



Early Childhood Network



Hello,

I would like to take this space to answer a question I received that I think is important to all of us, and can be very confusing.

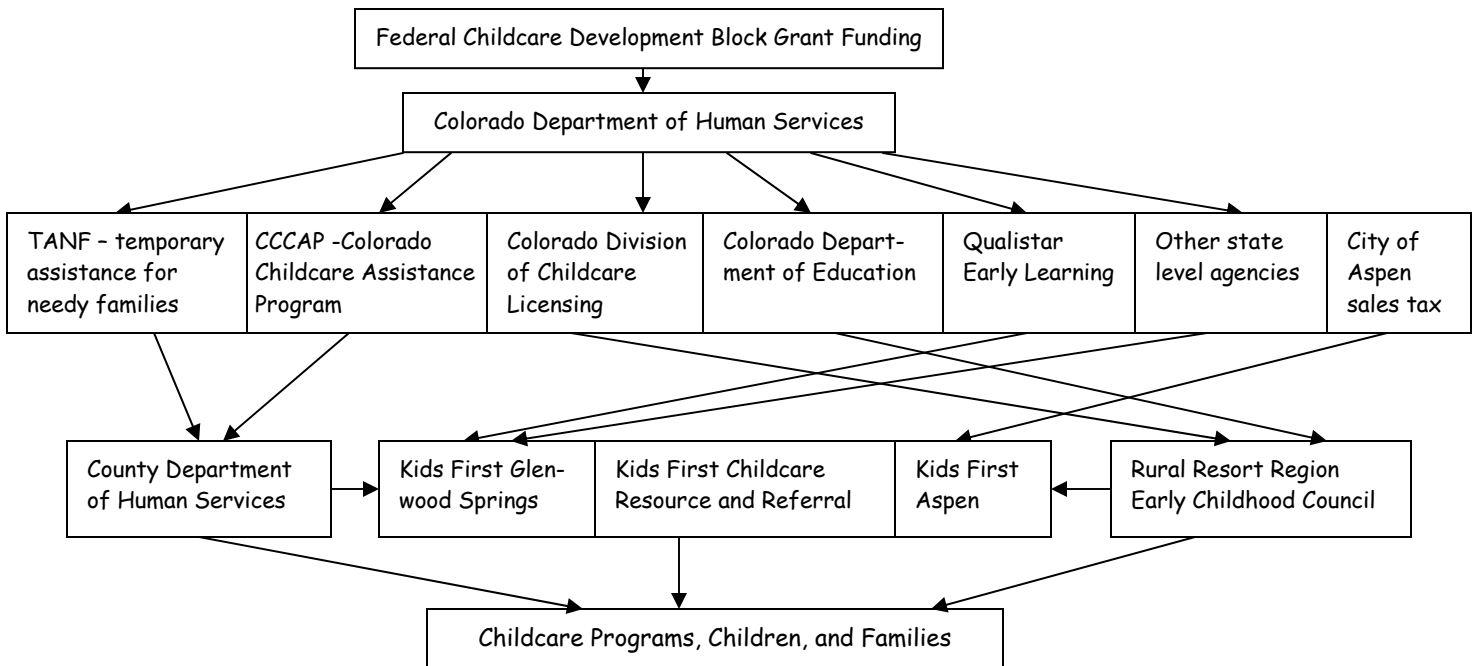
- **Where does all the money for early childhood come from and where does it go?**

I'm sure to leave something out but I will at least explain the parts I know. First of all nearly all the money for Kids First in Pitkin County comes from a .45% sales tax in the city of Aspen; 55% of this tax goes to childcare, the rest to affordable housing. This tax was just renewed for 30 years—what a legacy to leave young children and families!!!!

