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EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

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Every child can learn, play & succeed!

April 2024 Newsletter

Announcements

This month our featured provider is **Doree Gilbert** of **Doree's Daycare**. She opened her business in Sterling, in 1991, after moving from Gering, Nebraska. She chose to open her childcare business because she had three children at home and wanted to be home with them. She now serves eight families. She always said she would like to work out of her home when her kids went to school, and now she does exactly that. She loves providing childcare, and has watched many families through the years. Childcare is not just a job for her, it's so much more than that, it's a part of her life. She loves her kids and parents like family, and watching them grow up is such a fulfilling adventure. Providing childcare and spending time with the children is something she truly loves and she plans on doing so until she retires. We're so lucky to have her on board. Doree is rated a 2 in Colorado Shines, and strives to provide quality care for the families she serves each year. Thank you for all you do, Doree, we hope you'll be here for many years to come!

ECCLPS News

In April we wear blue. This is to show our support in preventing child abuse. Every year, April is child abuse prevention month, and you can show your support by wearing blue on April 5, 2024. You can also wear blue any day in April. Contact ECCLPS to get your child abuse prevention yard signs and display them all month (even all year) long. Display blue pinwheels in your yard, center, preschool, home, or anywhere to raise awareness. You can also download items from the Alliance for Children toolkit [HERE](#) and share them with your children.

Don't forget the **solar eclipse** on April 8th! We will host an event at Sterling Public Library from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. We will offer solar related activities, lunch, and make a pinhole camera to view the eclipse. This is the last eclipse in North America until 2044, so let's make it a fun, educational experience! This will also be our Week of the Young Child event for Logan County. We will host additional events in Phillips and Sedgwick counties as well. Watch our [Facebook](#) page for details.

Noteworthy Items

*Universal Preschool [Provider](#) Handbook 2024-2025 year is available

*Universal Preschool [Family](#) Handbook 2024-2025 year is available

[CDPHE](#) Document - How Sick is Too Sick When children and staff should stay home

*We haven't mentioned it in the newsletter for a while, but if you haven't signed up your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, etc. for [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#), you can get them enrolled and start receiving books NOW! Just click [HERE](#), then click "Check Availability", enter your zip code and complete the form online. It's so easy and just takes a couple of minutes to start getting books until their 5th birthday!

*Providers, Licensing Specialist Amee Duncan is currently training on the use of Early Learning Ventures (ELV), and is excited to utilize it. If you are a provider that uses this and would like her to use it for your program, please let her know. amee.duncan@state.co.us or call her at 720-692-4678

*Target's annual [car seat trade-in sale](#) is this month. If you are in the market for a new car seat, you may want to check this out! You can also view the [FAQs](#) so you know what to expect.

Parents - follow these 5 simple guidelines to keep your child safe in their car seat:

*Register your product.

*Follow instructions for proper installation, or reach out to the Health Department to make an appointment and get help. 970-522-3741

*Keep them rear facing until they reach the maximum requirement.

*Remove any heavy or loose fitting clothes.

*Avoid foods that can be a choking hazard.

Save the Date

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month
April 6-12 Week of the Young Child

April 8 - **Solar Eclipse Event - WOYC Sterling**
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Sterling Public Library

April 14 - **WOYC Movie Day - Phillips**
1:30 Doors open, 2:00 PM Movie starts
Peerless Theater in Holyoke

April 19 - **Safe Sitter Class - Holyoke**
8:30 AM - 2:00 PM Must be pre-registered
22505 Hwy 385, Event Center BOC Pavilion

April 20 - **Baby Bear Hugs Gala**
5:30 PM Riverview Golf Course Sterling
Click [HERE](#) to find out more

April 22 - **Safe Sitter Class - Sterling**
8:30 AM - 2:00 PM Must be pre-registered
100 Broadway Suite 14, Sterling

April 22 - **Earth Day** - Celebrate and Educate!

