



EST.



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EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

LOGAN - PHILLIPS - SEDGWICK

Every child can learn, play & succeed!

October 2025 Newsletter

Announcements

This month our featured provider is **Brenda Fowles** of **Safe Haven Kids Care**. Brenda became licensed in December of 2024. She had an unpleasant experience with an unlicensed childcare provider, and didn't want any families to go through what she did, so she decided to get licensed and open her own childcare business. Safe Haven is a place where kids and parents can feel safe, by building a foundation of trust and respect. She serves families with children ages 2 years old through second grade.

One of her favorite things about her program is watching the children laugh and have fun. She states that it fills her heart with joy to see their smiles. Summertime is full of water activity fun, such as: water bouncers, sprinklers, and popsicles on those hot summer days. It's priceless when the kids' faces light up. The kids get so excited to come to "The Farm". They get to feed goats, turkeys, ducks, chickens, and more. They have learned to plant fruits and veggies in the greenhouse. She provides 17 acres of fun, where a kid can be a kid.

Safe Haven offers childcare on Mondays and after-school to help fill in the gaps, helping with childcare when it is needed most. She also offers transportation from Ayers Elementary after school. Thank you so much for all you do Brenda!

ECCLPS News

*We're excited to announce the Duck Drop in Julesburg at the Sedgwick County Chamber Fall Festival this month! Help us reach our goal of selling 800 ducks by purchasing from any of our Staff or Board Members. Ducks are just \$5 for 1 or \$10 for 3, and each one gives you a chance to win \$100 if it lands securely in the can. The first four ducks that stick their landing will be our lucky winners! Best of all, you don't have to be from Sedgwick County to play, and you don't even need to be present to win. We can accept cash or Venmo. Here's the [Venmo](#) link - just be sure to **include your phone number** so we can reach you if you win! This will be our final Duck Drop of the year, but don't worry, we'll be back next year for quacking good times!

*We are also thrilled to share some incredible news—our very own **Stephanie Swenson** has been named the Healthy Child Care Colorado Pyramid Model Champion! 🎉 This prestigious award celebrates Stephanie's outstanding dedication to strengthening early childhood social and emotional learning. Through her passionate commitment and impactful work, she has truly brought the Pyramid Model to life here in rural Colorado. When you see Stephanie out and about, be sure to congratulate her on this well-deserved and inspiring achievement!

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](#)

Have you ever heard of **Funsical - Fitness for the Body, Mind, and Mood**? It has actually been around since the 80's, and is a fun and active curriculum to help engage the body and mind with grace, strength and sensibility. ECCLPS may be offering more about this program in the upcoming months, but for now, you can check it out by clicking [HERE](#). If you are interested in something like this at our ECE Conference in January, please let us know by sending us an [Email](#)

Baby Bear Hugs is looking for a new Parenting Educator in Phillips County. They will provide the training to get you certified. Apply online [HERE](#) or call 970-848-5274. Help make a difference in the lives of children and families in your community!

Save the Date

October 18 - **Duck Drop in Julesburg**
Sedgwick County Chamber Fall Festival
Stretesky Pavilion

October 27 - **ECCLPS Partner Meeting**
ECCLPS Office 100 Broadway, Suite 14
11:50 AM - 12:50 PM [RSVP](#) by 10/23

October 27 - **Professional Development**
ECCLPS Office 100 Broadway, Suite 14
6:30 - 8:30 PM [RSVP](#) by 10/23

October 31 - **Trick or Treat the Town**
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Downtown Holyoke

October 31 - **Trick or Treat Street**
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Downtown Sterling

October 31 - **Trunk or Treat**
3:30 - 5:00 PM
2nd Street, Julesburg

October 31 - **Trunk or Treat**
3:30 - 5:30 PM
Phillips County Courthouse Lawn

Did you know?

As a licensed childcare provider you qualify for the Professional Credential Tax Credit when you file your 2025 taxes?

You also qualify for the Care Worker Tax Credit for tax year 2025.

If you have questions on how to get these, please reach out to [Michelle](#) at ECCLPS.

Learning & Development

ECCLPS Professional Development

Training TBA. Keep an eye out for an email that will announce the training topic for the month.

Developing Executive Function in Young Children

How understanding neuroscience helps educators nurture executive function.

Navigating Transitions and Change during Back-to-School Season

By intentionally fostering protective factors in young children, we help them feel more grounded during the back-to-school season and beyond. Don't forget to check out the **Busy Boxes** link too.

