

EST.



1997

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

LOGAN - PHILLIPS - SEDGWICK

Every child can learn, play & succeed!

March 2026 Newsletter

Announcements

This month we would like to feature **Sterling Public Library**. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful library and Staff, that provide so many services, materials, and activities for children (and adults) of all ages. From Dial-a-Story (970-522-6808) to 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, Baby Story Time to Take and Make crafts - Sterling Library has it all! They also have programs geared toward teens, and adults. They offer many forms of media, including print, digital formats, downloadable music and videos. Anyone with a valid Sterling Public Library card has access to them.

Whether you prefer to check items out and take them home, or engage on site, they will make you feel welcome.

Services include: Public Meeting Rooms, Copy Service, Internet Access, Printing (including wireless print jobs), Play in the Park totes, State Park totes (that include a day pass to State Parks), Interlibrary Loans, Information and Reference assistance, and Book-a-Librarian. They even do puzzle swaps, plant swaps, movie viewings, Lego challenges, holiday tea parties, game nights, craft clubs, youth and adult book clubs, and SO MUCH MORE! If you haven't visited them in a while, now is the perfect time to stop in and see what's coming up. Visit their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date. Thank you Sterling Public Library for being so AWESOME!

ECCLPS News

*In April we have lots of exciting things to celebrate! We're gearing up for them early, to engage community participation. Plan to join ECCLPS for our Week of the Young Child celebrations, which this year, will include an Earth Week and Arbor Day celebration too! In preparation for the event, you can register to get a tree, at no cost, for your child/children to plant together.

[Neighborhood Forest](#) will provide the trees, and ECCLPS will provide the fun! Use this [link](#) to get registered, and we'll have the tree for you to take home after the party. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date. We will announce dates and locations for the CELEBRATIONS in each county. Don't forget to tell your friends!

*March is National March Into Literacy Month. Find ways to make reading extra fun by including activities, puppets, animated voices, and exciting stories that will keep your little reader engaged and wanting more! The more they enjoy books and stories during the early years, the more likely it is they will become a life-long reader. No matter how many apps, videos, and screen-based activities insinuate "developmentally appropriate", nothing can (or should) replace books and laps! What projects to you have planned to support literacy in March?

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 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](#)

***In Light of the nearby fire in February, we are listing these emergency notification services again. If you haven't registered/downloaded them yet, now is a GREAT time to do so. Don't wait until you really need to know!

Code Red
[Logan County Emergency Notification](#)
[Phillips County Emergency Notification](#)
[Sedgwick County Emergency Manager Watch Duty](#) (fire only)

Now available through Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) **Nurturing Connections Colorado** [Support Line](#). Helping parents and caregivers support the well-being of young children.

Save the Date

March 2 - **CHILD FIND Clinic**
Merino - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Fleming - 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

See the full schedule

Northeast BOCES [CHILD FIND](#) - Spring 2026

March 3 - 24 - **Positive Solutions for Families**
7 sessions to provide practical tools and strategies for parents and caregivers.

March 7 - **Medication Administration Training Parts 1 & 2**

ECCLPS Office 100 Broadway Ste. 14
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cost is \$25 paid to Julie day of class.

March 11 - **Food & Culture Fair**

Northeastern Junior College Auxiliary Gym
4:00 - 7:00 PM

March 23 - **ECCLPS Professional Development Training**

ECCLPS Office 100 Broadway Ste. 14
6:30 - 8:30 PM RSVP [HERE](#) by 3/17/26.

March 26 - **NECO-STIR**

Melissa Memorial Hospital
22050 Hwy 385, Holyoke
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Register [HERE](#)

March 28 - **Annual Health and Wellness Expo**

Phillips County Event Center
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM free admission
For more info call 970-854-5992

March 28, 29 - **Home and Garden Show**

Sedgwick County Fairgrounds
28 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, 29 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
If you would like to have a booth, click [HERE](#)

April 18 - **Parks with a Purpose**

Logan County Fairgrounds
3:30 PM 970-466-0063 or 970-520-4954 to donate auction items

Learning & Development

ECCLPS Professional Development

Training - This month will be on Dyslexia with trainer Jennifer Betzmer. We need at least 10 to meet in person, or else it will be virtual only. RSVP to [Stacey](#) by 3/17/26.

