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1997



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

LOGAN - PHILLIPS - SEDGWICK

Every child can learn, play & succeed!

July 2025 Newsletter

Announcements

July's featured child care provider is **Revere Lil' Raiders** and Director **Janelle Doleshall**. Originally, the preschool was known as Janelle's Preschool, where she served as the Director for 25 years.

She partnered with the Revere School District and operated within their building. With the introduction of the Colorado Universal Preschool Program (UPK), she sold the preschool to the district, but continued her role as Director.

Janelle not only serves in the role of Director, but also Lead Teacher. On years when enrollment is high, she has an aide.

Today, they serve 15 - 20 families each year, welcoming children ages 3 to 5. One of the things Janelle loves most about the program is its small size, because they truly feel like a family. She gets to know each child personally, and together they create a warm, supportive classroom community.

It truly sounds like a warm, and inviting environment to attend preschool. Thank you Janelle, for your love and commitment to this wonderful field of Early Childhood Education.

ECCLPS News

We are so excited to report that our first ever **ECCLPS Duck Drop** in **Logan county** was a huge success! We sold a total of **740 ducks**, which were dropped from 50 feet, from the **Sterling Fire Department's** ladder truck. Three ducks stuck their landing in the target can, and each of them won \$100! Our winners were **Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Lisa Lockamy**, and **South Platte Auto Center**. We want to extend a very heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone who purchased a duck, to the **Fire Department**, and **NJC Young Farmers**, and the **pullers** themselves, for allowing us to drop during the tractor pull. The funds raised help support (in all three counties) our Early Childhood Champions, Pre-Licensing classes for anyone interested in becoming a licensed child care provider, our quality coaching support, professional development, as well as all of the community events we host each year, AND Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) in Logan county, because **kids who read succeed and kids who don't, don't!** We will be hosting the Duck Drop in Phillips and Sedgwick counties, and hope you'll be just as excited for those events as well. We appreciate your generosity, and can't thank you enough! If you would like to donate to the DPIL program at any time, please use the QR code on the next page. Your donation of \$32 covers the cost of one child for one year. Imagine the difference you can make for one child by giving just \$32!

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](#)

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

[ECCLPS Lending Library](#)

[Infants Plus Nature: The Perfect Equation for Joyful Learning](#)

Think babies are too young to go outside? Think again!

Have you heard of [LENA Grow](#)? This is such a wonderful program for early childhood educators, and the children in their care! The "back and forth" exchanges between young children and their caregivers is what helps build language skills, vocabulary, and early literacy, preparing them for school readiness. If you are interested in helping your children meet, and even surpass language skills needed for a lifetime of learning, please reach out to [Stephanie](#) or call 970-526-2440.

Save the Date

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - **Kids Art Spark**
Fleming Library 506 N Fremont Ave, Fleming
Activities each Wed. call for info **970-265-2046**

July 4 - **Fireworks**
Haxtun Park at dusk

July 4 - **Fireworks**
Sterling baseball field at dusk

July 4 - **Fireworks**
Holyoke City Park at dusk

July 4 - **Fireworks**
Sedgwick County Health Center at dusk

July 15, 16 - **Summer Mini Camps**
Centennial Park, Sedgwick
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Register [HERE](#)

July 17, 31 - **Thursday Night Out BBQ & More**
Stretesky Pavilion, Julesburg
5:30 - 7:00 PM

July 19 - **Haxtun Old Fashioned Saturday Night**
Downtown Haxtun
More [info](#)

July 22 - 27 - **Phillips County Fair**
Phillips County Fairgrounds
<https://phillipscountyfair.org/>

July 23 - 27 - **Sedgwick County Fair**
Sedgwick County Fairgrounds, Julesburg
<https://sedgwickcountycofair.com/>

July 24 - August 3 - **Logan County Fair**
Logan County Fairgrounds
<https://www.lcfair.org/>

July 25, 26 - [Elevate and Educate Summit](#)
3801 MLK Blvd, Denver
8:30 - 4:30 PM Agenda [DETAILS](#)
Registration [INFO](#)

Phillips and Sedgwick County Duck Drop info is coming!

Learning & Development

[Communicating Effectively with Children](#)

Rethinking Transitions and Circle Times.

Competence and confidence prepare teachers for effective intervention with the children, decreasing challenging behaviors.

[Incorporating Literacy and Math Skills in the Emergent Curriculum](#)

A director's thoughts on how to cultivate joyful, child-led learning.

[Four Dispositions to Help Early Childhood Educators Transform Their Practice](#)

Great educators do more than teach – they cultivate a way of being that shapes their interactions, decisions, and long-term impact. These small changes can strengthen relationships, deepen learning, and create a more fulfilling teaching experience.

