



EST.



1997



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

LOGAN - PHILLIPS - SEDGWICK

Every child can learn, play & succeed!

April 2026 Newsletter

Announcements

This month we would like to feature **Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD)**. They serve six counties which include Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma since 1948.

They provide many services such as: [Child Health](#) initiatives that focus on preventive care, and [Immunizations](#), [Reproductive Health](#), and can also assist with [Birth/Death Certificates](#). You can apply for [WIC](#), and we'll post the dates for [Healthy Child Clinics](#) as they become available for 2026. You can schedule a child's car seat check just by calling 970-522-3741. If you recently purchased a new one, or even if you have had your current one for a while, now is a great time to schedule an appointment, to ensure your children are safe in the car every trip. This is a no-cost service!

They also provide Programs and Resources including: [Behavioral and Mental Health](#), [Equity and Outreach](#), [Healthy Living](#), [Oral Health](#), and [Emergency Preparedness](#). Check out their [Environmental Health](#) services too. We are so fortunate to have this organization, here in our rural areas. Here is the [link](#) that provides contact information for each location. Thank you NCHD for all that you do for families and children!

ECCLPS News

April includes **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**, **Week of the Young Child**, **Earth Week/Month** and **Arbor Day**. ECCLPS is including all of them this year, in one **CELEBRATION of CHILDREN!**

*As you may recall, we teamed up with Neighborhood Forest this year, who provides trees to kids, at no cost to families. During our celebrations, one in each county, we will be handing out the trees that you registered for. Dates are as follows:

Julesburg - April 25

Holyoke - April 25

Sterling - April 27

Keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page for all the details, including times and locations.

*This year, we are not doing the pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention month. While they are still the symbol used to promote awareness, we are moving away from using them, and trying to be more eco friendly. Instead, we are doing the **Keep Me Safe** campaign that includes an outline of a child, and requested all of our community's child care homes, preschools, and centers have each of their students decorate them to represent a likeness of themselves. Those will be displayed at local businesses throughout the month of April. (If you haven't turned yours in yet, please be sure to get them to Stacey ASAP.) Thank you for all you do for children and families throughout the 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 on **Monday, April 6th 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 Libraries are available for your Family Child Care Home. Check out all the great things we have to offer!

[ECCLPS Lending Library](#)
[Adapt to Impact Lending Library](#)

Important Tax Law Change: Great News for Nonprofits and Donors

BIG news - beginning 2027 (to file your 2026 taxes), now charitable contributions can be claimed even if you file the EZ form! **New Charitable Deduction for Standard Filers** A new provision allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to also deduct charitable contributions—up to \$1,000 for single filers and \$2,000 for joint filers. This provides a tax break for supporting charities! Learn more in this [video](#).

Save the Date

April 8 - **Bridging the Plains Resource Expo**
Revere High School, Ovid
7:00 - 8:30 PM

April 8 - **Speak Up for Kids Day**
History Colorado 1200 Broadway, Denver
7:30 AM - 12:00 PM Register [HERE](#)

April 10 - **Wear Blue Day**
Wear blue on this day to show your support of child abuse prevention, and encourage your networks to participate as well!

April 11 - 17 - **Week of the Young Child**
Learn more [HERE](#)

April 16 - May 14 - **Positive Solutions for Families class**
See flyer for dates on next page

April 18 - **Parks with a Purpose**
Logan County Fairgrounds
3:30 PM 970-466-0063 or 970-520-4954 to donate auction items

April 25 - **Week of the Young Child Celebration Phillips County**

April 25 - **Week of the Young Child Celebration Sedgwick County**

April 27 - **Week of the Young Child Celebration Logan County**

April 27 - **ECCLPS Professional Development Training**
ECCLPS Office 100 Broadway Ste. 14
6:30 - 8:30 PM RSVP [HERE](#) by 4/22/26.

May 4 - **Healthy Child Clinic**
700 Columbine Street, Sterling
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Please call for appointment 970-522-3741
You can also schedule a car seat check!



Help build a strong foundation for your child's social and emotional skills with this engaging and informative training. Positive Solutions for Families offers practical strategies to promote your child's emotional well-being and success at home and school.

