solar eclipse we will experience in North America for 20 years? ECCLPS is purchasing eclipse glasses to provide an optimal viewing experience for our communities young children! Keep reading for solar activities that are minimal cost and will provide a memorable experience that will last a lifetime.

Noteworthy Items

Licensing Tidbits

1. There are new rules, please look [online](#) for them. They are mainly rule numbers but there are some minor changes. This does not include FCCH.
2. Speaking of FCCH, the new rules have been approved and will be effective on March 16, 2024. There are some new items, some rules were adjusted, and clean up and organization were addressed.
3. If you have not done a flag removal of past staff, please do so. If you need the form or a list of who is still on your account, email me and I can send that to you. We need to try and keep the records as clean as possible.

Email [Amee](#) or call 720-692-4678

*DYK that you can have your child's car safety seat checked any time? Has it been a while since you've had his/her seat inspected for safety and fit? You can call the Northeast Colorado Health Department and schedule an appointment. 970-522-3741

*We want to give a great big shout out to **Dragon's Wagon Preschool** in Holyoke! Director Marcia Walter and the entire teaching staff do great things for their community and the children in their care. They recently had a Colorado Shines re-review and were committed to maintaining their 4 rating. We proudly announce their success! Ratings have to be reviewed every 3 years, and they put a lot of hard work and effort into maintaining a 4! Way to go Dragon's Wagon!!!

Save the Date

March 2 - Medication Administration Training Parts 1 & 2

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM ECCLPS Office

March 2, 9, 16, 23

Motheread/Fatheread Classes

1:00 - 3:00 PM ECCLPS Office

100 Broadway Suite 14, Sterling
(Must have attended the February classes)

March 3 - 4-H Annual Chili Supper

4:30 - 7:00 PM Julesburg Fire Hall or Sedgwick Community Center

Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED

Saturday, March 23, 2024 and Saturday, April 27, 2024 at NJC Knowles Hall Room 312. Cost is \$89.00

Click [HERE](#) to register or reach out to Stacey Nelson directly at 970-521-6773.

March 25 - ECCLPS Partner Meeting

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM ECCLPS Office

100 Broadway Suite 14, Sterling

RSVP by March 18th to [Aileen](#) or attend via [Zoom](#)

March 25 - ECCLPS Professional Development Training

6:30 - 8:30 PM ECCLPS Office

In person or [Zoom](#)

[Logan County Events](#)

[Sedgwick County Events](#)

[Phillips County Events](#)

Dragon's Wagon staff

pictured left to right
Brenda Juarez, Marcia Walter, Rosa Olivas, Kristi Colglazier, Yemi Ruiz



Learning & Development

Professional Development - This month's Professional Development training will be presented by Licensing Specialist Amee Duncan.

Medication Administration Training with Julie Brower Saturday, March 2, 2024 9:00 - 1:00 Cost is \$25.00 (paid to Julie day of class). No scheduled lunch break, feel free to bring your own.

Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Saturday, March 23, 2024 and Saturday, April 27, 2024 at NJC Knowles Hall Room 312. Cost is \$89.00
Click [HERE](#) to register or reach out to Stacey Nelson directly at 970-521-6773. Classes fill up fast, so if you need this for your license, don't wait! (Bring your own lunch.)

Healthy Child Care CO [Training Calendar](#)

ECCLPS is offering new training opportunities. Inquire with [Stephanie](#) if you're interested or to learn more.

[FLIP IT](#) [Building Your Bounce](#)

Stephanie has tentatively rescheduled a **FLIP IT training** for April 13th. It will be a 7 hour class at the ECCLPS office. Watch your email for more information.

If you have information you would like us to share in our newsletters, please send to [Aileen](#) prior to the month you would like it to be featured. You can view past issues of our newsletters [HERE](#)

Please join us on **KPMX 105.7** the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM to stay up to date on what's happening at **ECCLPS**.