[Why Every Kindergarten and First-Grade School Day Should Begin with Inquiry and Imaginative Play](#)

We must have a mindset shift in this country. A shift from seeing schools as buildings that children attend to understand reading, writing, math, and social sciences to schools as part of our communities where children develop understandings of the world around them and social-emotional skills that will help them thrive and communicate their ideas with others.

[Why Representation in Children's Books Matter](#)

Representation in children's books does more than reflect diverse appearances – it celebrates language, traditions, and the everyday experiences of our communities. It validates their experiences and helps them embrace their identity with confidence.

[The Benefits of Bringing the Natural World into Your Teaching](#)

Nature play activities can often incorporate imaginative play opportunities for children to play like animals and practice caretaking behaviors. This strengthens children's developing sense of empathy and models how they can participate in shaping and caring for the world around them.

Partner News Links

[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](#)

[Colorado Shines](#) - Subscribe

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

[RMPBS](#) - subscribe

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

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

[PDIS](#) - Petey's PDIS Newsletter

[Mealtime Memos](#) from CACFP

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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](#)

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

[CDEC](#) Stimulus Matrix

[Preschool Development Grant 0-5](#)

[FFN Grant](#)

Family Support and Education

Healthy Gut = Happy Mind? The Gut's Role in Anxiety and Stress

Anxiety is on the rise, affecting nearly 60 million adults in the U.S and close to a billion people worldwide. While medications and therapy remain the primary treatments, an unexpected player in mental health is emerging - gut bacteria. If you have a child that suffers from anxiety, changing their diet could be an answer.

Siblings: The Do's and Don'ts of Why Not to Let Siblings Help Your SPD Child

Siblings have interesting dynamics. When one of those siblings has Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), those dynamics can be even more interesting. Here's a list of do's and don'ts that might help navigate strong emotions.

Disruptive Behavior: Why It's Often Misdiagnosed

When overwhelmed, kids with sensory issues can react in ways that look extreme. If your child mostly acts out in school, they could have an undiagnosed learning disorder.

How to Talk to Kids about Tough Topics

Caring adults can help kids learn coping and resilience-building techniques to help them face tough challenges like divorce, foster care, grief, and more.

Do Autism Behaviors Have Medical Causes?

Kids with autism frequently have odd behaviors that are assumed to be symptoms of autism. But sometimes these behaviors have medical causes.

Teaching Self-Determination Skills

Try these playful, autism-friendly activities to help your child develop important self-determination skills.

The Lifelong Impact of Early Touch

Feeling the power of touch begins long before a baby is even born. Touch is the first sense to develop. Just eight weeks after conception, a fetus already responds to the sensation of touch in the womb – and it is crucial for people of any age.

Raising Happy Humans

When considering the state of mental health, help your children and your family come up with ways to bring joy to your lives. Parents need to equip children, and themselves, with strategies for mental well-being. Here are some great things to consider.

Toddlers Want to Help and We Should Let Them

If allowed to help, toddlers become great work partners later in childhood. Many studies have confirmed this universal desire of toddlers to help.

Needs vs. Wants

In hard times, we can prioritize what we need and make the best of what we have. Not only is this helpful to minimize tantrums over “wants” but it is also helping to teach financial literacy too.

9 Toxic Parenting Habits that are Hurting Your Child's Development

Let's look at some examples of toxic parenting that all parents should do their best to avoid.

Child Health and Well-Being

[The Culture of Childhood](#)

Children learn the most valuable lessons with other children, away from adults. A very informative read from a perspective you may not have considered. (For the record - we are NOT suggesting you leave children unattended.)

[Inside an Evaluation for Learning Disorders](#)

If you've ever wondered what an evaluation for learning disorders is like, this is a great article that explains a lot. Be sure to watch the first video, it is very informative.

[How Kids Learn Better by Taking Frequent Breaks Throughout the Day](#)

As Americans, we may not have the option to send kids outside for brain breaks, but they can even be incorporated into indoor breaks as well.

[The Baby Brain Map](#)

The Baby Brain Map is a developmental-scientist approved tool that turns early brain science into practical strategies so you can care with confidence.

[The Age Four Transition to Responsible Childhood](#)

Converging evidence reveals a major shift toward independence around age four.

[The Parents Guide to Summer Fun](#)

Check out this ultimate guide to summer fun that will keep kids – big and small – enriched, engaged, and entertained.

[The Importance of Dramatic Play for Young Children](#)

How dramatic play fosters social/emotional development.

[Kids Can Learn More from Guided Play than from Direct Instruction](#)

A review of seventeen studies found that guided play is as good as or better than adult-led, direct instruction.

[Pathways Activity and Milestone Guide](#)

You can search for activities by age, get content daily, plus get answers to all the questions you didn't even know you wanted to ask. Excellent resource for new parents.