**This training is provided at no cost to participants.*

What You'll Gain:

- Learn how to build children's social and emotional skills
- Understand challenging behaviors and their causes
- Use positive approaches to teach appropriate behavior

These sessions provide general information on key strategies that can be used with all children. Please note they are not designed to offer parents specific advice for their child's individual needs.

RESERVE Your Spot Today!

Details: This training is comprised of 7 engaging sessions designed to provide practical tools and strategies for parents and caregivers.

| Session | Date | Time |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Making the Connection | April 16, 2026 | 6:30pm to 8:30pm |
| 2. Keeping it Positive | April 21, 2026 | 6:30pm to 8:30pm |
| 3. Behavior Has Meaning | April 23, 2026 | 6:30pm to 8:30pm |
| 4. The Power of Routines | April 28, 2026 | 6:30pm to 8:30pm |
| 5. Teach Me What to Do | May 7, 2026 | 6:30pm to 8:30pm |
| 6. Responding with Purpose | May 12, 2026 | 6:30pm to 8:30pm |
| 7. Putting it all Together | May 14, 2026 | 6:30pm to 8:30pm |

Scan Here to Claim Your Spot!



All FFN Providers who attend and fully engage in all 7 sessions will receive a [Tucker Turtle at Home Kit](#) at no cost! This kit includes a Tucker Turtle Scripted Story, puppet, and strategy cards that can help you implement your new learning right away.

HEALTHY *child*
care COLORADO

This no-cost training is made possible by time-limited federal stimulus funding awarded to Colorado. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition or Colorado Department of Early Childhood.

Learning & Development

ECCLPS Professional Development Training - Practical Strategies to Support Autism and Learning Differences in an Early Childhood Environment - Taylor Hagemeyer

11 Classroom Management Tweaks You Don't Learn in Teacher Prep

Over time, every teacher makes small changes that have a big impact on how their classes run. A veteran teacher shares the hacks that work for him.

Everyone Needs Attention

We know that young children who need attention don't necessarily act in ways that adults expect. Let's shift our words and our hearts to understand, it *is* attention seeking behavior, but *what do they need* in a relationship to feel "whole"?

Using Questions to Encourage Emergent Learning

Understanding the importance of preschool students' questions is key to guiding their learning experiences and fostering a spirit of inquiry.

Using Talk for Writing in Pre-K

This is a fun and engaging way to expand on classic story time.

Enhancing Protective Factors of Children and Families

When protective factors are enhanced by child and youth professionals, they can help to minimize the risk of child abuse and neglect from occurring.

Where Learning Comes Alive

Includes three ways outdoor learning strengthens literacy, and strategies for educators in the outdoor classroom.

Just Like Phonics, Comprehension Requires Explicit Teaching

Excellent suggestions to help boost reading comprehension skills, even before kids begin to read.

What if States Made Child Care a Constitutional Right?

Some points to ponder as a child care provider. From a guest author at zero2eight.

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

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. ECCLPS strives to help each parent and caregiver understand the key factors in preventing child abuse and neglect. Raising kids is HARD, and sometimes you just need a break. Explore some of the community resources available in our three counties to find help when things are rough. Consider reaching out to family and friends, when you feel like you just can't do it anymore. It's a long journey and we all want to see you succeed! Check out some of these resources that you can share with families: [CDC Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention](#), [CO4Kids](#), [Child Abuse and Neglect Partners and Resources](#), [A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center](#), [Colorado Department of Human Resources](#), [FindHelp](#), [Sara House](#), [Help for Abused Partners](#), [Family Resource Center](#), [Phillips County Family Education Services](#), [Nurse Family Partnership](#), [Baby Bear Hugs](#), [SafeCare Colorado](#), [Illuminate Colorado](#)

[Trauma or Toxic? A Deep Dive into the Impact of Stress on Kids' Health](#)

UC San Francisco researchers found robust evidence that stress occurring as early as before birth or as late as adolescence can affect multiple conditions in kids, from asthma to mental health to cognitive functioning.

[Violence](#)

Whether children are directly or indirectly exposed to violent events, there are ways to help them feel safer and more secure.

[Child Abuse and Neglect: AAP Policy Explained](#)

Here's what you need to know about child maltreatment - what might cause it, the lasting harm it can do to kids, and what steps you can take to protect your child. (In [Español](#))

[Appropriate Expectations & Responses to Behavior](#)

This site helps explain many milestones at different ages, along with realistic and unrealistic expectations, and appropriate responses to children's behavior. It is set up with professionals in mind, but offers excellent information for all caregivers, parents, babysitters, etc.