Partner News Links

[Wildwood](#)

[Chop-Chop Family](#)

[Baby Bear Hugs](#) - Scroll to bottom to subscribe

[Child Care Aware of America](#) - Scroll to bottom to subscribe

[DECC Newsletter](#) - Click to subscribe

[Green Child Magazine](#) - Click to subscribe

[Our Voice](#) - Subscribe

[CDE The SPARK Newsletters](#)

[ELV Newsletter](#)

[USDE Newsletter](#)

[Colorado Shines Brighter](#) - Subscribe

[Healthy Child Care Colorado](#) - Scroll to bottom to subscribe

[RMPBS](#) - [subscribe](#) or [view online](#) - scroll to bottom

[The Scoop](#) - New and past issues online (weekly publication)

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ECCLA [grants and scholarships](#)

CDE [scholarships](#)

CDHE [resources](#)

COAEYC [funding](#)

PDIS [funding](#)

UC Denver [funding](#)

Daniels Fund [scholarship](#)

NJC [scholarships](#)

Colorado Shines Improvement [funding](#)

[Growing Forward](#) scholarships, coursework

We're excited for the new **Childcare Read/ Motherread/Fatheread** books we've ordered to make the sessions even more fun! Please reach out to [Mary](#) if you would like to be a part of these programs.

Family Support and Education

[Circle of Parents Program](#)

The Circle of Parents program offers peer support groups for anyone in a parenting and/or caregiving role. Through free group sessions, participants are provided a safe, confidential, and non-judgmental space to discuss the successes and challenges of raising children, share ideas, resources, and support, and build their confidence, skills, and knowledge as caregivers.

[Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families](#)

The Partnership Family and Caregiver Space is a group of parents and caregivers working collaboratively across the state of Colorado to engage families in creating conditions that allow all families to thrive.

[Parenting Information Links](#)

General parenting information, broken down by category.

[Screen Time is Making Kids Moody, Crazy, and Lazy](#)

Kids may be given a mental health diagnosis such as major depression, bipolar disorder, or ADHD, when the problem is everyday electronic use.

[Hey Parents – Put Down Those Devices](#)

Seven ways reducing parental screen time makes managing kids' use easier.

[The Story of the Observer Child](#)

What the observer children are doing is decoding the play they see.

[Supporting Language and Literacy Skills from 0-12 Months](#)

The idea of babies and toddlers talking and reading can seem incredible, but language and literacy skills start early – from birth.

[Family Engagement and Family Literacy](#)

A duo for a strong school foundation.

[Parents, Are You Overindulging Your Kid?](#)

This 4-question test can help you find out.

[When Your Child Always Wants to Buy Something, Here's a Quick & Simple Fix](#)

Thanks to one simple parenting trick, you no longer have to expend Herculean effort to escape a store without a child whining or begging to buy something.

[101 Simple Ways to Lower Your Living Expenses](#)

This is not a one-size-fits-all solution, but consider it a starting point for conversation and self-reflection.

[Seeing Conscious Discipline in the Home](#)

Short webinar (30 minutes) introducing the MAP process – Model, Add Visuals, Ppractice. From morning routines, to cleaning their room, to keeping other rooms in the house clean and appropriate. This process can help children meet expectations without the need for yelling, nagging, or general irritation.

Child Health and Well-Being

Vestibular System: Bring Back Playground Equipment with a Little Danger

Toys with a little danger promote higher learning.

Playing Outside: Why It's Important for Kids

No matter what the weather brings, playing outside is good for kids, and we know that the more time a child spends in nature, the more likely they are to grow up to be good stewards of our planet.

Nature Play: A Prescription for Healthier Children

We've said it before, and we'll say it again – encourage your children to play outdoors!

How Time Outdoors Resets Circadian Rhythm and Improves Sleep

With busy schedules and more time spent looking at screens, kids are getting less quality sleep.

Why Ages 2-7 Matter So Much for Brain Development

Rich experiences – from play to the arts and relationships – fundamentally shape a young child's development.

