



NEWS!

From the Quality Improvement Program

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JAN/FEB 2017

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- Race to the Top QI funds must be spent by **March 31, 2017**
- ITQA QI funds must be spent by **March 31, 2017**
- CCAP QI funds must be spent by **April 28, 2017**

CONGRATS ON YOUR COLORADO SHINES RATING!

LEVEL 3

Louisville Preschool
Louisville

Promise Christian Preschool
Lafayette

LEVEL 4

New Horizons Cooperative Preschool
Boulder

The Acorn School for Early Childhood Development
Boulder

TLC Learning Center
Longmont

LEVEL 5

Aspen Center for Child Development
Longmont

News

Our Newsletter!

The ECCBC Quality Improvement Program would like to keep in touch with a bimonthly newsletter that contains interesting articles, helpful updates and exciting opportunities. With every issue you'll also find the most recent providers to receive a L3-5 quality rating and new suggestions in our Materials Corner, where we will post examples of quality learning materials and how they connect to the ERS tools (ITERS and ECERS) and the Colorado Early Learning and Development Guidelines (ELDG).

Colorado Shines Signage

Colorado Shines is providing banners and yard signs to display for your rated program. If you didn't place an order, you will be able to order a display and/or a digital certificate upon completion of your next Colorado Shines rating.

School-Required Immunizations

Senate Bill 10-056 directs the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to annually develop a standardized document for parents that provides important information about

vaccine requirements for the upcoming school year. The Immunization Branch has developed this letter to share with parents: [Child Care/Preschool/Head Start Required Immunizations: 2017-18 School Year](#) Contact [Jamie D'Amico](#), RN, MSN, CNS, Public Health Nurse Consultant.

Free Tax Help & the EITC

If your families make less than \$54,000 annually and have children at home, they can get free tax help from IRS-certified tax preparers. And don't miss out on the Earned Income Tax Credit! For a flyer, visit [ECCBC](#).

Quality Improvement Opportunities

Use of Safe Sleep Practices on PDIS

This training (required when working with ages 12 months and under) is now available on PDIS! Abusive Head Trauma (required when working with ages 3 and under) was added to PDIS on June 30, 2016.

Both of these courses count toward annual licensing training hours.

*Standard Precautions must be completed through an [approved vendor](#), due to OSHA regulations.

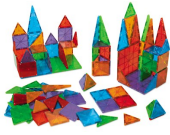
Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference

March 17 & 18, 2017

Colorado Convention Center
Denver, CO

Read about the [Keynote Speakers](#) and the see the [conference schedule](#).

Register [here!](#) Early bird discount ends **January 31**. Eligible for reimbursement through QI funds.



Materials Corner

Age: Preschool 3+ years

Material: Magna-Tiles

ECERS: 26. Math/number—5.1 Many developmentally appropriate materials of various types are accessible (i.e. recognizing shapes). Pg. 52

ELDG: Mathematics Knowledge & Skills—3. Geometry and Spatial Sense: The understanding of shapes, their properties, and how objects are related to one another. Pg. 99

Age: Infant/Toddler 3 and under

Material: Ship Shapes Board Book

ITERS: (Math is not scored). 14. Using books—5.2 A wide selection of books is accessible (i.e. familiar objects); 5.3 Staff read books daily (Use this book to engage your toddlers in math!). Pg. 34

ELDG: Cognitive Development—5. Classification: The developing ability to group, sort, categorize, connect, and have expectations of objects and people according to their attributes. Pg. 75



Rocky Mountain Conference Workshops

Teachers and directors are invited to participate in any of the [workshops](#) available at the conference; however, here are some tracks that are recommended for each:

Participants can receive up to 6 hours of Professional Development per day. To learn more about the conference and to register, visit RMECC at www.econference.com.

Quality Improvement Workshops for DIRECTORS:

- Leadership, Management & Administration
- Early Childhood Systems, Governance & Policy
- Grants Management, Contracting & Finance
- Family & Community Partnerships
- Inclusion & Cultural Responsiveness

Quality Improvement Workshops for TEACHERS:

- Guidance & Positive Behavior Support
- Child Growth, Development & Learning
- Teaching Practice, Literacy & STEAM
- Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health
- Child Physical Health, Safety & Nutrition

The Quality Improvement Team

Chrissie Ernst, RN, MS
Interim Quality
Improvement Manager

970-581-1071

christine@care-improvement.com

Caitlin Moles, MA
Quality Improvement
Coach

303-895-3403

cmoles@eccbouldercounty.org

Nicole Malone, AA
Quality Improvement
Navigator

303-895-3419

nmalone@eccbouldercounty.org

Office of Early Childhood:
cdhs_oec_communications@state.co.us
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pdishelp@cde.state.co.us
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NEWS!