April 22 - **ECCLPS Partner Meeting**
11:50 AM - 12:50 PM ECCLPS Office
100 Broadway, Suite 14, Sterling
RSVP by April 16th to [Aileen](#) or attend via [Zoom](#)

April 22 - **ECCLPS Professional Development Training**
6:30 - 8:30 PM ECCLPS Office
In person or [Zoom](#)

April 27 - **WYOC Movie Day - Sedgwick**
1:30 Doors open, 2:00 PM Movie starts
Hippodrome Theater in Julesburg

May 3 - **Provider Appreciation Day Celebration**
Details coming soon!

July 19 - **ECCLPS Fundraiser at the Elks**
[Logan County Events](#)
[Sedgwick County Events](#)
[Phillips County Events](#)

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**.

Learning & Development

Professional Development - This month's Professional Development training will be presented on the new PDIS format and applying for credential info. Hybrid - in-person/zoom. Watch your email and our FB for more information.

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

Denver's Early Childhood Council is offering new Conscious Discipline Workshops! View and register for them [HERE](#)

Early Childhood Colorado Framework refresh has launched. View it [HERE](#)

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](#)

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](#) - 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)

[CDEC](#) - [subscribe](#) or [view online](#)

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ECCLA [grants and scholarships](#)

CDE [scholarships](#)

CDHE [resources](#)

COAEYC [funding](#)

PDIS [funding](#)

UC Denver [funding](#)

Daniels Fund [scholarship](#)

NJC [scholarships](#) [T-PREP](#)

[Growing Forward](#) scholarships, coursework

[CDEC](#) new grants see if you qualify - Applications open now

Family Support and Education

[How to Address Your Child's Technology Addiction](#)

Research shows that the physical structure of the brain actually changes with repeated experiences.

[Courage in Action: Teaching Young People to Stand Up!](#)

How do we encourage our young people to stand up? Model, teach, practice.

[Physical Therapy Guide to Container Baby Syndrome](#)

The best resolve to some of the issues carriers can create – make sure they get tummy time! (Be sure to keep scrolling to read the entire article.)

[What Children Need Most From Parents May Not Be Love](#)

By recognizing children's emotions, we contribute to the establishment of their secure emotional foundation. Understanding may be just as important as love.

[There's Absolutely Nothing Wrong with Raising a Mama's Boy](#)

If you suspect your son is a mama's boy, be thankful. He will most likely grow up happier, healthier, and more emotionally secure.

[Kindness Starts Within](#)

We all know how important kindness is, but do you really pause and think about how kind you are to yourself?

["I Don't Want to Be the Mom Who Yells"](#)

Parenting without yelling is a worthwhile goal. Here are some simple steps you can take to follow through on discipline without losing your cool.

[How to Stop Being an Angry Mom Right Now – Using 5 Hair Ties](#)

It's normal to feel like an angry mother sometimes. But if you're snapping at your kid more than you feel comfortable with, grab 5 hair ties and do this.

[Why Kids Need Chores to Be Successful in Life](#)

Study shows that young adults who started chores at age 3 or 4 were more likely to have good relationships with family and friends, to achieve academic and early career success and to be self-sufficient.

[How to Store Toys – Realistic Ideas That Actually Work](#)

The ideas in this post are cost-effective, realistic, and doable which is a bit different from the Pinterest-worthy toy organizations posts.

*Expecting or caring for a young child? Text **RMPBS** to **274448** to receive curated practical tips and activities to your cell phone. Information on development, language, early literacy, health and safety, behavioral tips, and more.

Child Health and Well-Being

[How to Teach Your Child to Wipe](#)

It's time to teach your child to wipe. It's part of kindergarten readiness, but how do you do it? Here's a great step by step post to achieve it.

[Baby Sleep Regression: What to Know and How to Cope, According to Experts](#)

Whether you're a first time or seasoned parent, it's good to know what baby sleep regression is and how to cope.

[Love Starts with Babies](#)

Five ways to love a baby.

[What's Play Got to Do with It?](#)

Understanding and encouraging toddler play.

[Healthy Childhood Development Through Outdoor Risky Play...](#)

Children engaged in free play are also building social and executive functioning skills that are critical for school readiness and lifelong achievement.

[Why Some Schools are Encouraging "Dangerous" Free Play for Learning](#)

Could it improve concentration, attention, self-confidence and decrease bullying?