How You Talk to Your Child Changes Their Brain

Studies reveal that it's *how* you talk to your child that really matters for their brain growth. (This is what [Lena](#) is all about! If you're a Home Provider, Child Care facility, or Preschool interested in participating in Lena, reach out to [Stephanie](#) or call 970-526-2440.)

Your Baby's Brain: If You Want to Build a Better Mind, Tell Stories

Reading, even talking, to a little one furiously directs neuron fibers to places in the brain where the magic of language, memory, and attention develop.

Seven Powers: Power of Unity

It's a fact that we are all affected by the thoughts and feelings of those around us. In addition, the quality of our relationships impact how we perceive the world.

Reclaim Your Power with Assertiveness

The assertive voice is not rude or loud. It is the voice of knowing. It tells children exactly what to do and paints a clear picture of what that looks like and how to be successful.

How Mindful Discipline Can Transform Your Family

It can be tricky to stay calm and choose more effective disciplinary approaches, but by taking a step back and being more mindful in our approach, we can have a more peaceful home and better relationships with our children.

Beach meditation for kids

Our minds are so creative and powerful that we can transport ourselves to any place we desire, just by imagining it. Even if you've never been to the beach, with the right words and a little imagination, you can visit any time you'd like.

As there are so many special occasions in March centered around math, science, literacy, and art, we thought we'd share some insightful articles on how they all tie together. Music is both art and science, and the loss of music in our schools would be truly devastating! It is the thing that brings us all together, and is one of the things that define our humanity. Support music education and STEAM in classrooms!

[Science is the Music of the intellect, and Music is the Science of the Heart](#)

Music is both an art and a science, and they are closely related. In children's brains, musical activity increases cognitive and motor skills.

[The Connection Between Music and Science](#)

Science is deeply ingrained in many aspect of the arts, especially music. This becomes clear when looking at music through the lens of STEM education.

[Exploring the Intriguing Relationship Between Music & Science](#)

Music and science dance in a constant exchange, each enriching the other in a beautiful, collaborative relationship that delves into the depths of human cognition, perception, and emotion. (Be sure to scroll down the web page to get the whole story.)

[Connections: Science & Music](#)

What do science and music have in common? More than you might think.

[The Future of Research: Merging Science with Music and Art](#)

Artists and composers are visual and sonic mathematicians who can map data in ways that others do not understand.

[Connecting Music, Art and Science for Increased Creativity and Topic Engagement](#)

The utilization of innovative and creative techniques can aid in making subjects accessible to students.

[When Music and Science Meet: From Music Therapy to Robot Artists](#)

While art is a powerful tool of popular science, music *is* science.

[Exploring the Connection Between Science and Music](#)

Science and music have a reputation for going hand in hand, but the synergy goes much deeper than their basis in patterns.

[The Role of Fine Arts and Music in STEM Careers](#)

Educators can tell you that the benefits of arts integration goes beyond the classroom and into academic careers.

[Music and Science: The Power of Music to Affect the Brain](#)

Music is a fundamental part of daily life.

Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

We hope you'll take some time to prepare your classes and students for the eclipse this year, as there will not be another solar eclipse for 20 years! To help you get started planning, here are many activities and explanations to help children understand what will be happening. It's also a great time to include some STEM/STEAM projects!

[Path of the Eclipse Across North America](#)

Map showing the path of the eclipse

[Eclipse Visibility for Denver](#)

Because this is for Denver, times will vary slightly for each county.

[Solar Eclipse Activities for Kids](#)

More related content to make it memorable.

[Arizona State University - NASA SCoPE](#)

Here are several low-cost activities to help explain what happens during an eclipse, and model it in a way many children can understand.

[STAR net](#)

Building solar eclipse viewers and other activities

[Exploratorium](#)

Index card viewer. This was my first experience with a solar eclipse, it still holds a place in my heart! You can expand on this by punching several holes in the card or even using a colander to view a tiny eclipse in each hole.