From the Quality Improvement Program

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MAR/APR 2017

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

- Race to the Top QI funds must be spent by **March 31, 2017**
- ITQA QI funds must be spent by **March 31, 2017**
- CCCAP QI funds must be spent by **April 28, 2017**

CONGRATS ON YOUR COLORADO SHINES RATING!

LEVEL 4

Caribou Mountain Preschool
Columbine Preschool
Heatherwood Preschool
Douglass Preschool
High Peaks Preschool
Creekside Preschool
University Hill Preschool
Community Montessori
Mapleton ECC
Pioneer Preschool
Boulder

Lafayette Preschool
Sanchez Preschool
Ryan Preschool
Lafayette

Monarch Preschool
Fireside Preschool
Louisville

News

Children's Peace Garden

Field trips to the Children's Peace Garden are engaging, encourage hands-on exploration, and enhance your science curriculum! During a field trip, students engage in activities focused on local food, organic gardening practices, the importance of biodiversity and community, and reconnecting with the Earth through experiential gardening.

Or bring the garden to your program! The classroom visit themes and activities align with the rhythms of the garden growing season, such as honeybees, insects or seeds.

Also check out the Children's Peace Garden Days Off of School program for special topics on BVSD days off.

For more information, visit [Growing Gardens](#) or email [Annie](#).

Demonstrated Competencies on PDIS

Demonstrated Competencies is now live in the PDIS Early Childhood Professional Credential! Individuals can earn points toward their credential for a qualifying score on an approved observation tool. To earn these points, the following criteria must be met:

- * Observation was completed in the last year
- * Observation was completed by a qualified observer using an approved scoring protocol
- * Required documentation submitted by the observer to the PDIS Help Desk
- * Individual who qualifies for these points was the lead or co-lead teacher during the observation

To learn more, see the [Demonstrated Competencies](#) on PDIS.

Quality Improvement Opportunities

Host a Free Nutrition Training for Staff or Families

Provided at no cost thanks to the Colorado Health Foundation, this [training](#) is led by a nutritionist and registered dietitian, focusing on healthy eating habits and practices that support a child's lifelong health. The content can be customized to a particular aspect of healthy eating. [Email Qualistar to schedule!](#)

**Earn points for Colorado Shines documentation indicator 5.6-Program offers nutrition information and education program led by a nutritionist.*

Attend the Spring Provider Forum for Credential Points

Attend this free training on the FLIP IT strategy for handling challenges and challenging behavior. Participants receive 6.5 hours toward professional development hours, plus 2 extra points for attending an all-day training on high-needs (e.g. social emotional). A great opportunity to boost your credential! [More information here!](#)

**Earn points for Colorado Shines documentation indicators 1.1-1.12-EC Professional Credential requirements.*

Materials Corner

* **Growing Kit** for a hands-on experience with plants and gardening.

* **Root-Vue Farm** as a teacher-supervised experience to see how plants grow under the soil—you can even add worms!



3+ years ECERS: 25. Nature/science—5.1 Many developmentally appropriate games, materials, and activities accessible. Pg. 50

ELDG: Science Knowledge & Skills—2. Conceptual Knowledge of the Natural and Physical World: The acquisition of concepts and facts related to the natural and physical world and the understanding of naturally-occurring relationships. Pg. 101

0-3 years ITERS: 22. Nature/science—5.2 Some daily experiences with living plants indoors. 5.3 Everyday events used as a basis for learning about nature/science. Pg. 43

ELDG: Receptive/Expressive Language—The developing ability to understand/produce words and increasingly complex utterances. Pg. 42-43

Tips to Update Your QRIS

It is recommended that you review and update each section of your QRIS profile at least once a year. Here are some key areas to keep in mind:

- **Contact Information** — Make sure the director and primary contact information is correct. Report any changes to your licensing specialist, too.
- **Program Description** — This is your opportunity to show what sets your program apart from the others with a very short description. Also, did you know that you can upload your logo or picture?
- **Workforce** — Do you have any new staff who need to register on PDIS? Complete their 10 L2 hours? If you have staff listed who have left the program, you can

call the PDIS Help Desk to request their removal.