[How to Get Kids Cleaning Up: 4 Tips to Try](#)

Read this post to learn about how clean-up looks from a kids perspective, and how to reframe it into something kids will actually help with.

[Plant a Garden for Imaginative Play](#) or [Make a Worm Observation Jar](#)

Try this fun, easy, inexpensive garden or observe worms and how they help the earth!

[50 Easy, Fun Toddler Activities](#)

Take the guesswork out of parenting and incorporate some of these easy activities into your day for a well-balanced toddler.

[Giving Children Vacations Instead of Toys Can Lead to Advanced Brain Development](#)

The memories from the special time you spend as a family will last far longer than your child's interest in the next plaything they receive.

[Top Tips for Green Travel with Kids](#)

Eco friendly travel with kids can be a fun adventure! Here's some amazing and doable ideas.

[Guided Meditation Script for Boosting the Immune System](#)

When our minds are stressed, so are our immune systems. This guided meditation for immune system and overall wellness can help find a balance.

Child Abuse Facts and Prevention

Child Abuse Prevention

Preventing child abuse is key to ensuring children grow up in a safe and secure environment where they can develop into healthy and happy adults.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child Abuse Prevention Month 2024 updates and toolkits.

Childhood Well-Being is a Community Issue

Here are some ways you can get involved to help prevent child abuse.

Child Abuse in Public Places

You can play an active role in ending child abuse. The key is speaking up. When you see or suspect child abuse, don't look the other way. If an adult is losing patience with a child, intervene, but keep it positive. It may help to de-escalate the situation for the child and the parent may realize that their behavior is not appropriate.

Child Abuse Prevention Resource Guide

Download the pdf.

50+ Ways to Help Families

One of the most effective ways to prevent child abuse is to strengthen families.

Child Abuse Facts

In 2021, approximately 1,820 children died from abuse and neglect. That is a 7.7 percent increase from 2017.

Younger children are the most vulnerable to death as the result of abuse and neglect. 66.2 percent are younger than 3 years old, 45.6 are younger than 1 year, boys have a higher child fatality rate than girls.

Of the children who died, 77.7 percent suffered neglect and 42.8 percent suffered physical abuse either exclusively or in combination with another maltreatment type.

29 states report that 7.6 percent of child fatalities had a caregiver with a risk factor of alcohol abuse and 35 states report that 22.4 percent of child fatalities had a caregiver with a risk factor of drug abuse.

Most perpetrators are caregivers of their victims. 80.3 percent of child fatalities involved parents acting alone, together, or with other individuals. 16.2 percent of fatalities did not have a known parental relationship to their perpetrator.

Child Abuse Facts and Prevention

In 2021 data shows that 76 percent (of reported cases) of victims are neglected, 16 percent are physically abused, 10.1 percent are sexually abused, and 0.2 percent are sex trafficked.

In 2021 data shows 49,194 infants in 49 states being referred to CPS agencies as infants with prenatal substance exposure, this included alcohol, legal and illegal drugs.

These statistics were gathered from this [SOURCE](#)

There are 4 types of child neglect

Physical – the child's basic needs are not met; they are not properly supervised or kept safe

Educational – parent or caregiver does not ensure their child is provided an education

Emotional – failure to meet a child's emotional needs and provide support, or permitting the child to use drugs or alcohol

Medical – failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment

There are 4 types of recognized domestic violence or abuse

Physical abuse – can include, but not limited to: assault, rough handling, scalding and burning, physical punishment, inappropriate restraint, isolation or confinement, sedation, withholding food or water

Sexual abuse – rape, inappropriate touch anywhere, non-consensual masturbation of either or both persons, non-consensual penetration or attempted penetration, any sexual activity that the person lacks the capacity to consent to, sexual photography or forced use of pornography or witnessing of sexual acts, indecent exposure

Psychological or Emotional abuse – enforced social isolation, immobility or leaving someone unattended when they need assistance, disallowing religious and cultural needs, failure to respect privacy, preventing stimulation, meaningful occupation or activities, intimidation, coercion, harassments or verbal abuse, threats of harm or abandonment (these are the most difficult to recognize because they often leave no physical signs)

Neglect – see above for recognized types of neglect

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, please call 844-CO-4-Kids (844-264-5437)

Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024

We added this page again, in case you missed it in March. 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.



