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EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

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Every child can learn, play & succeed!

February 2025 Newsletter

Announcements

ECCLPS News

The featured provider for February is **Julesburg Early Education Center**. The Center has been in operation for about 18 years, and they transitioned from a fully operational childcare center serving birth to preschool ages, to preschool age only about 10 years ago. **Tara Hansen** became the Director in the fall of 2018. Before becoming the Director, she was a lead teacher in a classroom. When the previous Director moved on, Tara was offered the position, having 9 years of experience in combined FCCH and the child care center. They serve roughly 16 to 20 families per year, with a capacity for 40 students ages 3 to 5. The program is housed within the local school district. Tara says she has greatly enjoyed the support they receive from the district in all aspects. Everything from supplies to staff education and professional development, they have always embraced the staff as part of the district. "As they embark on the Colorado Shines rating process, the support for the quest has been fabulous!", she states. In addition, being in the brand new state-of-the-art building provides their students with some of the very best opportunities in the classroom and beyond. Tara has a passion for the field of Early Childhood, and says the "aha" moments she gets to witness just can't be beat. We couldn't agree more, Tara!

We are so excited to report a fabulous turn out for the **2025 ECCLPS/NJC ECE Conference!** We had a total of 86 that registered to attend this year, and with the cooperation of the weather nearly everyone made it. We had several new attendees this year including those from Wiggins, Burlington, and Akron, as well as many of the childcare champions from our tri-county area. We had an exciting line up of presenters this year who spoke about how to build resilience in young children and their families, how we as a community can help support their journey and growth by offering empathetic responses, and how to recognize trauma, childhood delays, and the need for special services to help ensure that all children have the opportunity to thrive. We had a total of 16 vendors who brought information and products, and we were able open the vendors to the public for the second year. We did have several walk-ins who enjoyed shopping and browsing. Thank you to the community for your attendance and support. We were also fortunate to have Bailee Jones present, to field Colorado Universal Preschool Program questions and offer her services to those in attendance. Thank you Bailee! And a great big thank you to all of the Vendors, Presenters, Attendees, and to School Specialty for donating door prizes but was unable to attend, and to NJC for hosting the conference. See you next year!

Noteworthy Items

****You can use the QR Code below to enroll a child under 5 in the program, and also to donate to our program at any time. Or click www.imaginationlibrary.com**



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**.

[Logan County Events](#)
[Sedgwick County Events](#)
[Phillips County Events](#)
[KPMX 105.7](#)
[Media Logic Radio Events](#)

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

We would like to thank everyone who attended and presented at the 2025 ECCLPS/NJC ECE Conference. Also many thanks to NJC, Aladdin Campus Dining for providing meal services, our Vendors, and everyone who came in to shop with them. You all helped make this a great and well attended event with many learning opportunities!

Here's a friendly reminder that our Lending Library is stocked and you can check boxes out for your Family Child Care Home. Check out all the great things we have to offer!

[ECCLPS Lending Library](#)

You can get answers to your tax questions, help in tax preparation, answers about tax credits and more!

[HERE](#)

Save the Date

February 4 - **Cupcakes for a Cause**

Yuma High School

Yuma vs. Wray basketball game come show your support AND get cupcakes!

February 8 - **Annual Legacy Event**

Viva Las Vegas! Holyoke

For more info contact

mmhfoundation@pctelco.coop

February 12 - **Pay it Forward Raffle Drawing**

Sedgwick County Economic Development

Tickets on sale until February 11th and can be purchased at SCED Office

February 16 - **Annual Chocolate Affair**

109 S. Campbell Ave, Holyoke

1:30 PM No charge but free-will donation

February 17 - **Missoula Children's Theater**

Sedgwick County Community Center

7:00 PM Tickets \$5.00

February 22 - **Cavity Free Kids Event**

Julesburg Housing Authority

1:00 - 3:00 PM

February 24 - **ECCLPS Partner Meeting**

100 Broadway Suite 14, Sterling

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM [Zoom](#) link

February 24 - **ECCLPS Professional Development Training**

100 Broadway Suite 14, Sterling

6:30 - 8:30 PM

February 24, 25 - **Cavity Free Kids Event**

Sterling Public Library during Story Time

Contact [Andrea Brown](#) to get a free dental kit for your child under 5.