[Optimism for Parents](#)

What sets optimists apart is the belief that they have the ability to overcome the difficulties in life, even if they don't know how or when that change will occur.

[Supporting Young Children at Home: Key Factors to Nurture Development in Early Years](#)

What matters most are the everyday experiences, relationships, and environments you create at home.

[211 Colorado](#)

List of basic needs and financial resources.

[988 Colorado Mental Health Line](#)

When parents experience poor mental health, children and families experience it too. This support is available 24/7 via call, text, or live chat at no cost. Conversations are completely confidential. Available in English or Spanish.

[National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

No cost, confidential, 24/7 support via call, chat, text, or AI chat. 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

[The Good Enough Parent is the Best Parent](#)

Peter Gray shares his thoughts and wisdom on "parenting". This is a long read, but so worth the time. The attempt to be a perfect parent, or even a great one, is futile and possibly harmful. Seek to understand your children, not to dominate them.

Child Health and Well-Being

Of utmost importance, parents and adults need to know that physical discipline (also known as corporal punishment) is unacceptable. It teaches children that it is okay to strike someone when you are very upset and, by example, that form of behavior is often carried into adulthood as a parental discipline technique. Harsh verbal abuse in early years is associated in adolescent conduct problems and depressive symptoms. Words matter! Speaking to a child in a manner which means to cause shame, humiliation, to demean or otherwise degrade is considered child abuse. Discipline is different than punishment in that it is meant to teach something, is appropriate to a child's age and development, and seeks to help the child to regulate his or her own behavior, and to keep them safe from harm, not to punish a behavior.

[What's the Best Way to Discipline My Child?](#)

As a parent, one of your jobs is to teach your child to behave. It helps to learn the effective and healthy discipline strategies.

[How to Shape and Manage Your Young Child's Behavior](#)

Helping shape your children's behavior is a key part of being a parent. It can be difficult as well as rewarding. Try some of these tips to help.

[How to Practice Positive Discipline](#)

Positive discipline is a parenting tool that focuses on encouragement, kindness, and problem-solving skills to correct undesirable behavior in children. It is centered around mutual respect, solutions vs. punishment, and effective communication.

[What You Can Do to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

Child abuse and neglect are serious public health concerns. They can have long-term impacts on health, and they are COMMON. At least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year in the U.S.

[Preventing Child Abuse: 11 Actions Adults Can Take](#)

Talking openly about preventing child abuse actually reduces the likelihood of it. Here are some suggestions for prevention from Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

[Parent Resource Page](#)

If you're concerned about - or considering seeking professional support for - your child's emotional well-being, there are lots of resources just for you.

[Teaching My Brain](#)

What we model for our children in times of stress matters. When we speak kindly to ourselves, we help teach strategies kids can use over their lifetimes.

[Tummy Time: Brain-Building Exercises for the Baby that Hates Tummy Time](#)

Tummy time is essential for every child's future learning development and all parents should encourage tummy time activities as much as possible.

[Parents can Help Kids Catch Up in Reading with a 10-Minute Daily Routine](#)

For kids, this strategy is a lot like learning a new song by reading lyrics while singing along with a music video.

[Sun's Up, Sun's Down: Healthy Families & Healthy Days](#)

A storybook about all the healthy habits that make up our daily routines. Children need routines and predictable schedules.

[Guided Meditation: Magical Balloons to Lighten the Load](#)

This meditation can be extremely helpful when children are carrying emotional heaviness from world events, family circumstances, or personal challenges.

Velvet Ant

*Velvet ants are a family of more than 7,000 species of wasps whose wingless females resemble large, hairy ants. The dense pile of hair can be bright scarlet, orange, silver, or gold, or even all black. The bright colors serve as [aposematic](#) signals. They are known for their extremely painful stings, however, they are not aggressive and sting only in defense. The actual toxicity of their venom is much lower than that of honey bees or harvester ants. Unlike true ants, they are solitary, and lack complex social systems.