[Critical Thinking is a 21st Century Essential, Here's How to Help Kids Learn it](#)

If we want children to thrive in our complicated world, we need to teach them how to think, and we can do it with four simple questions. (The video is very helpful too.)

[Progressive Muscle Relaxation Script for Kids: The Restful Rag Doll](#)

This progressive muscle relaxation script uses the imagery of a rag doll to help them completely let go and relax.

[Nervous System Regulation for Parents and Kids](#)

Outward behaviors are just the external route through which our nervous system and our emotional energy are expressing. Use some of these highly effective tools to help regulate yourself and your child.

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention or EI provides developmental supports and services to children birth through two years of age who have significant developmental needs. You may also hear it referred to as “Part C” (Which is the federal law) or Birth to 3. It can help a family learn ways to support and promote their child’s development, within their family activities and community life.

We serve children with a variety of disabilities, from a moderate communication delay to children who are profoundly involved. The EI program can provide fifteen different early intervention services, which commonly include occupational, or physical therapy, and speech therapy. It may also include audiology services, nutrition, social emotional services, and vision services and more to help infants and toddlers grow and develop, and to help their family in this process. It is a voluntary program and does not discriminate based on race, culture, religion, income level, or disability.

The term “early” is important because research shows that the first three years are the most important time for developing and learning in a child’s life. The goal of the EI program is to “open a window of opportunity” for families to help their children with special needs develop to their full potential. It may also prevent or decrease the need for special help later during the school years.

How can a family receive Early Intervention services? Anyone can refer a child to EI. Typically, we receive referrals from physicians, community screenings, Child Find, parents, home visitation programs and Department of Human Services. Referrals are sent to the state EI team and evaluations are completed in our nine counties by a team of local professionals.

Eligibility for services is different from adults or school-age programs. Children who qualify must have a 33% delay in one or more of the five domains: Physical, Cognitive, Social-Emotional, Communication and Adaptive skills. Or a 25% delay in more than one area. Or they may have an “Established Condition” such as Down Syndrome, low birthweight, severe hearing or vision loss, Cerebral Palsy, etc.

We have four full-time service coordinators that assure families know their rights and entitlements under the Colorado State Plan and the federal law, IDEA. They help guide families after they are referred and found eligible through the process until the child turns three. They write the IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan) that outlines what services a family will receive. They then monitor to make sure a child and family are receiving the services and supports to meet the outcomes specified in the plan. In addition, they help the families apply for Family Support and/or waivers when appropriate. They also can connect families with additional resources and programs.

We currently serve about 130 to 140 children each month. EI is at “no cost” to families. It saves them from paying deductibles, co-pays, and travel to therapy far away. The services take place in a “Natural Setting” like a child’s home, grandparent’s home, childcare or even a community setting such as the library. Some of our providers are local therapists; others live elsewhere and provide telehealth. Telehealth has been shown to be as effective as or even more so than in-person services. It has enabled us to broaden our bank of therapists and therapies. We even have a Spanish speaking speech therapist!

At age 3 if a child could benefit from preschool services they might be referred to the local school district. All children in EI go through a transition process.

Early Intervention has strict timelines we are required to meet. Once the state team receives a referral, they have 45 days to complete the evaluation unless there are issues connecting with and scheduling with the family. If the child is found eligible, the local program is notified and we set up the Initial IFSP meeting. When that is complete, we have 28 days to arrange for and start therapy. Families never wait months for an evaluation or services.

If you would like to learn more about the EI program, please reach out to me at:

Vicki Folkerts
Early Intervention Director
Eastern Colorado Services
970-526-3623 ext. 303
vfolkerts@ecsdd.org

or

Lisa Wieland
Logan, Sedgwick & Phillips counties Service Coordinator
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Burrowing Owl

*The burrowing owl is a small, long-legged, primarily terrestrial – though not flightless – species of owl native to the open landscapes of North and South America. They are typically found in grasslands, rangelands, agricultural areas, deserts, or any other open, dry area with low vegetation. They nest and roost in burrows, and, despite their common name, do not often construct these dwellings themselves, rather repurpose burrows or tunnels previously excavated and inhabited by other species, such as American badgers, foxes, ground squirrels, or prairie dogs, among others.

*Unlike most owls, burrowing owls are often active during the day, although they tend to avoid the heat of midday. But, similar to many other species of owls, they are mostly [crepuscular](#) hunters, as they can utilize their night vision and attuned hearing to maximum potential during sunrise and sunset. Having evolved to live on open grasslands and prairie habitat (as well as badlands, chaparral, and desert ecosystems), as opposed to dense forest. The burrowing owl has developed longer legs than other owls, a trait which enables it to sprint when pursuing its prey, not dissimilarly to the greater roadrunner, as well as providing momentum when taking flight, however, burrowing owls typically only become airborne for short bursts, such as when fleeing threats, and typically do not fly very high off the ground.