Respectful Redirection: A Behavior Strategy for Teachers

Respectful redirection is a quick, in-the-moment strategy to give corrective feedback to students. You get your students' attention without making a big deal about it, using a calm tone, neutral body language, and clear, concise wording.

Using Whisper Correction and the What To Do Cycle to Build Positive Classroom Habits

The "What To Do Cycle" is a set of consistent teacher moves that help make a habit of students following through on directions.

Communicating Effectively with Children

There are six aspects to engaging in effective instructions; all of which are simple and logical but require practice to carry out consistently.

School Incentives and Rewards That Aren't Junk Food or Cheap Toys

Whether for good behavior, reading milestones, or classroom goals, these healthy school incentive ideas are free of junk food, cheap plastic, and questionable messaging.

The Project Approach and STEM

It's clear that children learn best when engaged in authentic and relevant activities. What happens when The Project Approach and STEM are merged? A lot of potential for real-life learning!

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

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant

Program in USDA's Rural Development

Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood

Grants

Grant Watch

Family Support and Education

[Nature Improves Attention and Cognition](#)

5 practical ways to infuse nature into your day (for you and the kids).

[Baby and Adult Brains ‘Sync Up’ During Play, finds Princeton Baby Lab](#)

It's not your imagination – you and your baby really are on the same wavelength.

[Understanding the Importance of Early Learning and the Benefits of Enrolling Your Child in Child Care](#)

The experiences and learning opportunities provided during the first few years of life can significantly influence a child's development.

[Should Parents Really Stop Praising Their Children?](#)

No. How you praise your children matters and some types of praise are better than others.

[The Fewer Toys Children Have, the More They Play](#)

Ironically, it seems that by providing fewer toys, we provide more time for play.

[Punishments, Time Outs, and Rewards: Why Conditional Parenting Doesn't Work \(And What Does\)](#)

There is a difference between leading and dictating, between teaching and forcing, between connecting and coercing. This is a really amazing article, please don't miss the message.

[Parenting Strategies are Shifting as Neuroscience Brings the Developing Brain into Clearer Focus](#)

Research offers some useful guideposts for how parents and caregivers can change our adult ways to foster healthy child development.

[Navigating Tantrums](#)

Concrete strategies for parents using the “FACTS” framework, and strategies for all ages.

[Your Calm is Their Calm: Co-Regulation Strategies for Infants and Toddlers](#)

Co-regulation is the process of helping a child manage their emotions through supportive interactions with a caregiver.

[Teaching Kids Respect](#)

When your child acts in a disrespectful manner, here are some strategies that you can use to help share your child's concept of respect.

[Cave Babies, Cry It Out and Ruffling Feathers](#)

If you are a young or new parent, this may be a very inspiring article for you. With all the hype around sleep training, cry it out, detached parenting, and lots of other “expert” advice on raising babies, this looks at it from a different perspective.

[Understanding What Makes Us Who We Are: Temperament](#)

Temperament is essentially the biological basis of personality. That first glimpse into your child's innate preferences.

[Personality Isn't Destiny: Why and How Parents Should Focus on Emotion Regulation](#)

Childhood traits are raw materials. What shapes life outcomes is what we do with that material.

Child Health and Well-Being

Gentle reminder - If your child is enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and you move, you can update your account by logging in to www.imaginationlibrary.com using your email address. If you are unable to update your child's account, please reach out to us by calling 970-526-2440 or email ecclps.miranda@gmail.com Thank you.

Mindfulness Strategies for Young Learners

Easy-to-implement practices can support self-regulation and overall well-being in the early years.

School Readiness

Simple ways to lay the foundation for learning. Brought to you by Sesame Workshop – explore these fun and engaging interactive opportunities for learning through nature.

Snoop Dogg's Affirmations

We know we've included this before, but doggone it, it's so cool we decided to throw it in again. Help kids learn to be kind to themselves.

How to Safely Use Lavender to Help Your Little One Sleep

When it comes to using lavender with babies, safety and timing matter. Something that feels harmless for an adult can be overwhelming for a tiny system. Here's how to use it safely in your baby's bedtime routine.

Age Appropriate Chores for Kids: Chores List by Age

Kids of all ages can reap great rewards for helping out around the house. In fact, many children, as young as toddlers, actually want to help. Here is a list of chores that match their capabilities.

Teaching Kids to Be Gentle: Dog and Cat Etiquette for Young Children

No one wants to have a pet introduction to go wrong. Try these tips to teach your kids to approach a pet safely and read their cues.

Helping Children with Tragic Events in the News

The way that news is presented on television can be quite confusing for a young child. Try some of these strategies to help children feel more secure.