February 26, 27 - **Adventure Vision**

Providing eye exams and glasses to Fleming and Haxtun community

Appointment REQUIRED

Contact school office or email

nsmith@neboces.org

Learning & Development

Professional Development - TBA - Watch our [FB](#) page and keep an eye out for an email from ECCLPS.

[Drawing From the Reggio Emilia Approach: Inspiring Connection, Creativity, and Curiosity in the Classroom](#)

The Reggio Emilia approach to early education is a philosophy that values the child and embraces their individuality, creativity, and curiosity.

[He Didn't Learn to Read Until 12...](#)

If you have a child who learns differently, this might inspire you!

[How the Leash Chokes the Spirit](#)

An interesting perspective on "growing up" for today's children.

[Empathetic Sentence Starters for Teachers](#)

Learn how sentence starters can help you respond to your students with empathy. These are helpful at home and at school. Scroll down to read the whole article. There is even a one-page printable at the bottom.

[The Best Life Lessons from Toddlers](#)

TED Talks video

[Four Tax Questions Answered](#)

Tax questions regarding FCCHs you might find helpful.

From Licensing: Providers, make sure you are updating your policies and procedures and have copies available. I am happy to send a checklist if you need one. Policies should be updated as needed and provided to families at enrollment.

amee.duncan@state.co.us

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](#)
PDIS

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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

[Preschool Development Grant 0-5](#)

[FFN Grant](#)

Family Support and Education

Nurturing Emotional Intelligence in Sensory Sensitive Children when Emotions Run High

How much time do we spend teaching our children to identify their emotions and what triggers those emotions? Probably not enough.

Want to Raise Smart, Kind Kids? Science Says Do This Every Day

When it comes to raising smart kids who are kind, you need this powerful but simple habit. It's completely free, it takes just 10 or 15 minutes a day, and anyone can do it.

6 Tips for Helping Kids Understand Siblings Who Learn and Think Differently

Here are six things parents can do to help kids be more understanding of their siblings' challenges and differences.

Early Signs of Learning Challenges

Tips that young kids might need support to thrive. If you feel like one or more of these apply to your child, you can reach out to Eastern Colorado Services to schedule an appointment to have him or her assessed. 970-522-7121

10 Effective Ways to Teach Young Children about Emotions

If you work with or care for infants and toddlers, you play a major part in preparing them to identify, express, and manage their emotions.

The Science of Drawing and Memory

Want students to remember something? Ask them to draw it.

The Ways Librarians Inspire a Love of Books in Reluctant Readers

There are so many options available at the library, and it's the librarian's job to ensure that your child gets exactly the right book.

Music: A Multisensory Approach to Learning

Early childhood musical experiences are far more important than we imagine. Music is not just entertainment or recreation for young children. It can serve as a catalyst for learning.

Why Talking to Your Child Matters, and 5 Ways to Do it

When talking to your child, both the quantity and quality of speech matter.

9 Ways to Show Empathy When Your Child is Struggling

When your child misbehaves or struggles in school, it's not always easy to be empathetic. But showing that you understand and respect your child's needs can help build motivation and self-esteem. It also builds trust between the two of you.

Child Health and Well-Being

Rude, Mean, or Bullying? A Child Therapist Defines the Differences

A Timely message for parents and educators.

Making a Mess of Human Development: The Terrible Impact of Our Choices for Children

Today's children, many of whom are enrolled in school and centers from infancy, and who are leading highly scheduled, overprotected lives, are being denied the opportunity to properly develop their senses.