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.



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Red Fox

*The red fox has the largest natural distribution of any land mammal except humans. In the Old World it ranges over virtually all of Europe, temperate Asia, and northern Africa. In the New World it inhabits most of North America. It was introduced to Australia, and has established itself throughout much of the continent.

*It has a coat of long guard hairs, soft fine underfur that is typically a rich reddish brown, often a white tipped tail, and black ears and legs. There are now many “mutant” strains so colors are varied. These mutations produce the Arctic and silver foxes.

*They are generally about 36-42 inches long, including the tail, stand about 16 inches high, and weigh about 10-15 pounds.

*Their preferred habitats are mixed landscapes, but they live in environments ranging from Arctic tundra to arid desert. They adapt well to human presence, thriving in areas with farmland and woods, and populations can be found in many large cities and suburbs.

*Their diet mainly consists of mice, voles, and rabbits, as well as eggs, fruit, and birds, but they will eat other available food such as carrion, grain, sunflower seeds, garbage, pet food, and domestic and wild poultry (chickens, ducks, geese, etc.).

*They mate in winter. After a gestation period of seven weeks, the female (vixen) gives birth to 1-10 or more (5 is average) pups (aka cubs or kits). Birth takes place in a den, which is commonly a burrow abandoned by another animal, then enlarged by the parent foxes.

*Kits remain in the den for about 5 weeks and are cared for by one or both parents throughout the summer. Young disperse in the fall, once they are fully grown and independent.

*It is hunted for sport and for its pelt, which is a mainstay of the fur trade. Fox pelts, especially silver, are commonly produced on fox farms, where they are raised until they are fully grown (about 10 months of age). Besides humans, predators of foxes include: coyotes, wolves, lynx, bears, badgers, and domestic dogs, but rarely do they actually eat the carcass. Most often predators kill other predators to protect their own food sources. Known predators that actually prey on foxes (usually kits and young) are golden eagles, owls, hawks, weasels, ermine, skunks, mink, and snakes.

*They are a primary carrier of rabies. Several countries have extensive culling and vaccination programs aimed at reducing the incidence of rabies in red foxes.

Sources [1](#) [2](#)



Holidays and Special Occasions in April

April 1 - [April Fool's Day](#)
 April 2 - [Children's Picture Book Day](#)
 April 2 - [National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day](#)
 April 3 - [Day of Hope](#)
 April 4 - [404 Day](#)
 April 4 - [School Librarian Day](#)
 April 5 - [National Self Care Day](#)
 April 5 - [Wear Blue Day](#)
 April 6 - [National Library Day](#)
 April 6 - [National Love Our Children Day](#)
 April 8 - [Solar Eclipse](#)
 April 10 - [Encourage a Young Writer Day](#)
 April 10 - [National Farm Animals Day](#)
 April 12 - [International Day for Street Children](#)
 April 15 - [Tax Day](#)
 April 17 - [International Bat Appreciation Day](#)
 April 20 - [National Kindergarten Day](#)
 April 22 - [Earth Day](#)
 April 23 - [World Book Day](#)
 April 27 - [Teach Children to Save Day](#)

April 1 – 7 – [Blue Ribbon Week](#)
 April 1 – 7 – [Medication Safety Week](#)
 April 5 – 9 – [National Wildlife Week](#)
 April 6 – 12 – [Week of the Young Child](#)
 April 7 – 13 – [National Library Week](#)
 April 22 – 26 – [Every Kid Healthy Week](#)
 April 22 – 29 – [National Infant Immunization Week](#)

April is
[Celebrate Diversity Month](#)
[Child Abuse Awareness Month](#)
[Children and Nature Awareness Month](#)
[Distracted Driving Awareness Month](#)
[Earth Month](#)
[Financial Literacy Month](#)
[Global Child Nutrition Month](#)
[National Alcohol Awareness Month](#)
[National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month](#)
[Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month](#)
[School Library 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~

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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

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