How to Use a Trip to the Playground to Help Your Children Strengthen Their Memory

To remember things, you need to give them your full attention. The same is true for children.

Eight Tips to Simplify Childhood and Protect Your Child's Mental Health

As parents, we know when our kids are overwhelmed, and we have the power to help by silencing the white noise of society, giving them time and space, and saying "no" when pressured to say "yes".

Understanding Temperament in Infants and Toddlers

Learn about the Nine Traits of Temperament, why they matter, and how knowing the temperament of your child can support Social and Emotional Development.

Kid's Guided Meditation Script for Self Confidence at School

Between new lessons, busy schedules, and social pressures, school can sometimes chip away at a child's confidence. This script helps kids feel calm, grounded, and more self-assured.

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
Eastern Colorado Services
970-531-0880
lwieland@ecsdd.org



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October 18th during Sedgwick County Chamber Fall Festival

Downtown Julesburg by the Stretesky Pavilion

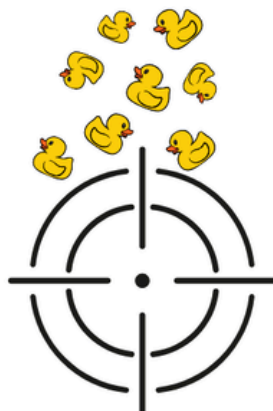
Ducks will be dropped from the top of the fire truck
during the festival activities.

1 duck for \$5 or
3 ducks for \$10

Cash or Venmo QR code

**If Venmo, please include phone number
so we can reach you if you win!**

Purchase ducks from any
ECCLPS staff, or Board
member or call 970-526-2440



Make it into the bucket to win!
Up to 4 winners of \$100 each
Need not be present to win



Should we experience weather related
issues, we will reschedule the drop.

ADAPT TO IMPACT



Center for
Innovative Design
and Engineering
(CIDE)

Breaking Barriers | Changing Lives

Adapt to Impact helps create childcare environments where every child can succeed by offering providers the tools and resources to support children with delays and disabilities.

Adapt to Impact is:

- For all licensed Colorado childcare programs
- Intended to better serve children with delays, disabilities, and differences
- FREE to participating programs

Adapt to Impact Offers:

- Comprehensive online trainings focused on adapting and supporting children with delays and disabilities
- Access to a loan library of over 200 items
- Supports and resources

Contact Us:

<https://bit.ly/AdaptToImpact>

AdaptCIDE@UCDENVER.EDU



Kits are now available for check out!

Do you have a child in your program who may need additional support? If so, these kits are perfect for them!

If you would like to check out a kit for your Family Child Care Home, preschool, or center, please click the links below.

You will be required to complete the [Introduction to Universal Design course](#) through PDIS or Moodle before borrowing the kit, at no cost to your program. Kit Request Form in [English](#) - [Spanish](#)

Northeast Colorado Health Department's Children's Hospital Colorado Specialty Clinics

If your child is 21 years of age and younger and has received a referral to Children's Hospital Colorado for a Neurology or an Orthopedic/Rehab appointment, you may be able to get an appointment at one of Northeast Colorado Health Department's local clinics held in our Fort Morgan or Sterling offices. Specialty clinics are held by appointment only.

To schedule your 2026 appointment, call Children's Hospital.

→ 2026 Neurology Clinics

Fort Morgan

January 15

March 26

May 21

Neurology Scheduling: 720-777-6895*

Sterling

February 19

April 16

June 18



→ 2026 Orthopedic/Rehab Clinics

Clinics are held three times a year in Fort Morgan and Sterling

Please check the website for dates: nchd.org/healthcare-program-for-special-needs

Orthopedic/Rehab Scheduling: 720-777-6600*

***Ask for NCHD Outreach Clinics**

For more information contact Kirstin Schelling, Health Integration Manager

kirstins@nchd.org or 970-854-2717 x 5023

Garter Snake

*The common garter snake is harmless to humans. They are native to North and Central America, ranging from central Canada in the north to Costa Rica in the south. They are found in all of the lower 48 states, and all of the Canadian provinces. Their wide distribution is due to their varied diets and adaptability to different habitats, with varying proximity to water. However, in the western part of North America these snakes are more aquatic than in the eastern portion. They live in a variety of habitats, including forests, woodlands, fields, grasslands, and lawns, but never far from water, often on adjacent wetland, stream, or pond. This reflects the fact that amphibians are a large part of their diet.

*Garter snakes have complex pheromonal communication systems. They can find other snakes by following their pheromone-scented trails. Male and female skin pheromones are so different as to be immediately distinguishable.