The Kids First office in Glenwood Springs was started as a partnership with the Aspen Community Foundation as part of the early childhood education initiative (ECEI) from 2003 to 2008. The money that funds the Kids First Glenwood Springs office now comes from 9 different sources: Qualistar, Garfield County, Eagle County, the Rural Resort Region Early Childhood Council, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, Anschutz Family Foundation, Daniels Fund, Garfield County Human Service Commission, and the Tony Grampas Youth Services (TGYS). Kids First provides referral services for Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin Counties, and because of the funding also provides quality improvement assessment and coaching in Garfield County.

To better explain how the money for early childhood comes into our area I used the flow chart below. There is more detail than I could include, but I hope this helps you understand a good part of it. Of course there is funding for early childhood physical health, mental health, prevention of child abuse, victims assistance, family support and home visitation that is also part of the big picture, but not shown here. I just want to let you know that it is all very much inter-twined, and that when you hear about federal or state legislation that it probably affects you, more directly than you might have known.

shirley



The Garfield County Department of Human Services Childcare Program

The holidays will soon be here. Can you believe it? We will be leaving 2008 in a few weeks, and looking ahead to 2009. Mark your calendars for these events in 2009.

- February 20, 21-Dr. Bruce Perry- Children and Brain Development- sponsored by the GCDHS Childcare Program- Dr. Bruce Perry is a neurobiologist who has treated the children of the Columbine High School shooting and the children of Waco. Registration is free, lunch is provided. You won't want to miss hearing him. More information and registration forms will be mailed in December.

- Read to Me Day- February 10th.

- Kindergarten Transition- March, 2009

- Provider Appreciation- April 26, at the Hotel Colorado. Save the date!

- There will be another Quality/Capacity Enhancement Grant cycle offered in January, and one in the fall.

Medication Administration and Universal Precautions training will begin again on January 10th, and CPR/1st Aid on January 24th. Registration and fee is required in advance. The cost for Meds/UP is \$45.00 and the cost for CPR/1st Aid is \$50.00.

Directors' breakfasts began in September. The breakfasts in Glenwood are scheduled for the second Friday of each month; the Rifle breakfasts the fourth Friday of the month.

Both are held from 7:30 AM to 9 AM.

Quality/Capacity Enhancement Grant applications were mailed to all licensed facilities in Garfield County and the RF Valley Eagle County. We funded 37 facilities for \$114,700.

We are pleased to announce that Ericka Anderson, child consultant, has returned from maternity leave. She works two days a week. Give her a call and welcome her back. Mom, Dad and girls are doing well.

Dana Damm

970-945-9191 Extension 3066

RFAEYC Newsletter Article- 11/5/08

A Winter Wonderland!!



It looks like winter is right around the corner!! With the excitement and business of the Holidays we will be holding off on workshops until February. But save the date! **Dr. Bruce Perry** will be coming to **Glenwood Springs Feb 20th and 21st** to talk about Brain Development. The location is TBA and as soon as we have more details a flyer will be sent out! We want to send out a big "Thank You" to all of the people who made the last 2 workshops possible! We had some great turn outs and a lot of valuable information was shared.

As always I am available as a resource if you are interested in learning more about RFAEYC and what we are all about!

See you around! Katie Brzoza, Secretary RFAEYC)

katiebrzoza@hotmail.com 770-823-9806

RAISING A READER



The month of October is always exciting with the annual fall launch of Raising A Reader. Over 1,500 preschool children from Aspen to Parachute will be carrying home weekly their red book bags for their parents/caregivers to read to them. Raising A Reader is positively impacting kindergarten readiness, family bonding and strong links to the library by substantially increasing the amount of lap reading time families spend together, establishing a routine of reading in the home and connecting children and their families to the library. Raising A Reader is empowering parents to bond more deeply with their children through the "read aloud" experience which strengthens the family and the child's capacity to learn by educating parents/caregivers about the benefits of frequent reading to their preschool children. Raising A Reader is developing kindergarten readiness skills on book knowledge, print concept and reading comprehension by consistently connecting families with the tools to bring reading alive...*Books build brains*. Continuing the quality, age appropriateness, multicultural and multilingual Raising A Reader books maintains the interest of the child and parent to "see what books" are in the bookbag this week. The teachers also link the Raising A Reader experience from the home to the classroom by giving the children an opportunity to verbally share with their classmates their own stories about the books. Raising A Reader is appreciative of the collaborative effort of so many people: early childhood educators, children, parents, libraries, Kids First and funding partners that have made it possible for so many preschool children to carry home weekly a red book bag.