12 Toddler Literacy Activities for Budding Bookworms

Fun ideas to help build literacy.

Handwriting is Essential - Here's How to Teach it

When students master the skills of handwriting, they become better readers, too.

You, Me & Community

No student is too young to learn how to become civically engaged! Introduce your young learners to basic civics concepts, and help build a more engaged community.

Community Helpers

When young learners are introduced to important roles within their communities, they learn to work cooperatively and respect others as they develop skills like pride, responsibility, and empathy.

Federal Child Care Funding & Program Integrity Fact Sheet

Stay up to date on what's happening with the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). Updated with all new and relevant information as it is received from the State.

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. [Attestation](#) instructions.

Visit [Tax Help Colorado](#) to get your taxes done at NJC at no-cost, or go [HERE](#).

Please share these with your families, if you haven't already done so.

Recommended Immunization Schedule Immunization Laws and Board of Health Rules

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



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.

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.

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	March 3, 2026	6:30pm-8:30pm
2. Keeping it Positive	March 5, 2026	6:30pm-8:30pm
3. Behavior Has Meaning	March 10, 2026	6:30pm-8:30pm
4. The Power of Routines	March 12, 2026	6:30pm-8:30pm
5. Teach Me What to Do	March 17, 2026	6:30pm-8:30pm
6. Responding with Purpose	March 19, 2026	6:30pm-8:30pm
7. Putting it all Together	March 24, 2026	6:30pm-8:30pm

Additional Information:

Cost: FREE

Registration Link: [Click to complete form](#)

Virtual Training Requirements:

- **Reliable internet connection**
- **Device with camera and microphone**
- **Camera on and active participation required to receive certificate**
- **Ability to join all sessions live during scheduled class time (there will be no recorded sessions)**

RSVP by February 13th. More information will follow after registration

Questions?

Stephanie Swenson 970.526.2440

Family Support and Education

[How to Teach Students to Use AI Responsibly: A Guide for Families and Educators](#)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming part of everyday life - at school and at home. It's no longer a question of *if* kids will use AI, but *when* and *how*. That's why it's important to teach AI as a 21st-century skill.

[Are You Tired of Talking About Screens?](#)

This is a reminder that it is never too late to set rules you believe in, and to gain the confidence that you are not a "mean" parent for drawing clean and non-negotiable limits that support healthy development.

[Online Privacy Checklist for Parents](#)

As parents, we can support our children with both the knowledge and tools they need to navigate the online world independently and responsibly.

[When it Comes to Screen Time, Expert Guidance and Family Realities Diverge](#)

We know we've said it often, but we're going to say it again... Keep the screens away from your babies and toddlers! The use of digital tools is denying children the opportunity to build essential life skills.

[The Algorithm is Messing with Parental Support](#)

why the most terrifying parenting advice goes viral, and why real expertise rarely fits in a soundbite.

[Mental Health Resource and Support List for Parents](#)

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.

[Three Overlooked Reasons Why Children Struggle with Reading](#)

These include: Unreasonable Expectations, Disabilities and Inclusion, and Fast-Tracking Teachers. Not all children are ready to read by the time they enter kindergarten. It doesn't mean they aren't smart, or don't have potential, they just need a little more time.

[Explore Everyday Text with Phoebe and Jay](#)

Everyday text is all around us! There are lots of opportunities to notice and talk about how it helps us get things done and navigate the world. Learn how to use everyday text to help your child understand the world. Learn more with animated friends [Phoebe and Jay](#).

[10 Practical Ways to Boost Listening and Cooperation in Kids](#)

This isn't a one and done conversation, but many small moments adding up.