*If disturbed, a garter snake may coil and strike, but typically hides its head and flails its tail. They discharge a malodorous, musky-scented secretion from a gland near the cloaca. They use this technique to escape when ensnared by a predator. They will also slither into the water to escape a predator on land. Hawks, crows, egrets, herons, cranes, raccoons, otters and other snake species will eat garter snakes, with even shrews and frogs eating the juveniles.

*They regulate their body temperature by basking in the sun or seeking shade. During brumation (the reptile equivalent of hibernation), they typically occupy large communal sites called hibernacula.

*Garter snakes, like all snakes, are carnivorous. Their diet consists of almost any creature they are capable of overpowering: slugs, earthworms, leeches, lizards, amphibians (including frog eggs and tadpoles), minnows, and rodents. Food is swallowed whole.

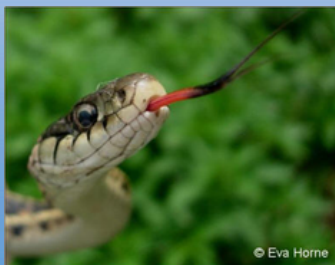
*Garter snakes actually produce a neurotoxic venom, but it cannot seriously injure or kill humans. Garter snakes feeding on toxic newts can also retain those toxins in their liver for weeks, making those snakes poisonous as well as venomous.

*They can grow to a length of 34 inches, but are commonly shorter. Females are larger than males and have longer tails. Their heads are wider than their necks, and their tongues are red, tipped in black. The scales are keeled, meaning they have a raised ridge along their length.

*They are active during the day, using their sense of smell and good vision to hunt. They give birth to live young rather than laying eggs. A female can birth between 15 and 40 babies per mating season.

*Like many snakes, common garter snakes grow indeterminately, meaning they keep growing for their entire lifespan. Wild garter snakes have an average life expectancy of about 4 - 10 years, but can live up to 20 years in captivity.

Sources [1](#), [2](#) Watch an informative video [HERE](#)



Holidays and Special Occasions in October

October 1 - [International Coffee Day](#)

October 1 - [World Vegetarian Day](#)

October 3 - [Kids Music Day](#)

October 4 - [Bookshop Day](#)

October 4 - [Kindness to Animal Day](#)

October 4 - [National Taco Day](#)

October 4 - [World Animal Day](#)

October 4 - [World Habitat Day](#)

October 5 - [National Be Nice Day](#)

October 5 - [World Teacher's Day](#)

October 6 - [National Child Health Day](#)

October 10 - [Inclusion Day](#)

October 12 - [Farmers Day](#)

October 12 - [Harry Potter Book Day](#)

October 13 - [Breast Cancer Awareness Day](#)

October 13 - [Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)

October 15 - [International Day of Rural Women](#)

October 15 - [Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day](#)

October 16 - [Conflict Resolution Day](#)

October 16 - [Dictionary Day](#)

October 16 - [Get Smart About Credit Day](#)

October 17 - [Child Poverty Day](#)

October 21 - [National Apple Day](#)

October 26 - [National Pumpkin Day](#)

October 28 - [National Chocolate Day](#)

October 28 - [National First Responders Day](#)

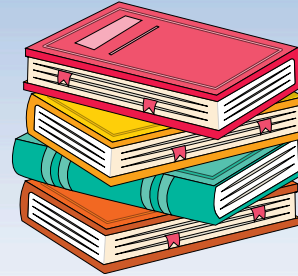
October 28 - [National Immigrants Day](#)

October 31 - [Books for Treats Day](#)

October 31 - [Halloween](#)

October 31 - [National Caramel Apple Day](#)

October 31 - [World Savings Day](#)



Holidays and Special Occasions in October

October 4 - 10 - [World Space Week](#)

October 5 - 11 - [Mental Illness Awareness Week](#)

October 19 - 25 - [Wolf Awareness Week](#)

October 20 - 24 - [National Health Education Week](#)

October 24 - 31 - [Bat Appreciation Week](#)



October is

[ADHD Awareness Month](#)

[Bat Appreciation Month](#)

[Dental Hygiene Month](#)

[Dyslexia Awareness Month](#)

[Eat Better Together Month](#)

[Emotional Wellness Month](#)

[Halloween Safety Month](#)

[Head Start Awareness Month](#)

[International School Libraries Month](#)

[National Apple Month](#)

[National Book Month](#)

[National Bullying Prevention Month](#)

[National Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)

[National Learning and Development Month](#)

[Vegetarian Month](#)

[World Animal Month](#)

[World Habitat Awareness 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

Early Childhood Council Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick

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