Families from Aspen Mountain Tots

Kids First Proudly sponsored

Aspen Mountain Tots

Roaring Fork Kids

Aspen Sprouts

Little Red School House

Growing Years School

With a \$16,000.00

contribution to

Raising A Reader

DID YOU KNOW?



It is never too early to read to your baby. Between the ages of one month and two years, children's language development is almost perfect. Children this age love hearing the sound of your voice and looking at illustrations. Books are a great way to introduce new vocabulary and concepts to children.

The [importance of reading to children](#) is significant in child development, and reading books to little ones at an early age is essential. Reading children stories aloud is one of the most important activities we, as parents, grandparents, teachers, and care-givers, can do for our kids. Reading to children is one of the best ways to put them on the road to success - academically and personally.

Reading tips for reading to infants:

Choose Short Books - Babies have a limited attention span so choose a book that can be read in two to three minutes.

Read Books with Photos of Babies - Babies love looking at faces of other infants.

Allow the Baby to "Read" - Buy board books, cloth books, or vinyl books and allow the child to handle them, turn the pages, or even chew on them.

Reading tips for reading to toddlers:

Read stories again and again. Your toddler enjoys repetition and it helps him become familiar with the way stories are organized.

Allow them to pick their own books.

Make reading a habit for bedtime, after lunch, or after naptime.

Reading tips for reading to preschoolers:

Take regular trips to the library. Let your children pick out their own books.

Reading is a great way to help children calm down and focus. Having a regular reading schedule gives children something to look forward to.

Introduce new books and let children choose to help them feel empowered by reading.

Resources used:

<http://kids.pbs.org/arthur/parentsteachers/resources/tips.html?cat=tips>

http://infantstoddlers.suite101.com/article.cfm/reading_to_baby

www.nea.org/readacross/resources/infantsandtoddlers.html

For more information please visit the Kids First Bulletin boards



November Guest Editorial by Katherine Ware

I just finished reading Eric Karolak's article *Looking Back* in the latest *Child Care Exchange* magazine. He talks about how the 110th Congress and how the early childhood community fared with them. In a nutshell, he reports, not well.

There was a lot of rhetoric, recommendations, provisions that could have made major breakthroughs for children and families but in the end no appropriations, no money. When the House and the Senate did appropriate more money for Head Start and Block Grants our President vetoed the packages and actually reduced funding. Clearly, children and families are NOT a national priority.

The election we just faced provided hope no matter who ended up winning. There can't help but be changes in the government because the people seem to have finally found their voice. There is interest, oversight of elected officials, and hopefully empowerment of the constituents. There are many national priorities right now: energy, foreign policy, the economy. However, as Mr. Karolak says, "We have to help them recognize that supporting young children's learning and development *also* is a national priority."

There will also be new members on the Garfield County Commissioners. We elect these people and they need to hear from us to insure that we are on their agenda. The early childhood workforce is not known for being uppity, vocal, demanding. I propose that we begin to use our voice, organize, and begin to educate these new leaders on the importance of our work, the need for quality, for education of the workforce and for compensation and funds to support our work. We can do it in a nice way but we just need to DO IT. We can write letters and share ideas, involve parents and the business community who both depend on us, and become involved in the process. This will take time. There is a web site that can help you get started: www.ececonsortium.org.

We have subsidized this profession for too long and the only way to change things is to come up with strategies to raise awareness and begin to move things in a new direction. Please begin to have discussions with those you work with. Talk to your directors, to parents, to your association officials and see what YOU can do. You have to have a dream for a dream to come true. Let's DREAM BIG.



Colorado Bright Beginnings Launches Program for Two Year Olds.