*Burrowing owls have bright eyes, their beaks can be dark yellow or gray depending on the subspecies. They lack ear tufts and have a flattened facial disc. They have prominent white eyebrows and a white “chin” patch, which they expand and display during certain behaviors, such as head bobbing when agitated. Adults have brown heads and wings with white spotting. Their chests and abdomens are white with variable brown spotting or barring. Juveniles have a buff bar across their upper wings and their breasts may be buff-colored rather than white. All ages have grayish legs longer than those of other owls. Males and females are similar in size and appearance, so they display little sexual dimorphism. Females tend to be heavier, but males tend to have longer linear measurements. As a size comparison, an average adult is slightly larger than an American robin.

*The western burrowing owls are most common in the [Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge](#), as well as in most of the western states. Known resident populations inhabit areas of CO, AZ, NM, TX, and CA, where their population is reportedly threatened by human encroachment and construction.

*They can live for at least 9 years in the wild and over 10 years in captivity. They are often killed by vehicles when crossing roads, and have many natural enemies, including badgers, coyotes, and snakes. Both feral and domestic cats and dogs also kill them.

*They often nest and roost in the burrows made by ground squirrels, a strategy also used by rattlesnakes. When threatened, the owl retreats to the burrow and produces rattling and hissing sounds similar to those of a rattlesnake. The behavior is an example of acoustic [Batesian mimicry](#) and is an effective strategy against animals that are familiar with the dangers posed by rattlesnakes.

*Nesting season begins in late March or April in North America. During the nesting season, they collect a wide variety of materials to line their nest. The most common material is mammal dung, usually from cattle, to attract insects, which the owls then eat.

Burrowing Owl

The female lays an egg every one or two days until she has completed a clutch, which can consist of four to 12 eggs. She then incubates the eggs for 3 – 4 weeks while the male brings her food. After the eggs hatch, both parents feed the chicks. Four weeks after hatching, the chicks can make short flights and begin leaving the nest burrow.

The parents still help feed the chicks for 1 – 3 months.

In some locations, owls reuse a nest several years in a row. Owls in migratory populations are less likely to return to the same burrow every year.

*When hunting, they wait on a perch until they spot prey. They swoop down, or fly up to catch insects in flight. Sometimes, they chase prey on foot across the ground. The highly variable diet includes invertebrates and small vertebrates, which make up roughly one third and two thirds of their diet, respectively. They often prefer termites, katydids, Jerusalem crickets, true crickets, grasshoppers, spiders, millipedes, beetles, and earthworms. They will also eat fruits and seeds, and will even prey on sparrows and young doves. They often stow extra food to ensure an adequate supply during incubation and brooding.

*The major reason for declining populations in North America are loss of habitat, and control programs for prairie dogs. While some species can dig their own burrows, most rely on burrowing animals to produce the shelters and nesting spaces they need to survive.

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



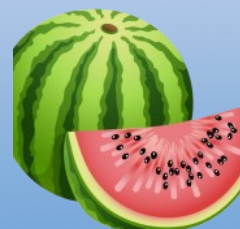
Holidays and Special Occasions in July

July 1 – [American Zoo Day](#)
 July 4 – [Alice in Wonderland Day](#)
 July 4 – [Fourth of July](#)
 July 8 – [Be a Kid Again Day](#)
 July 12 – [Etch A Sketch Day](#)
 July 14 – [National Be Nice to Bugs Day](#)
 July 14 – [Shark Awareness Day](#)
 July 16 – [National Hot Dog Day](#)
 July 16 – [World Snake Day](#)
 July 17 – [World Emoji Day](#)
 July 20 – [Moon Day](#)
 July 20 – [Space Exploration Day](#)
 July 21 – [Global Hug Your Kids Day](#)
 July 21 – [National Be Someone Day](#)
 July 24 – [International Self Care Day](#)
 July 25 – [National Drowning Prevention Day](#)
 July 25 – [National Merry Go Round Day](#)
 July 26 – [National Disability Independence Day](#)
 July 27 – [National Tree Day](#)
 July 28 – [Beatrix Potter's Birthday](#)
 July 28 – [World Nature Conservation Day](#)
 July 30 – [National Support Public Education Day](#)
 July 31 – [Harry Potter's Birthday](#)



July 6 – 13 – [Shark Week](#)
 July 19 – 27 – [National Moth Week](#)
 July 20 – 26 – [National Parenting Gifted Children Week](#)
 July 21 – 27 – [Coral Reef Awareness Week](#)

July is
[National Bison Month](#)
[National Blueberry Month](#)
[National Fishing Month](#)
[National Grilling Month](#)
[National Make a Difference to Children Month](#)
[National Picnic Month](#)
[National Watermelon Month](#)
[Wild About Wildlife 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 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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