Jumping Off Rocks: Why Kids Need Outdoor Play to Thrive

Not only do children need way more movement than our sedentary society allows them, they need precisely the kind of movements that make adults gasp, if they are going to thrive.

Children *Must* Have Unsupervised Playtime to Develop Properly, Doctors Say

Doctors say that free play is necessary for a child to develop into a healthy and happy person.

Playful Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Children

With support from the LEGO Foundation, ZERO TO THREE created sets of handouts with playful, age-appropriate activities for children that are easy to do at home or just about anywhere. Each set is available in English and Spanish and is targeted to children of a specific age.

Risky Play and Its Benefits for Kids

Risky play is essential for children's development - social, emotional, mental and physical development.

To Medicate or Not?

The decision of whether or not to medicate a child diagnosed with ADHD, or anxiety, is a deeply personal and often fraught one for parents. This may offer insight for parents grappling with the issue.

Raising Engaged Learners

Research shows that many students are disengaged from school, feeling bored, overwhelmed, and struggling with the pressure to achieve. Disengagement is not about academics. It is really about raising curious kids who can thrive in whatever way is best for them, and in whatever uncertain world they are going to inherit.

Dancing Snowflakes Meditation

We can learn so much from nature. In this calming winter guided meditation, kids can compare the impermanence of snowflakes with problems or worries or even happy times.

White-Tailed Deer

The white-tailed deer cover a huge range from the Arctic Circle in western Canada to 18 degrees south of the Equator in Peru and Bolivia. It gets its name from the long white hair on the underside of the tail and rump. While this deer varies greatly in size, it changes little in its external appearance over its huge range. The body and antlers are largest in cold temperate climates and on productive agricultural soils but are small in the tropics, deserts, and on small islands. Large males (bucks) can stand as high as 42 inches at the shoulder and can weigh up to 400 pounds (typically 150 - 300 pounds). The smallest variety stands about 30 inches and weighs 50 pounds. Females (does) average a weight of 88 to 198 pounds in North America.

The white-tailed deer predates the Ice Ages and is the oldest [extant](#) deer species. It became abundant only after the last glaciation when the [indigenous](#) Ice Age fauna of the Americas became extinct and competitive and [predation](#) pressures were lifted. Its high speed in running, its legendary skills at hiding, and its ability to move silently reflect severe pressure from extinct American Ice Age predators.

During the mating season in November and December, much of the courtship is carried on at a run; many males try to keep up with the speedy female. Mating is quick and unceremonious. Females become territorial after giving birth. Gestation averages 202 days and twins are often born.

White-tailed deer may live apart from each other in summer but may form big herds in winter on open prairies or in forests. Numbers were greatly reduced in its range and abundance by unrestricted hunting, but by the mid-20th century, have been restored by game-management measures throughout North America. When populations aren't managed, severe damage of forestry and agriculture may occur, as well as high levels of collisions with cars and trucks. High upswing in dangerous transmissible diseases such as Lyme disease also occurs, and has seriously depleted populations of woodland caribou, moose, and elk, and have significantly affected livestock.

The deer's horizontally slit pupil allows for good night vision and color vision during the day. They process visual images at a much more rapid rate than humans and are better at detecting motion in low-light conditions. They have dichromatic (two-color) vision with blue and yellow primaries, humans have trichromatic vision. Thus, deer poorly distinguish the oranges and reds that stand out so well to humans. This makes it very convenient to use deer-hunter orange as a safety color on caps and clothing to avoid accidental shootings during hunting seasons.

These deer eat large amounts of food, commonly legumes and plants including shoots, leaves, cacti, prairie forbs, flowers, and grasses. They also eat acorns and other nuts, fruit and corn. Their multi-chambered stomachs allow them to eat things

White-Tailed Deer

such as mushrooms and poison ivy. Diets vary by season, but often include hay, white clover, and other farmyard findings. When additional amounts of minerals such as calcium are needed, they can resort to chewing on bones of dead animals. A grown deer can eat around 1 ton of vegetation annually. A population of around 8 deer per 20 square miles can start to destroy the forest environment in their foraging area.

