

FULL S.T.E.A.M. AHEAD
2026



EST.



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EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

LOGAN - PHILLIPS - SEDGWICK

Every child can learn, play & succeed!

January 2026 Newsletter

Announcements

As we begin the new year, we are also beginning a new feature segment. We want to recognize and thank our partners and other nonprofits in our area. This month we want to recognize **Colorado Department of Human Services**. We are so grateful to them for all the work they do to help families and children. Not only do they provide benefits such as [SNAP](#), [LEAP](#), [EBT](#), and [Colorado Works](#), they offer other services that include [Adult Protective Services](#), [Child Welfare Services](#), [Behavior Health Services](#), [Youth Services](#), and so much more. Here is a complete list of services from [A to Z](#), if you're looking for something specific.

If you're looking for services specific to your area, please follow these links.

[Logan](#) - 508 S. 10th St. Sterling 970-522-2194

[Phillips](#) - 127 E. Denver St. Ste A Holyoke 970-854-2280

[Sedgwick](#) - 118 W. 3rd St. Julesburg 970-474-3397

We think this is an excellent view of their work, services, and resources:

"Collaboration helps us rise together: We work together with all partners, employees, and clients to achieve the best outcomes for Coloradans."

Thank you CDHS for all the work you do!

ECCLPS News

*Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to ECCLPS this Colorado Gives season! Thoughtful individuals, such as yourself, contribute in so many ways, even beyond the monetary donations. Your kindness and generosity help ensure our continued efforts to get every eligible child in Logan County enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We aim to continue to bring celebrations of children through Week of the Young Child events, and strive to ensure that no child lives in an abusive household or is subjected to neglect by continuing our Child Abuse Prevention Awareness campaign. Advocating for children's rights is necessary, not optional. Every child deserves to be loved.

*The registration link for our ECCLPS/NJC ECE Conference is live. If you plan to attend, and have not yet registered, please click [HERE](#). We want to recognize our Sponsors this year, **Kaplan**, **Sterling Federal Credit Union**, **Bank of Colorado**, **First Farm Bank**, and **COAEYC**. A HUGE, heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to them, and to **Donna Frankenfeld** for providing meals this year. We're so excited to see you all there! Just a reminder, we will have a variety of Vendors present, and some of them will only be able to accept cash. Please plan accordingly.

*Early Bird pricing ends January 16th, deadline to register is January 23rd.

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](#)

If you need to get fingerprinted for a background check, Identogo has new hours at Family Resource Center. You **must** make an appointment **online** at <https://www.identogo.com/locations/colorado> They are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM, and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

[Upcoming Live Virtual and In-Person Training Events from PDIS](#)

[Free Early Childhood Mental Health Training through Project SUCCEED](#)

For anyone who works with young children including professionals, paraprofessionals, first responders, parents, and other caregivers.

Save the Date

January 6 - ECCLPS office back to regular hours

January 7 - **Knights of Columbus Community Blood Drive**

421 South 11th Ave, Sterling
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

For more info call 970-520-2404

January 26 - **ECCLPS Partner Meeting**

ECCLPS Office 100 Broadway, Ste 14
11:50 AM - 12:50 PM

January 16 - Melissa Memorial Hospital's **Photo and Art Contest** submissions due. Must be dropped off at the Administration office. Open to everyone. Winners will be notified by January 31, 2026. See the [Holyoke Chamber](#) page for more details.

January 31 - **ECCLPS/NJC ECE Conference**
E.S. French Atrium at NJC 1110 Sidney Ave, Sterling
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM Register [HERE](#)

We hope everyone has had a joyous holiday season, and we're wishing the best for you in the new year. Take time, reflect, and appreciate all you have accomplished in 2025, and set your intentions for 2026. We are so grateful for all you do for children and for families. Don't ever stop doing your best!

Happy New Year!!!
The ECCLPS Team

Learning & Development

ECCLPS Professional Development Training - We will not host a Professional Development Training until February 2026
Please join us at the **ECE Conference on January 31st at NJC!** Register [HERE](#)
Early bird pricing ends January 16 at midnight
registration closes January 23 at midnight.