Colorado Bright Beginnings' programs are designed to educate parents about their children's development from birth through the age of 36 months. Program A for prenatal through 12 months; Program B for 12 -24 months; and now Program C for 24 -36 months. This new program gives parents information on how to provide positive guidance, discipline and a supportive environment that promotes early literacy, brain development, health and safety and emphasizes the critical importance of parent-child relationship building.

ABC programs are free to all families and include a board book and Community Resource Guide.

To sign up or for more information phone Bright Beginnings at Family Visitor Programs, 970 945-1234 x 13.



***** NOTICE *****

LARGE CENTER DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

PURGING OF FILES SCHEDULED

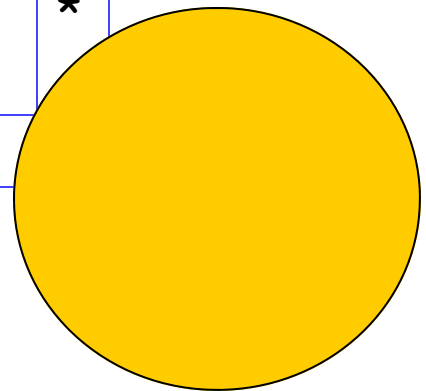
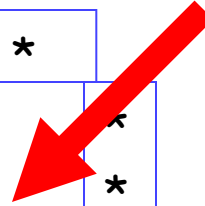
The Division of Child Care will be purging incomplete director qualification files that have had no activity since January 1, 2006, or earlier. The incomplete files of those who have not sent additional information to update their files during this time will be destroyed unless written notification is sent to the Division of Child Care by November 30, 2008. The written request must include a detailed plan for completion of all director requirements.

Those individuals who do not respond in writing but later decide to finish their director qualification will need to restart the process and reapply as a new applicant under the rules and regulations in effect at the time of reapplication.

The deadline for receiving written requests is
November 30, 2008.

Please mail your request to:

Director Qualifications
CDHS Division of Child Care
1575 Sherman Street, 1st Floor
Denver, CO 80203



CHARACTER COUNTS

Lessons From a Carrot, Egg, and Coffee Bean



Let's face it. Personal trauma and tragedy – like illness or injury, death of a loved one, loss of a job, or an unexpected breakup of a relationship – are unavoidable. The question is: Will these private calamities erode our capacity to be happy or help us become stronger and better able to live a meaningful and fulfilling life?

Consider how differently carrots, eggs, and coffee beans are affected by the extreme adversity of being boiled.

Like the carrot, adversity can soften us. We can emerge more flexible, understanding, compassionate, and grateful or we can let our life spirit turn into a soft mush. Like the egg, the boiling water can make us harder, stronger, tougher, and wiser or we can become more cynical, pessimistic, callous, and inaccessible. And like the coffee bean, we can willingly transform our lives into something better or simply lose ourselves completely.

We can't control what happens *to* us, but we have a lot to say about how we react and, therefore, what happens *in* us. The first step to turning adversity into advantage is to get out of the hot water as quickly as possible. Don't dwell on catastrophe. Grieve, but move on. Don't define your life by misfortune.

Second, force yourself to move forward. Draw on inner strengths, the people who love you, and your faith to help you transform your life into something better. Formulate a vision of a more purposeful life filled with people and experiences that will help you become more fulfilled.

Sabrina Ferguson Receives National Accreditation



Sabrina Ferguson, owner of Crystal Daycare in Redstone, Colorado, has recently been awarded a National Accreditation from the National Association of Family Child Care. Sabrina says she pursued an accreditation because she was striving to improve her program. Sabrina has been providing care in her home for four years. She cares for infants and toddlers and provides special activities such as field trips, buggy rides and Family Partnership Gatherings.

The National Association of Family Child Care offers accreditation to providers across the country, aiding them in raising their standards of quality care. As an accredited provider, Sabrina will now receive 2 more points on her Qualistar rating. "The higher standards mean a better environment and curriculum for the children and families," said Sabrina. "The NAFCC standards prompted us to improve in several areas." The town of Redstone benefits from accreditation as it is an indicator that quality care is available for parents in this community. For more information about becoming an accredited family childcare home through NAFCC go to www.nafcc.org.