*The exoskeleton of velvet ants is unusually tough. This allows them to successfully invade the nests of their prey and also helps them retain moisture. They exhibit extreme [sexual dimorphism](#). The males have wings, but females do not. Only the females are capable of inflicting a sting. The stinger is a modified female organ called an [ovipositor](#), which is unusually long and maneuverable.

*Males fly in search of females. After mating, the female enters a host insect nest, typically a ground-nesting bee or wasp burrow, and deposits one egg near each larva or pupa. The velvet ant larvae then feed on and eventually kill their immobile larval/pupal hosts within a week or two. Adults feed on nectar. Although some species are strictly nocturnal, females are often active during the day, or up to two hours before sunset.

*Velvet ants avoid predation using a venomous sting, aposematic coloration, a [stridulatory organ](#) in their abdomen, an alarm secretion from their mandibular gland, and a durable exoskeleton. This array of defenses has contributed to the velvet ants being attributed the title of “the indestructible insect”. The stridulatory organ produces an audible squeaking when the abdomen is contracted, and acts as an auditory cue warning predators that are about to attack to stay away.

*Velvet ants are well represented in Colorado with approximately 80 species, and one or more species can be found in most any area of the state, excluding higher elevations. They tend to occur in areas of open fields, particularly lower elevation shortgrass prairie of both eastern and western Colorado.

*The velvet ants spend the winter in the pupal stage within the tunnels of the bees on which they have fed. The adult wasps emerge in late spring. Males can be seen flying lazily above the ground, while females spend most of their time crawling over the ground searching for nesting bees. Both sexes maintain themselves by feeding on nectar and pollen and they are most easily observed when they visit flowers. They likely produce only a single generation per year.

Source [1](#), [2 Video](#)



Adult Male



Adolescent



Adult Female



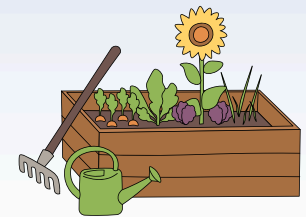
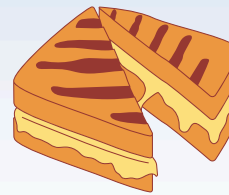
Adult Female



Adult Male

Holidays and Special Occasions in April

- April 1 - [Day of Hope](#)
- April 1 - [Nickelodeon Anniversary Celebration Day](#)
- April 1 - [Reading is Funny Day](#)
- April 2 - [Autism Acceptance Day](#)
- April 2 - [Children's Picture Book Day](#)
- April 3 - [National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day](#)
- April 4 - [National Love Our Children Day](#)
- April 5 - [National Dandelion Day](#)
- April 6 - [National Library Day](#)
- April 10 - [Encourage a Young Writer Day](#)
- April 10 - [National Bookmobile Day](#)
- April 12 - [D.E.A.R. Day](#)
- April 12 - [National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day](#)
- April 13 - [International Plant Appreciation Day](#)
- April 14 - [National Gardening Day](#)
- April 15 - [World Art Day](#)
- April 16 - [Day of the Mushroom](#)
- April 16 - [National Documentary Day](#)
- April 17 - [International Bat Appreciation Day](#)
- April 21 - [National Kindergarten Day](#)
- April 22 - [Earth Day](#)
- April 23 - [World Book Day](#)
- April 25 - [Eeyore's Birthday](#)
- April 30 - [Spank Out Day](#)



- April 1 - 7 - [Be Kind to Spiders Week](#)
- April 4 - 11 - [National Robotics Week](#)
- April 5 - 9 - [National Wildlife Week](#)
- April 11 - 17 - [Week of the Young Child](#)
- April 13 - 19 - [International Dark Sky Week](#)



- April is
- [Autism Acceptance Month](#)
- [Celebrate Diversity Month](#)
- [Child Abuse Awareness Month](#)
- [Children and Nature Awareness Month](#)
- [Earth Month](#)
- [Financial Literacy Month](#)
- [Global Child Nutrition Month](#)
- [National Literature Month](#)
- [Poetic Earth Month](#)
- [School Library Month](#)



Any Time is a Great Time to Give Where You Live
ECCLPS Accepts and appreciates donations through out
the year! If you would like to donate, please go to:

[ECCLPS Colorado Gives](#)

~ ECCLPS TEAM ~

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 4:00

ECCLPS Partner Meetings
4th Monday of the Month
(Quarterly September - April)
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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