[Keep Your Eclipse Glasses to See the Sun's "Freckles"](#)

The kids can keep their glasses to view lots of other spectacular solar phenomenon.

[What is a Solar Eclipse?](#)

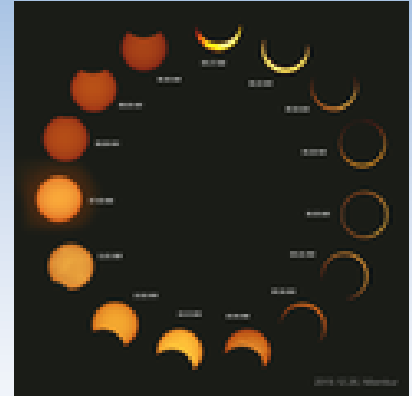
NASA's explanation of an eclipse, with great imagery.

[What is an Eclipse?](#)

This explains the difference between a lunar and a solar eclipse.

[Solar Eclipse Party and Activities](#)

Some fun eclipse themed snacks and activities that may provide inspiration.

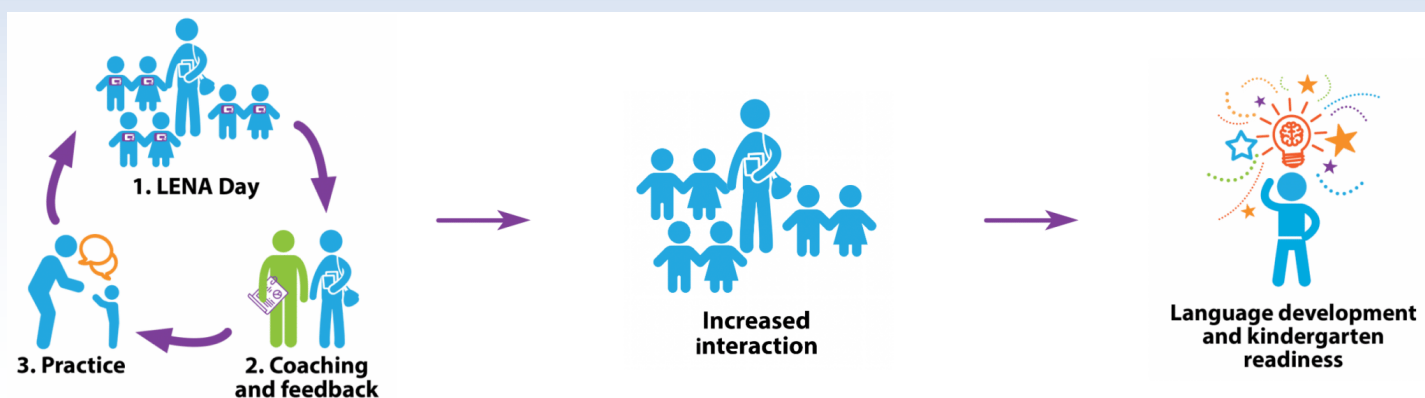


As an early childhood educator or child care provider, or even as a parent, have you heard of the amazing program called [Lena Grow](#)? Let's take a minute to learn about what Lena is, and the benefits.

Lena Grow delivers a single, straightforward, evidence-based solution to boosting children's language, literacy, and social-emotional development while improving both teacher satisfaction and classroom quality.

That solution: A laser focus on interactive talk – AKA conversational turns.

The coaching and feedback loop leads to an increase in interaction and a heightened sense of connectedness with the children. In turn, the children gain all the short- and long-term benefits associated with increased conversational turns.



Here is what one of our providers had to say about the use of Lena in her child care program:

"I love knowing that something as simple, entertaining and cheap as conversing WITH children can have such an impact on their brain development and future outcomes! The weekly reports and coaching make it easy to set doable language/conversational goals, both for each child and for the group. The kiddos love wearing their "Power Packs" every Monday and will be sad when Miss Stephanie needs them back."

