



# Early Childhood Council Highlights

## April Happenings

### Early Learning

An exciting new training opportunity has been offered to Early Childhood Councils by the Colorado Department of Education. The training will expand upon the language and literacy information that is already included in the EQIT Curriculum and allow trainers to share the *Cradling Literacy Curriculum* modules with a wide variety of groups. Deana Hunt, Jan Gabehart, Chris Logue, and Sue Dischner will be attending the training in May if our Council is selected as one of the six teams in the state. This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance our partnerships with the library and our invested council members: Jan Gabehart, Chris Logue, and Deana Hunt. More updates to come.

### Family Support & Parent Education

The Early Childhood Council, Department of Social Services, Elizabeth C-1 School District and Life's Changes have partnered to offer our first Love and Logic Class at Singing Hills Elementary. The class will begin April 19th. William Madden will instruct that class and it will focus on ages 7 and up. The next session will be for families with children ages 0-6. A full schedule of parenting classes to include the Active Parenting curriculum taught by Scherry Clark of Centennial Mental Health Center will be available in May.

### Health and Mental Health

Colorado Trust News:

The ECECC has submitted an application to Cavity Free at Three to establish the community professional provider training. Training will take place at the end of May/beginning of June. Through this training, we will have a better understanding how to implement this project throughout Elbert County.

We are sending Scherry Clark, ECS from Centennial Mental Health to Pyramid Model training in April and May. After she has completed that training we will begin to plan the implementation of provider training of the Pyramid Model.

We will reconvene our Health Integration Committee in June to provide updates and begin assessment planning.

ELBERT COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL (ECECC)

[www.ececc.org](http://www.ececc.org)

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### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **APRIL 7th & 8th** Preschool registration Elizabeth Early Childhood Programs
- **APRIL 16th** FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
- **APRIL 19th** Love and Logic Classes begin
- **APRIL 24th** ECECC Second Annual Children's Festival
- **APRIL 29th** Licensed Child-care Homes Rules and Regs class

### Baby Bear Hugs

The ECECC voted to approve a partnership to expand the Baby Bear Hugs program into Elbert County by offering the Bright Beginnings curriculum in home visitation settings. On March 30th Cathryn Reiber, ECECC Coordinator

and Ruth Seedorf, Executive Director of Baby Bear Hugs presented the program to Social Services and the Department of Health staff. The outcome of that meeting was a wonderful offer by the Department of Health by offering office space to the home visitor that we will hire once funding is fully se-

cured. Thanks so much to Mary Sue Lis for extending that invitation. We appreciate the support of our health partners! Next steps in this process will be presenting to the County Commissioners on April 28th to request that space as an in-kind contribution. More details to come.



Thank you Elbert County Library!

## Council Members: Please take time to complete this survey

The Colorado Department of Human Services, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, is requesting that all early childhood (EC) Council directors, coordinators, and members complete a survey about Colorado's EC Councils. Data from this survey will help inform an evaluation of Colorado's EC Councils and the state's effectiveness in meeting the needs of Colorado's EC Councils. The evaluation is being conducted by the Center For Research Strategies, located in Denver. The requirement for this



evaluation was established by HB-1062, the legislation that created Colorado's EC Councils.

We are asking all EC Council directors and coordinators to complete our survey of EC Council work (link below).

EC Council Member Survey:  
If you are a member of an EC Council (not a Director or Coordinator), please complete the survey located at the following link:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ECCSurveyCondensed>

Thank You, Scott Raun  
EC System Supervisor

## Fun For All.....

**Community Family Movie Night - April 16th** The Elbert County Library District along with five other community organizations have worked together to offer a family movie night at the future Elizabeth Library building (between Big R and Safeway). The Community Family Movie Night will provide family-friendly entertainment locally.

Families may spend the night together, or parents may drop off their school-aged children and have a couple of hours to themselves. Local businesses will be giving out coupons for discounts for those parents that want to make a date night out of the evening. Both the Elizabeth Police Department and the Elizabeth Fire & Rescue staff

are volunteering their time at the movie night for everyone's safety. Reasonable prices, food and drinks will be available courtesy of Elizabeth High School student activity groups.