- **Complete and ready to submit** — After saving each section, be sure to click on the checkbox at the top of each tab. If you are unable to make changes, you may need to uncheck this box.
- **Build My QIP** — If you are still working on a goal, update any progress and a new deadline. Also, add the date and your name whenever you edit a goal. Be sure to save any changes by clicking on the “Program QIP Complete” button.
- **QI Incentives** — You can check to see if there are any new funding opportunities available that your program may qualify for.

The Quality Improvement Team

Chrissie Ernst, RN, MS
Interim Quality
Improvement Manager

970-581-1071

christine@care-improvement.com

Caitlin Moles, MA
Quality Improvement
Coach

303-895-3403

cmoles@eccbouldercounty.org

Nicole Malone, AA
Quality Improvement
Navigator

303-895-3419

nmalone@eccbouldercounty.org

Office of Early Childhood:
cdhs_oec_communications@state.co.us
303-866-4453

Colorado Shines Support:
cdhs_coshines@state.co.us
pdishelp@cde.state.co.us
844-447-4441
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NEWS!

From the Quality Improvement Program

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MAY/JUNE 2017

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

2016—2017 grant
year ends
June 30, 2017

- *ITQA
- *Race to the
Top QI
- *CCAP QI

CONGRATS ON YOUR COLORADO SHINES RATING!

LEVEL 4
Neighborhood Learning
Center of Niwot
Niwot

News

Healthy Beginnings, Active Futures Grant

The Healthy Beginnings, Active Futures grants are awarded for the creation, expansion, and improvement of outdoor play and learning environments. Qualistar awards grants four times a year, ranging in size from \$500 to \$50,000. Eligible applicants are licensed nonprofit programs, privately owned for-profit programs, family child care providers, and preschools that are committed to reducing childhood obesity and increasing active play and physical activity.

The grant application is now available! [Download the application here.](#) Act fast—the grant application deadline is **May 19, 2017.**

Quality Improvement Opportunities

Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) Training for Child Care Providers

Become a [HEAL-Recognized Child Care Program](#)! Provided by Boulder County Public Health, the HEAL program for kids and caregivers is a 3-part training that educates providers on promoting children's health by encouraging and supporting physical activity and good nutrition practices.

**Staff will earn 15 hours of professional development for their credential and the skills for documentation indicator 5.5—Classroom teachers lead children in structured physical activities daily.*

Family Child Care Quality Certificate

The Family Child Care Quality Certificate program promotes high-quality early childhood education from licensed child care providers who work from their homes. The FCCQC is an alternative pathway to Level Two of Colorado Shines, the state's quality rating and improvement system.

The FCCQC trainings and resources were developed specifically for this underserved group of providers to improve the care and education they provide to children and families. FCCQC also prepares participants to achieve higher levels within [Colorado Shines](#).

Thanks to generous funding from the [Daniels Fund](#), there is **no cost** to providers to participate.

To sign up, click [here!](#)

Host a Free Child Development Training for Staff and Families

Provided at no cost thanks to the Colorado Health Foundation, this [training](#) provides an overview of how children's brains develop and how early experiences can influence children's learning, behavior, and development. Email [Qualistar](#) to schedule!

**Earn points for Colorado Shines documentation indicator 2.8—Program offers families educational information sessions on child development and learning aligned with the ELDGs.*

Materials Corner

Preschool 3+ years

Material: Rainbow Parachute

ELDG: 3. Gross

Motor Skills: The control of large muscles for movement, navigation, and balance, pg. 85.

ECERS: 8. Gross motor equipment—5.2 Equipment stimulates a variety of skills, pg. 20; 29. Supervision of gross motor—7.3 Staff help children develop positive social interactions, pg. 58.



Toddler 18 mos—3 years

Material: Play Tunnel

ELDG: 2. Gross Motor: The developing ability to move the large muscles, pg. 57.

ITERS: 16. Active physical play—7.3 Materials used daily stimulate a variety of skills, pg. 35.

FCCRS: 26. Active physical play—5.3 Ample materials/equipment for physical play to keep children active and interested; 7.3 Materials/equipment used daily stimulate a variety of large muscle skills, pg. 54.