Are You An Early Educator?

You could get up to \$2,943 back in your 2025 Colorado state tax refund! These two tax credits recognize your essential role providing care and education for Colorado's youngest learners and support your financial stability. Learn how [HERE](#)

[Recognizing Play Schemas Can Transform Your Early Learning Practice](#)

Researchers have identified more than 40 play schemas, but this article focuses on eight. Once you learn of them, you'll likely observe many of them.

[Engaging Active Learners: What Children are Telling Us When They Won't Sit Still](#)

Children speak with more than just words. It can be easy to view their actions as disruptions, but when we look at learning through the eyes of the child, those actions may indicate that child is the most engaged learner in the room.

Healthy Coverage Options for Early Childhood Professionals

Open enrollment for 2026 runs through January 15. Get free expert assistance from [Connect for Health Colorado](#) or by calling 855-752-6749. View a webinar [HERE](#) and if you need help connecting with an expert or if you need additional resources click [HERE](#)

988 Colorado Mental Health Line

988 is available for free, immediate, human support 24/7. If someone you know is struggling with an emotional, mental health, or substance use concern, call, text, or [live chat](#) with 988 today.

[TEACH Colorado](#) is also giving four future lead teachers the chance to attend the 2026 Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference—for free! [To apply, sign up with TEACH Colorado](#), then [apply for the scholarship](#) by January 20, 2026.

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

[Welcome to SesameWorkshop.org!](#)

This webinar helps parents, caregivers, and professionals who support children's learning and development, learn to navigate the site. Plus, you'll earn a certificate for participating in the training. Pass the quiz to download your certificate for this 30 minute webinar.

[Report: More Parents Say Their Kids Under 2 Watch YouTube Than in 2020](#)

YouTube use has risen for babies and toddlers. This is very disturbing. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests avoiding digital media for babies under 18 months, and to limit it for kids under age 5.

[How Monkey Bars Help Your Child's Brain](#)

Before you hand your child a device, please read this. Children NEED to move their bodies and develop muscle and gross motor skills.

[What Parents Need to Know About Natural Consequences](#)

Natural consequences are part of normal day-to-day life. They are not punishments, and they help to teach very valuable lessons.

[Parent-Led Strategies to Support Communication in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

While we may not have access to this particular organization here, the suggestions and information are very helpful for anyone with a child on the spectrum.

[Why Sleep Matters in Early Childhood Development](#)

Listen in on this podcast for a scientific approach as to why sleep and naps are so important for infant and toddler development. They cover everything from light sensitivity to room temperature, and how it all affects sleep patterns.

[The New Sleep Training Paper Everyone's Talking About \(And Why it Changes Absolutely Nothing\)](#)

If you have heard about (or read) this new paper, and are wondering if sleep training is something you should be doing, here are many answers. The most important being - if your baby cries at night, you SHOULD respond.

[Teaching Social Problem-Solving is More Important than Ever](#)

Without words or strategies to express those big feelings, children often resort to physical reactions. Learn some ways to help teach them.

[What Happens When You Respond More to Environmental Feedback?](#)

An excellent article for those who have highly sensitive children. This helps put it in a whole new light.

[Less Stuff, More Meaning: How Frugal Living Helps Kids Thrive](#)

This gentle guide explores how frugal living can spark creativity, reduce stress, and build deeper family connections.

[Growing Up Online Nearly Killed Me](#)

This is a story that could have been tragic, but they were able to turn the tables, and make it a learning experience for many others who found themselves in the same awful situation. Don't take for granted that just because you tell your children to be safe, in the real world or online, that they know what that actually looks like. You have to have the difficult conversations, you have to follow through, you have to be aware.

Child Health and Well-Being

[2025 List of Car Seats Without Flame-Retardant Chemicals](#)

Well organized list of car seats that don't contain additional harmful chemicals. Yes, some of them are pricey, but is your child's health worth a little extra money?

[Screen Time & Safety Tips](#)

Information and resources about screen time, online safety for kids, and digital well-being.

[Heavy Work Activities Prevent Proprioceptive Dysfunction and Fosters Proprioceptive Success](#)

We've posted about proprioception before and here's a great follow-up article to suggest activities that may help a child develop this sense.