Join Us! Friday April 16 - 7:00 to 9:00 at the New Library Building.

## Childcare Homes Licensing Rules and Regulations Class

This is a free training however pre-registration is required. Representatives from both Licensing and Child Care Connections will be attending to answer your questions. You can review the new rules and regulations before the training at:  
<http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/childcare/>. Once at the web-site, click on the Current Rules and Regulations link in

the toolbar on the left. Please read the rules related to FCC starting in section 7.707 entirely to become familiar with the expectations.

This class will be held at Frontier HS in the ECLC room on April 29th from 6:30-9:30

Contact Cathryn 303-818-2225



# Benefits of High-Quality Early Childhood Programs

Why does quality matter? Research shows us what many parents and teachers know: High-quality early education in centers, homes, and schools make the difference in children's healthy development and early learning so that they are ready for school and beyond.

Did you know that children in high-quality programs:

- Demonstrate greater social skills throughout preschool, kindergarten and beyond
- Begin kindergarten socially and emotionally competent and are more likely to be successful in school

- Have higher self esteem
- Receive higher test scores on thinking ability and language development
- Excel in mastery of prereading, reading, and math
- Demonstrate better classroom behavior
- Are less likely assigned to special education classes or retained in grades in later years
- Demonstrate less delinquent behavior



How can we continue to support these crucial years?

Leaders at every level - national, state, local, and the private sector- can promote and finance policies that support affordable and high quality child care, teacher professional development, safe and appropriate facilities, ensuring that families have the quality supports they deserve.

*Elizabeth Early Childhood Programs is the first school in Elbert County to receive a 3 Star Qualistar rating. For more information:*

[www.elizabeth.k12.co.us](http://www.elizabeth.k12.co.us)

## What is the Early Childhood Council doing to support quality?

The Elbert County Early Childhood Council (ECECC) is supporting high quality programs—supporting early childhood educators in continuing their professional development by offering college level credit such as EQIT. We are also assisting teachers with tuition reimbursement for college level credit. Many of the Elizabeth C-1 Early Childhood Programs

preschool teachers have taken advantage of these and many other opportunities.

Licensed family childcare homes are also participating in these valuable opportunities. The ECECC is also supporting licensed homes in Elbert County by offering local free trainings, while continuing to support the needs of these family homes in their

goals toward high-quality improvements.

If you know of a family in need of local in home childcare, please refer them to Child Care Connections (719) 638-2017.

### OUTCOME:

Families are treated as partners in their children's development and learning both at home and in the out-of-home programs they attend.

## Partnerships

While the Elbert County Early Childhood Council (ECECC) has many strong partnerships, we continue to ask for more support. We continue to work on informing all school districts within Elbert County of the supports that the Early Childhood Council can offer. By working together to under-



stand the needs of your local community we can work together to enhance your program, understand the needs of your local community, and partner in local parent education opportunities.

*We would like to take the opportunity to thank Sharon Elstad and Kerry Stroh of Pikes Peak BOCES for their continued support and outreach to Big Sandy and Elbert School district.*

**ELBERT COUNTY EARLY  
CHILDHOOD COUNCIL  
(ECECC)**

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*Ensuring that Elbert County is  
a community  
of well rounded, happy,  
healthy, educated  
children and families.*



As an early childhood council, our role is to:

- Build and support partnerships with community and agency organizations
- Provide information to families to facilitate connection to services and supports
- Build public awareness of early childhood services and issues
- Promote and support high quality professional development and formal education for adults who work with young children
- Strengthen and support community-based mental health services that identify and serve young children
- Strengthen coordinated efforts to support the health and wellness of children.

*It is our mission to work with all public and private organizations as a partnership to enhance the quality of early childhood services to children and families in Elbert County.*

ECECC is made up of a collaborative of members from  
Elbert County:

Community agencies, health partners, school districts,  
higher education, child care professionals, and individuals  
who are interested in improving early childhood services.

We invite you to join us!

We're on the web!  
[www.ececc.org](http://www.ececc.org)