The deer have several natural predators including wolves, cougars, alligators, jaguars, bobcats, Canada lynx, grizzly and American black bears, wolverines, and packs of coyotes. Of course, humans are the most effective predator of all. Many scavengers rely on deer as carrion, including vultures, raptors, foxes and other bird species.

These deer can run at speeds of 40 miles per hour and sustain 30 miles per hour over distances of 3 – 4 miles. They can jump 9 feet high and about 30 feet forward. This makes it almost impossible to fence them out of farms and orchards, and farmers can suffer economic damage from deer feeding on cash crops.

Sources [1](#) [2](#) Listen to the vocalizations of a [buck](#) and a [doe](#)



Holidays and Special Occasions in February

- February 1 – [G.I. Joe Day](#)
- February 1 – [National Freedom Day](#)
- February 1 – [Take Your Child to the Library Day](#)
- February 2 – [Groundhog Day](#)
- February 2 – [World Wetlands Day](#)
- February 3 – [Elmo's Birthday](#)
- February 3 – [Feed the Birds Day](#)
- February 3 – [National Missing Persons Day](#)
- February 3 – [The Day the Music Died](#)
- February 5 – [Western Monarch Day](#)
- February 5 – [World Read Aloud Day](#)
- February 7 – [Give Kids a Smile](#)
- February 8 – [National Boy Scout Day](#)
- February 9 – [Autism Sunday](#)
- February 9 – [Super Bowl Sunday](#)
- February 10 – [Children's Hospice Day](#)
- February 10 – [Teddy Day](#)
- February 11 – [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#)
- February 11 – [National Inventors' Day](#)
- February 13 – [Self-Love Day](#)
- February 14 – [International Book Giving Day](#)
- February 14 – [Library Lover's Day](#)
- February 14 – [National Black Literacy Day](#)
- February 14 – [Read to Your Child Day](#)
- February 14 – [Valentine's Day](#)
- February 15 – [International Childhood Cancer Day](#)
- February 17 – [National Random Acts of Kindness Day](#)
- February 17 – [Presidents' Day](#)
- February 23 – [Pinocchio Day](#)
- February 23 – [World Peace and Understanding Day](#)
- February 26 – [Tell a Fairy Tale Day](#)
- February 27 – [International Polar Bear Day](#)
- February 28 – [International Stand Up to Bullying Day](#)

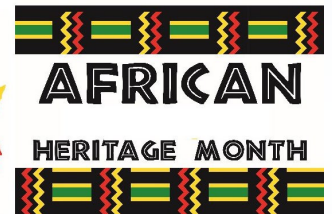


Holidays and Special Occasions in February

February 2 – 8 – [Boy Scout Anniversary Week](#)
February 7 – 14 – [Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week](#)
February 9 – 15 – [Children of Alcoholics Week](#) [NACoA](#)
February 14 – 21 – [Love Teaching Week](#)
February 14 – 20 – [Random Acts of Kindness Week](#)
February 15 – 22 – [National FFA Week](#)
February 24 – 28 – [America Saves Week](#)
February 24 – 27 – [Whooping Crane Festival](#)



February is
[African American Heritage Month](#)
[Financial Aid Awareness Month](#)
[Humpback Whale Awareness Month](#)
[Library Lovers Month](#)
[National Arts Month](#)
[National Bird Feeding Month](#)
[National Children's Dental Health Month](#)
[National Haiku Writing Month](#)
[National Parent Leadership Month](#)
[North American Inclusion Month](#)
[Responsible Pet Owners Month](#)
[Youth Leadership Month](#)



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.

Please forward this information to anyone who might be interested in participating!

Thank you for helping us spread the word,
The Project Include team and ECCLPS.



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Every child can learn, play & succeed!

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 9:00 - 4:00

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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