--Gloria Bornhoft-Bergner

That is so wonderful Gloria, thank you for sharing!

Watch an amazing, and informative video on literacy and Lena [HERE](#) (It is a bit long, and you will have to input your email to stream it, but it's **so** worth the time if you are an educator, child care professional, or parent!)

If you are interested in your school, center, or FCCH being part of the Lena program, please reach out to [Stephanie](#).



T-PREP Funding Sources

Earn up to \$60,000 Dollars in Stipends and Grants When You Join the T-PREP Program through CU Denver

The Partnership for Rural Educator Preparation (T-PREP) Program is a unique and flexible program for tomorrow's teachers who are living and/or working in rural communities with a way to earn a four-year degree and teaching license without leaving home.

T-PREP staff will support you to qualify and access existing state and federal dollars to help pay for your program. This includes:

\$16,000 – **Federal TEACH Grant** – U.S. Department of Education

\$10,000 – **Educator Recruitment and Retention Program for Paraeducators** – Colorado Department of Education

Various Scholarships & Loan Forgiveness for Early Childhood Candidates - Colorado Department of Higher Education & T-PREP ECE Scholarship

Numerous Funding Sources for the Final Senior Professional Year of the Program Including:

- \$22,000 **Student Educator Stipends** – Colorado Department of Higher Education
- \$10,000 **Colorado Rural Teaching Fellowship** - Colorado Center for Rural Education
- \$4,000 **Colorado Rural Teaching Stipend** - Colorado Center for Rural Education

Sign up for more information and to connect with T-PREP staff



Learn More At: <https://sehd.link/TPREP-Funding>

Contact us at education@ucdenver.edu

Project Include

SUBJECT: Increase Inclusion in your Child Care Program - Project Include Kits are now available from ECCLPS!

[Project Include \(en español\)](#) offers all licensed child care programs in Colorado the opportunity to build more inclusive learning environments through simple modifications and adaptive equipment.

There is no cost or application to participate in Project Include – all Colorado licensed child care programs are eligible. Simply [fill out this interest form \(en español\)](#) to get started.

Interested programs will start by completing the *Introduction to Universal Design training on the Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (PDIS)*. After the training is complete, Project Include offers **Universal Design and Inclusion Kits** for programs to borrow and experiment with adaptive equipment. Each kit contains toys, tools, and materials that can be used to increase inclusion and participation by young children with delays and disabilities. The kits are focused on one of four developmental areas: **Communication & Literacy, Behavior & Cognition, Fine & Gross Motor, Vision & Hearing**.

We are excited to announce that Project Include's Universal Design and Inclusion Kits are now available to be borrowed directly from ECCLPS. After completion of the *Introduction to Universal Design training*, we will contact you with instructions for requesting your kit.

In addition, after programs have borrowed and explored at least one Universal Design & Inclusion Kit, they are eligible to receive customized coaching from our team of experts and free tools and materials to keep that will more permanently support inclusion of all children.

[Learn more and get started!](#) ([en español](#)). Contact Projectinclude@ucdenver.edu with questions.

This project is a partnership between the Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) and the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.



 Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE)
Project Include
Early Childhood Access through Adaptive Technology
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | AURARIA CAMPUS



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Every child can learn, play & succeed!



Praying Mantis (Mantid)



*They are large insects, often 2 – 3 inches long or more. Some species can reach a length of up to 18 inches! They are closely related to termites and cockroaches. They are found on every continent except Antarctica.

*There are more than 2,500 mantid species! They get their name from their legs, because they do appear to be praying.

*They are masters of camouflage, and can molt to change their color to better match their environment. Some look just like the plants where they hunt and reside. Examples are the orchid mantis, the conehead mantis, and the dead leaf mantis.