[Why I was Happy When My Son Started Lying](#)

Lying is actually a developmental milestone. It signals a shift in their brain known as "mixed feelings", and is completely normal. How you, as a parent, react to it is what matters now.

[How the New Dietary Guidelines Could Impact School Meals](#)

Districts that receive federal funding for school meals - through, for example, the National School Lunch Program - must follow rules set by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and those rules may be changing soon.

[Help Your Child Calm Down at Bedtime: Gentle Rituals to Settle Big Emotions](#)

Bedtime struggles are one of the most common concerns parents face. Not because children are trying to be difficult, but because their nervous systems are often still carrying the day.

Child Health and Well-Being

[Understanding Kindergarten Readiness](#)

An excellent set of life skills your child should know before they start kindergarten, that begins with you modeling them at home. Far more important than memorizing ABC's and 1, 2, 3!

[Sesame Street Games Club](#)

Play and learn with Elmo, Cookie Monster, Grover, and more in this Sesame Street App packed with fun mini games and activities for preschoolers. Remember, it's best to play WITH your child, and limit their time to less than an hour.

[Magna-Tiles for Hand-Eye Coordination, Problem Solving, Sensory Issues, and Motor Planning](#)

Are your children obsessed with Magna-Tiles? That's not necessarily a bad thing, learn about the skills they help build.

[Plants for Kids: 5 Fun Ways to Introduce Kids to Gardening](#)

Sure, March isn't the time to put plants in the ground, but it's a great time to start seeds of plants that you can move outside when the weather is right. Get them started, let the kids help transplant, and set them up for a whole summer of fun - outside and away from screens!

[Children's Books that Teach Children to Include Others](#)

While awareness takes time to develop in children, we can help teach children what being excluded and being included feels like.

[Top to Bottom Brain-Building Exercises for Organization and Emotional Grounding](#)

If your child's brain is not wired top to bottom you may notice their hands and feet don't work well together and they are clumsy. Top to bottom exercises can help regulate the part of the brain that controls your child's emotions. These are great, no-cost exercises that may help.

[Early Screen Time Linked to Long-term Brain Changes and Teen Anxiety](#)

New research following children for more than a decade links high screen exposure before age two to accelerated brain maturation, slower decision-making, and increased anxiety by adolescence. Infants with more screen time showed premature specialization in brain networks involved in visual processing and cognitive control, which later reduced flexibility during thinking tasks.

[Using "Baby Talk" Could Aid Infants' Early Language Development](#)

Baby talk isn't just cute - it could play a vital role in helping infants learn the sounds of their language.

[Why Letting Children Fall is Important](#)

When children fall, something remarkable happens. Their body and brain immediately begin working together.

[Stretch, Breathe, Move!](#)

Help children connect with their brains and bodies to relax, refocus, or work through big feelings. After we notice how our bodies are feeling, we can think about what we are feeling and label it. Fun for kids AND adults!

[Kids' Meditation for Joy: The Blissful Feather](#)

As kids get older, that genuine joy can express itself a little less often thanks to the weight of the world or judgement of others. This joy meditation script uses feather imagery to help kids cultivate the feeling of joy.

American Robin

*The quintessential early bird, American Robins are common sights on lawns across North America, where you often see them tugging earthworms out of the ground. Robins are popular birds for their warm orange breast, cheery song, and early appearance at the end of winter. Though they're familiar town and city birds, Robins are at home in wilder areas too, including mountain forests and Alaskan wilderness.

*An American Robin can produce three successful broods in one year. Eggs take roughly 14 days to hatch, and are a beautiful sky-blue color. On average, though, only 40 percent of nests successfully produce young. Only 25 percent of those fledged young survive to November. From that point on, about half of the robins alive in any year will make it to the next. Despite the fact that a lucky robin can live to be 14 years old, the entire population turns over on average every six years.