Highlights from 2017 RMECC

These were our staff's favorite sessions:

Baby Talk: Closing the Word Gap in Early Childhood Classrooms

The LENA Research Foundation presented the powerful phenomenon known as the “talk gap.” Research has shown that children from low-talk families hear as many as 30 million fewer words than high-talk families! This analysis speaks to the importance of talking *with*, instead of *at*, children and encouraging “serve and return” conversational skills. This imperative teacher role directly relates to the ITERS items of Listening and Talking.

Math, Motion, and Connecting the Thoughts: Supporting Early Mathematics

Recognize how early mathematical skills are embedded into a child’s world and revolve around sensory motor and social-emotional experiences. Speaker Angela Russ Anyon reinforced that all aspects of a child’s day lead to their development. Teachers don’t have to schedule every learning moment; *all* interactions are opportunities! “It’s never math time, it’s *always* math time.”

Individualizing Professional Development and Mentoring

Chris Lawrence presented a lively and informational session that focused on giving coaches, mentors, and administrators a greater understanding of the coaching role, along with practical strategies for improving their work with teachers and caregivers at all levels of implementation. The discussion included ways to enhance the quality of coaching and tailor it to the individual strengths, needs, and opportunities observed in programs through the use of Teaching Strategies Coaching to Fidelity resources.

Managing Complex Change

Change is hard, and the change to the Colorado Shines rating system is no different! To successfully embrace change, we need:

- *Vision: Without it, you get CONFUSION
- *Skills: Without it, you get ANXIETY
- *Incentives: Without it, you get RESISTANCE
- *Resources: Without it, you get FRUSTRATION
- *Action Plan: Without it, you get FALSE STARTS

✓ **Want to attend the RMECC? Next year’s conference is scheduled for March 16-17, 2018!**

Office of Early Childhood:
cdhs_oec_communications@state.co.us
 303-866-4453

Colorado Shines Support:
cdhs_coshines@state.co.us
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nmalone@eccbouldercounty.org

News

**CONGRATS ON
YOUR FAMILY
CHILD CARE
QUALITY
CERTIFICATE!**

Juliet Galtier
Boulder

Helen Wang | Happy Learning
Childcare
Boulder

**CONGRATS ON
YOUR COLORADO
SHINES RATING!**

LEVEL 3
Gateway Montessori
Longmont

Back to Basics
Longmont

LEVEL 4
Our School Preschool
Boulder

Upcoming Changes

First and foremost, we appreciate all that Chrissie Ernst has done for us as the Interim Quality Improvement Manager since last November. July 1 marks the beginning of the administration of new quality improvement grants. After two years of federal funding to help kick off high-quality (L3-5) ratings in Colorado Shines, new statewide funds will now support the pursuit of quality improvement. The good news is that rating assessments will remain free for licensed child care providers. Anticipate applications for new quality improvement assistance to be released in late August 2017.

One thing that is not changing is that the ECCBC Quality Improvement Team will be here to support you. Keep up the good work!

Quality Improvement Opportunities

FLIP IT Training for Addressing Challenging Behaviors

Attend this free training on July 15 on the FLIP IT strategy for addressing challenging behavior and supporting social emotional development. Receive 6 hours toward professional development hours, plus 2 extra points for attending an all-day training on high needs (e.g., social emotional). Email [Emily Robbins](#) for more information!

**Earn points for Colorado Shines documentation indicators 1.1-1.12—EC Professional Credential requirements.*

New ELDG Videos & Website Now Available

The Office of Early Childhood has developed tools to help parents and educators access and use the Colorado Early Learning & Development Guidelines, which describe the path of children's learning and development from birth to age 8. The [new website](#) has information for families, providers, and child advocates to better understand the importance of these guidelines. You'll also find helpful resources on how to effectively use them in lesson plans and daily activities. The new videos, available in both English and Spanish, offer highlights of the incredible learning that takes place at each stage of a child's development and how we can best support them.



Host a Free I Am Moving, I Am Learning Training for Staff

This [training](#) is nationally recognized and improves the quantity and quality of physical activity in early childhood settings. Using a team approach, participants develop action plans to successfully implement I Am Moving, I Am Learning in daily routines. Email [Qualistar](#) to schedule!

**Staff will earn 3 hours of professional development and skills for documentation indicator 5.5—Classroom teachers lead children in structured physical activities daily.*

Materials Corner

Preschool 3+ years

Material: Waterway Pipe Builders

ECERS: 23. Sand/water—5.2 Variety of toys accessible for play. (Must be provided with sufficient water table.)