*They are carnivores and very beneficial insects in the garden! Common food items include insects (crickets, mites, mosquitoes, grasshoppers, and beetles), spiders, invertebrates, and will also eat small reptiles, amphibians, and small birds like hummingbirds. (Unfortunately they do not discriminate, and will eat beneficial insects as well.) They are not dangerous to humans, and even though they may bite if threatened, they are non-venomous, and the bite is rarely painful. Some of the creatures that prey on them include frogs, lizards, spiders, hornets, ants, birds, and bats.

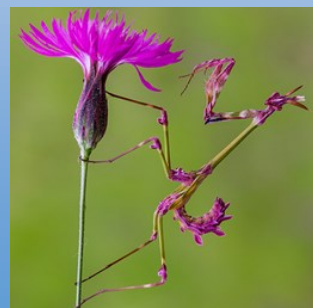
*They are able to turn their head 180 degrees, and are the only insect that can do so. They have excellent vision and can detect motion from as far as 60 feet away because they see in 3D. They have five eyes, 2 that face forward, and three smaller eyes that only detect light and motion. Some species also have one ear that is located on its abdomen, just in front of its hind legs.

*Some species engage in sexual cannibalism, where the female will bite off the male's head and consume it. The male will continue mating as it dies. (Other creatures that engage in this practice are some beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, scorpions, and spiders.) Once she lays her eggs, she dies soon after.

*Eggs are laid in a protective case, which provides a safe and secure environment for the eggs to develop and mature. Young are hatched in the spring once temperatures reach 75 – 80 degrees for at least 10 – 15 days.

*They begin eating right away, and molt several times before reaching adulthood over the summer.

Learn even more about them [here](#)



Holidays and Special Occasions in March

March 1 - [National Day of Unplugging](#)

March 2 - [Read Across America Day](#)

March 3 - [National Anthem Day](#)

March 3 - [World Wildlife Day](#)

March 6 - [Day of Memorial and Respect for Veterans](#)

March 8 - [National Preschooler's Day](#)

March 10 - [Daylight Savings](#)

March 14 - [National Children's Craft Day](#)

March 14 - [Science Education Day](#)

March 15 - [National Preschool Teachers Day](#)

March 17 - [St. Patrick's Day](#)

March 18 - [Global Recycling Day](#)

March 19 - [National Ag Day](#)

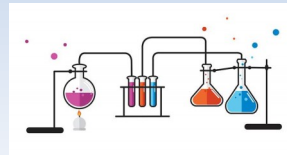
March 19 - [First Day of Spring](#)

March 20 - [March Equinox](#)

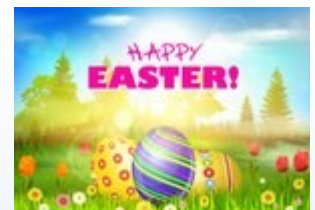
March 22 - [World Water Day](#)

March 23 - [World Math Day](#)

March 31 - [Easter](#)



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March 2 - 6 - [Read Across America Week](#)

March 2 - 10 - [Sea Week](#)

March 3 - 9 - [Teen Tech Week](#)

March 8 - 17 - [National Science and Engineering Week](#)

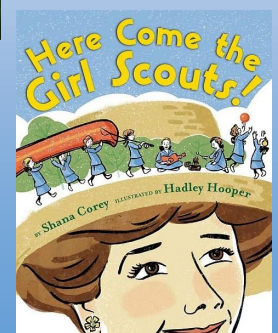
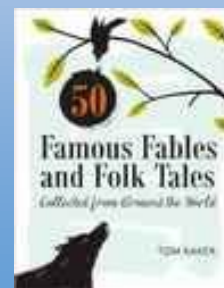
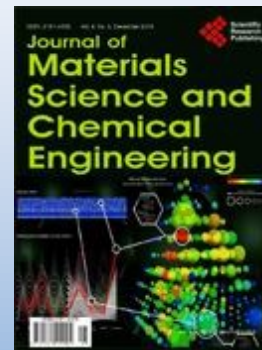
March 10 - 16 - [Girls Scout Week](#)

March 17 - 23 - [National Ag Week](#)

March 17 - 23 - [National Poison Prevention Week](#)

March 17 - 23 - [World Folktales & Fables Week](#)

March 18 - 24 - [International Teach Music Week](#)



Holidays and Special Occasions in March - cont.