[The 25 Greatest Picture Books of the Past 25 Years](#)

There are a LOT of ads on this page, but just keep scrolling, the books are worth it!

[The Best Kids' Books About Mental Health of 2025](#)

This is a lovely list of books to offer children who experience ADHD, anxiety, autism, depression, and so much more. Broken down by category to make browsing easier.

[Sesame Workshop Storybooks](#)

Lots of digital storybooks to engage your little one in healthy online experiences.

[Reading Tips for Parents of Toddlers](#)

Here is a nice list of ways to engage your child in reading and different kinds of books.

[The Benefits of Hanging Upside Down for Kids](#)

This simple action has more benefits than you may realize. In fact, it may play a **vital role in self-regulation for sensory-seeking kids**.

[Breathe, Balance, and Bend: The 3 B's of Calm Bodies](#)

Teach children to relax with the three B's, and doing it with them will help you feel better too!

[Exercising Your Gratitude Muscle](#)

Easy strategies that help children focus on reasons to be grateful can really help them get through challenging times.

[Infant and Toddler STEAM: Supporting Interdisciplinary Experiences with Our Youngest Learners](#)

How do science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics relate to infants and toddlers? In more ways than you might think!

[Brain-Building Through Play: Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Children](#)

The handouts here, developed with support from the LEGO Foundation, provides suggestions, games, and play-based activities based on a child's age.

[Guided Meditation: Dancing Snowflakes](#)

This guided relaxation script reminds us to be joyful, positive, and thankful for all the love and goodness in our life.

**This is the last month we will include this information in the newsletter.
Please make note of the dates and/or print them.**

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



Children's Hospital Colorado



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*

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ECCLPS/NJC ECE Conference 2026

"Full STEAM Ahead"

January 31, 2026

E.S. French Hall ~ Northeastern Junior College

Keynote Speaker ~ Shannon Stark Guss, PhD

Lunch Keynote ~ Scott Liebler

We have an amazing list of presenters this year,
with a focus on **Science, Technology,
Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.**

While it might not occur to an adult that a 3-
year-old could be exploring engineering or
technology, but when we look through the lens of
child development, we realize these skills are
naturally woven into play!

A child that learns how to use tools to make
their "work" easier, or function better, is
learning technology. A child that learns that
they need to make their ramp at a greater angle
so the cars move, or less of a decline so the cars
don't just fall off the ramp, is learning
engineering. Art is part of EVERYTHING!

We don't need worksheets or formal lessons to
nurture these skills. What children truly need is
**time, space, and freedom to play, explore,
and create**, because that's where the real
learning happens.

FULL S.T.E.A.M. AHEAD
2026



To register for the conference,
use this link:

[https://forms.gle/ZKoK9MKvShs
ZDn1r8](https://forms.gle/ZKoK9MKvShsZDn1r8)

Registration closes at midnight on
January 23rd. Early bird pricing
ends at midnight on January 16th.
If registration is not functional
yet, please try again later.

Canadian Goose

*The Canadian goose is a large species of goose with a black head and neck, white cheeks, white under its chin and a brown body. Like most geese, it is primarily herbivorous and normally migratory; often found on or close to fresh water, it is also common in brackish marshes, estuaries, and lagoons.

*They are extremely adept at living in human-altered areas, and have established breeding colonies in urban and cultivated habitats, which provide food and few natural predators. It is often considered a pest in public parks because of its excrement, depredation of crops, noise, aggressive territorial behavior toward humans and other animals, and its habit of stalking and begging for food. The latter is a result of humans disobeying artificial feeding policies toward wild animals.

*The species is native to North America. It breeds in Canada and the northern United States in a wide range of habitats, though there are many places they live year-round.

*By the early 20th century, overhunting and loss of habitat in the late 19th and early 20th centuries had resulted in a serious decline in the numbers of this bird in its native range. In recent years, populations in some areas have grown substantially. This problem is partially due to the removal of natural predators and an abundance of safe, human-made bodies of water near food sources, such as golf courses, public parks and beaches, sports fields, and in planned communities. Canadian geese are frequently a year-round feature of such urban environments.