Sabrina is planning on continuing her journey of professionalism and plans to become Director Qualified in the near future. She has received quality improvement grants and coaching through Kids First. Crystal Daycare has had 3 Qualistar ratings and has made incredible improvements each year.

Sabrina's program currently has a 4 star rating. To learn more about her program and to see the website she put up to better communicate with families; check out www.crystaldaycare.com.



CONGRATULATIONS SABRINA!

Kids First Reports Trends:

Child Care Trends

Kids First has been receiving a larger than usual number of calls from programs with openings, particularly for preschool aged children. While many ask if this increase in openings is due to more programs opening, this is most likely not the case since there have been program closures as well.



The big demand for child care continues to be for children under the age of 2 years old, which can explain at least some of openings for older children.

Programs that can accommodate older and younger siblings tend to be less impacted. In talking with parents and programs, we are also hearing that the economy may be playing a role. For example, families with more than one child are opting to keep their children at home with a parent, aunt, or grandparent because the cost of care combined with the cost of gas cancels out a salary. Parents are looking for work and child care closer to home, rather than up or down a valley and for programs with extended hours to accommodate longer work days. Additionally, some parents are losing their jobs and are, at least temporarily, taking their children out of child care. The good news is that in recent days, calls for child care referrals are picking up again...please hang in there!

How We Can Help

When parents call for referrals, they receive a list with the contact information for all of the licensed early care and education programs in their area. While we don't play favorites and cannot recommend one program over another, we can let parents know about recent openings that have been reported to us. Feel free to give Kids First a call when your program does have openings and we'll put you on our Openings List. Some programs are opting to do drop-in care until their spaces are filled. We can also share this information with parents (i.e., a parent calls who needs back up care for a couple of days while their provider is closed; a parent has job interview; etc.). When your space(s) are filled, give us a call back and we will take you off. You will still be on our main list.

How You Can Help

Get the word out. If your program is full, please give parents our contact information so that we can offer our free child care referral services. In Pitkin and Garfield County call (970) 928-7111 & in Eagle County call (970) 328-3400.

Professional Development Upcoming Training Opportunities!

November 17th Health and Safety Training 5:45 - 6:45

Offered at Blue Lake Preschool

Trainers = Eva Jankovsky, Joni Goodwin, & Brianne Evans

December 17th Health and Safety Training 5:45—6:30

Offered at The Yellow Brick

Trainers = Eva Jankovsky, Joni Goodwin, & Brianne Evans

Jan 2009 ECE 111 Infant and Toddler Theory and Practice

Offered in Rifle

Teachers = Dana Damm & Joni Goodwin

The following classes are being offered through CMC in Jan 2009. Please check a current CMC catalog for dates and times!

Be sure to keep in mind that as of 2010 ECE 101 will be required for group leader certification!

ECE 101 & 102 Intro to Early Childhood Ed/Lab

Offered in Basalt

Teachers are Joni Goodwin and Eva Jankovsky

ECE 101 & 102 Intro to Early Childhood Ed/Lab

Offered in Rifle

Teacher = Lori Wagner

ECE 175 Advanced Administration for Early Childhood Professionals

Offered in Basalt

Teacher = Joni Goodwin

ECE 103 Guidance

Offered in Carbondale

Teacher = K Ware

ECE 225 Language and Cognition

Offered in Carbondale

Teacher = K Ware

ECE 205 Nutrition, Health and Safety

Offered in Rifle



Contact Joni Goodwin at 309-4393 or kidsfirstjoni@sopris.net for professional development planning, scholarship information, or any other needed information

Kids are 25% of our population, 100% of our future

*Only as high as I reach can I grow,
only as far as I seek can I go, only as deep as
I look can I see, only as much as I dream can I be.*
Karen Ravn