March is

Expanding Girls' Horizons in Science and Engineering Month

Honor Society Awareness Month

National March Into Literacy Month

National Music in Our Schools Month

National Nutrition Month

National Reading Month

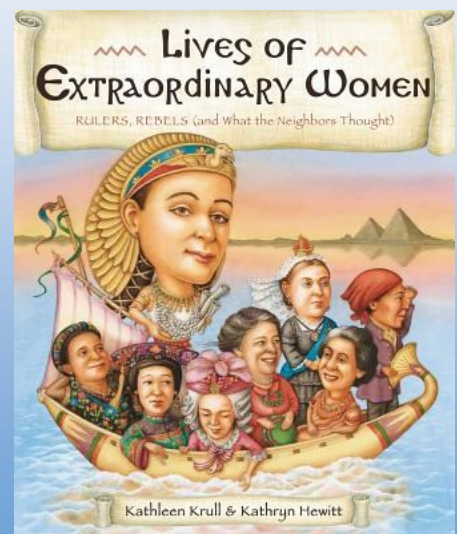
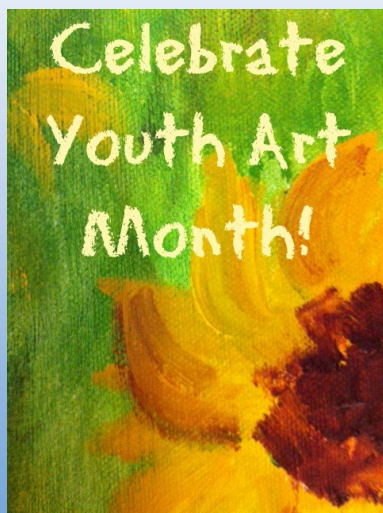
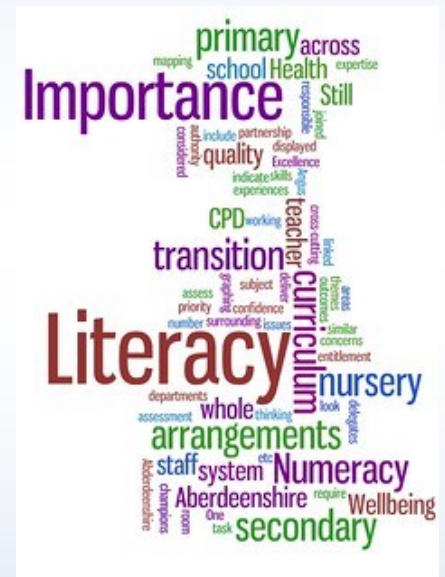
National Women's History Month

Poison Prevention Awareness Month

Sing With Your Child Month

Veggie Month

Youth Art Month



Any Time is a Great Time to Give Where You Live

ECCLPS

Accepts and appreciates donations through out the year!

If you would like to donate, please go to:

[ECCLPS Colorado Gives](#)

~ECCLPS TEAM~

<p>Stephanie Swenson Quality Support Coach <u>ecclps.edwards@gmail.com</u></p>	<p>Stacey Zink Coordinator <u>ecclps.zink@gmail.com</u></p>	<p>Michelle Sharp Executive Director <u>ecclps.sharp@gmail.com</u></p>
<p>Aileen Miranda Program Assistant <u>ecclps.miranda@gmail.com</u></p>	<p>Bailee Jones UPK Coordinator <u>ecclps.jones@gmail.com</u></p>	<p>Mary Pennock Child Read Coordinator <u>ecclps.pennock@gmail.com</u></p>

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00

ECCLPS Partner Meetings

4th Monday of the Month (September - May)

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM

ECCLPS Professional Development Trainings

4th Monday of the Month (September - May)

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Early Childhood Council Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick

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