*Contrary to its normal migration routine, large flocks have established permanent residence along the Pacific coast from British Columbia's Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island area south to the San Francisco Bay area, in Virginia's James River regions, and in the Triangle area of North Carolina, even as far south as Florida.

*Canadian geese were eliminated in Ohio following the American Civil War but were reintroduced in 1956 with 10 pairs. The population was estimated at 18,000 in 1979. The geese are considered protected, though a hunting season is allowed from September 1 - 15, with a daily bag limit of five.

*Ecologically, Canadian geese have been observed to drive away native ducks and swans from nesting areas due to their greater numbers, and to overgraze the shoots and rhizomes of aquatic plants. Their droppings also contribute to eutrophication in water. They are also considered to be a potential agricultural and park pest due to their heavy grazing of vegetation. While adult birds lack predators outside of humans, goslings and eggs are often eaten.

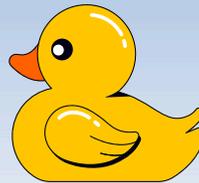
*During the second year of their lives, Canadian geese find a mate. They are monogamous, and most couples stay together all of their lives. If one dies, the other may find a new mate. The female lays from two to nine eggs with an average of five, and both parents protect the nest while the eggs incubate, but the female spends more time at the nest than the male. The nest is usually located in an elevated area near water such as streams, lakes, ponds, and sometimes on a beaver lodge. Its eggs are laid in a shallow depression lined with plant material and down. The incubation period is 24 - 32 days after laying. As the annual summer molt also takes place during breeding season, the adults lose their flight feathers for 20 - 40 days, regaining them about the same time as their goslings start to fly.

*Upon hatching, goslings are capable of walking, swimming, and feeding themselves. Parents often violently chase away nearby creatures who approach: first with a warning hiss, and then attacking with bites and slaps of the wings. The offspring enter the fledgling stage from six to nine weeks. They do not leave their parents until after the spring migration, when they return to their birthplace. Source [1 Listen](#) to them.



Holidays and Special Occasions in January

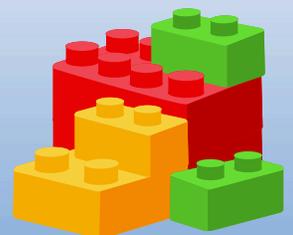
- January 1 - [Global Family Day](#)
- January 1 - [New Year's Day](#)
- January 2 - [Motivation and Inspiration Day](#)
- January 3 - [JRR Tolkien Day](#)
- January 5 - [National Bird Day](#)
- January 9 - [National Law Enforcement Day](#)
- January 11 - [National Human Trafficking Awareness Day](#)
- January 12 - [National 4th Graders Day](#)
- January 13 - [National Rubber Ducky Day](#)
- January 15 - [Wikipedia Day](#)
- January 16 - [Book Publishers Day](#)
- January 17 - [Kid Inventors' Day](#)
- January 17 - [Popeye Day](#)
- January 18 - [National Thesaurus Day](#)
- January 18 - [Winnie the Pooh Day](#)
- January 19 - [Elementary School Teacher Day](#)
- January 19 - [Tenderness Toward Existence Day](#)
- January 19 - [Dolly Parton's Birthday](#)
- January 22 - [Celebration of Life Day](#)
- January 23 - [National Handwriting Day](#)
- January 24 - [International Day of Education](#)
- January 24 - [National Peanut Butter Day](#)
- January 28 - [Lego Day](#)



- January 1 - 7 - [Celebration of Life Week](#)
- January 2 - 8 - [Someday We'll Laugh About This Week](#)
- January 11 - 17 - [Universal Letter Writing Week](#)
- January 18 - 24 - [Hunt for Happiness Week](#)
- January 21 - 26 - [World Kiwanis Week](#)



- January is
- [Apple and Apricot Month](#)
 - [Artichoke and Asparagus Month](#)
 - [Celebration of Life Month](#)
 - [Financial Wellness Month](#)
 - [National Blood Donor Month](#)
 - [National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention 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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