*Although robins are considered harbingers of spring, many of them spend the whole winter in their breeding range. But because they spend more time roosting in trees and less time in your yard, you're much less likely to see them. The number of robins present in the northern parts of the range varies each year with the local conditions. Some birds have traveled up to 3,000 miles, from Iowa to Alaska, during their spring migration.

*Robins eat a lot of fruit in the fall and winter. When they eat honeysuckle berries exclusively, they sometimes become intoxicated.

*Robin roosts can be huge, sometimes including a quarter-million birds during winter. In summer, females sleep at their nests and males gather at roosts. As young robins become independent, they join the males. Female adults go to the roosts only after they have finished nesting.

*Robins eat different types of food depending on the time of day: more worms in the morning and more fruit later in the day. Because they forage largely on lawns, it is vulnerable to pesticide poisoning and can be an important indicator of chemical pollution.

*According to some recent estimates, the robin population stands at 310 million. These birds went through a rough patch when DDT use was rampant in the mid-1900's. Robins were among the first avian species found to be affected by the use of this pesticide, and scientists recorded mass mortality events as a result. After the 1972 ban on DDT, their populations quickly recovered.

*The American Robin belongs to the thrush family, which also includes bluebirds, and is the official state bird of: Connecticut, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

*Robins don't maintain pair bonds and often take on new mates each spring. At the breeding grounds, males put on strutting courtship displays for females. At dawn, they sing, shake their wings, fluff their tail feathers, and puff their throats to entice the ladies.

*Robin nests are often a target of parasitic Brown-headed Cowbirds, who lay their speckled eggs among the robin's eggs. A study found that robins are extremely efficient at recognizing and removing these unwanted eggs from their nests before they hatch and become competition for robin chicks.

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



Adult female Robin



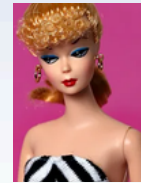
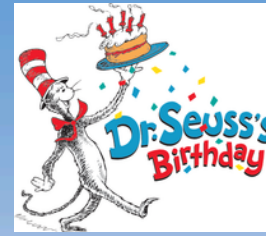
Robin fledgling



Robin nest with eggs

Holidays and Special Occasions in March

- March 1 - [Zero Discrimination Day](#)
- March 2 - [Read Across America Day](#)
- March 2 - [Dr. Seuss's Birthday](#)
- March 3 - [National Anthem Day](#)
- March 3 - [World Wildlife Day](#)
- March 4 - [Discover What Your Name Means Day](#)
- March 4 - [National Grammar Day](#)
- March 4 - [Toy Soldier Day](#)
- March 7 - [National Day of Unplugging](#)
- March 8 - [Daylight Savings Day](#)
- March 9 - [National Barbie Day](#)
- March 13 - [National Preschooler's Day](#)
- March 14 - [National Children's Craft Day](#)
- March 14 - [Science Education Day](#)
- March 17 - [St. Patrick's Day](#)
- March 18 - [National SBDC Day](#)
- March 19 - [International Read to Me Day](#)
- March 20 - [Absolutely Incredible Kid Day](#)
- March 20 - [National Preschool Teacher Appreciation Day](#)
- March 20 - [Spring Equinox](#)
- March 23 - [World Math Day](#)
- March 25 - [Little Red Wagon Day](#)
- March 25 - [Tolkien Reading Day](#)
- March 31 - [Crayola Crayon Day](#)



- March 1 - 7 - [School Social Work Week](#)
- March 1 - 7 - [Teen Tech Week](#)
- March 2 - 8 - [Food Waste Action Week](#)
- March 2 - 6 - [Read Across America Week](#)
- March 8 - 14 - [Girl Scout Week](#)



- March is
- [Expanding Girls' Horizons in Science and Engineering Month](#)
 - [National Craft Month](#)
 - [National Credit Education Month](#)
 - [National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#)
 - [National March Into Literacy Month](#)
 - [National Music in Our Schools Month](#)
 - [National Reading Month](#)
 - [Poison Prevention Awareness Month](#)
 - [Sing With Your Child Month](#)
 - [Youth Art 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

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