ELDG: Science Knowledge & Skills—I. Scientific Skills and Method: The skills to observe and collect information and use it to ask questions, predict, explain, and draw conclusions.



Toddler 2+ years

Material: Waterfall Wall

ITERS: 21. Sand and water play—5.1 Sand or water play at least once a week.

ELDG: Physical Development & Health—I. Perceptual Development: The developing ability to become aware of the social and physical environment through the senses.



FCCRS: 23. Sand and water play—5.1 Sand or water play provided at least once a week; 5.2—Variety of toys used for sand/water play.

The ELDGs in a Rating

Chances are, most of the domains of the Early Learning & Development Guidelines are already included in your lesson plans and daily practice, but the ELDGs provide a universal language for parents and providers to discuss child development. It also reminds us of what we can expect from our children during every stage of development to ensure that we are always providing developmentally appropriate care and experiences. It helps teachers plan curriculum so they are sure to support mastery of age-appropriate skills, while also challenging children to grow toward the next level of development.

It is imperative for early childhood educators to deeply understand child development, which is why the ELDGs are a part of the Colorado Shines rating system. Using the ELDGs in your curriculum, child assessment, and parent engagement is an indica-

tor of quality because it demonstrates that a program is committed to providing holistic care that enhances every aspect of a child's development.

The ELDGs are included in the following documentation indicators:

- *2.8 The program offers annual parent educational information sessions on child development and learning aligned with the ELDGs.
- *4.1 The program has a curriculum that has been aligned with the ELDGs.
- *4.11 The program has a child assessment that has been aligned with the ELDGs.

Many curriculum companies are understanding the importance of the ELDGs and are creating alignment documents that can be submitted for 4.1 and 4.11. Contact your curriculum representative or the Quality Improvement Team for more information!

The Quality Improvement Team

Nicole Malone, AA
Quality Improvement
Navigator

303-895-3419

nmalone@eccboulder-county.org

Caitlin Moles, MA
Quality Improvement
Coach

303-895-3403

cmoles@eccboulder-county.org

Robin Pennington
Colorado Shines
Outreach

303-895-3430

rpennington@eccboulder-county.org

Office of Early Childhood:
cdhs_oec_communications@state.co.us
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cdhs_coshines@state.co.us
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NEWS!

From the Quality Improvement Program

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

SEP/OCT 2017

UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER 18-29
2017 Grant application
acceptance period

OCTOBER 16
MOUs will be issued

CONGRATS ON YOUR COLORADO SHINES RATING!

LEVEL 3
Becky Dean | Den for
Little Darlings
Longmont

LEVEL 4
First Presbyterian
Preschool
Boulder

Children's House
Preschool
Boulder

News

Congratulations to the Qualistar Grant Winners!

Aspen Grove Community Preschool in Nederland and Children's House Preschool in Boulder have been awarded the Qualistar Capital Improvement Grant! These grants are a great opportunity to improve early childhood spaces for staff and children. Michael Knuckey, director of Children's House, said the most important step in the application process is to attend the informational webinar, which helped them fully understand the grant and how to show their need. They were sure to document how their capital improvement would directly impact the health and safety of the children. Visit [Qualistar](#) for more information on their available grants.

Quality Improvement Opportunities

FLIP IT Fall Provider Forum

Attend this FREE training on October 14 on the FLIP IT strategy for addressing challenging behavior and supporting social emotional development. Receive 6 hours toward professional development hours, plus 2 extra points for attending an all-day training on high needs (e.g., social emotional). Email [Nicole Malone](#) to register!

**Earn points for Colorado Shines documentation indicators 1.1-1.12—EC Professional Credential requirements.*

New QRIS Resources Page

Check out the new [QRIS Resources page](#) on the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County's website! This page was designed to bring you everything you need to help you through the quality improvement process. You'll find information on the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) tools, the Colorado Early Learning & Development Guidelines (ELDG), the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool, the Program Administration Scale (PAS), and the Business Administration Scale (BAS).

KidConnects Warm Line

Parents or providers can contact the Warm Line for a referral regarding concerning or challenging behavior of children birth through age 7. Connecting families with community service agencies like KidConnects is best practice toward quality! **See Colorado Shines documentation indicators 2.11-12.*

Call 303-245-4418 to reach the Warm Line

Boulder County Family Child Care Association

BCFCCA is a group of licensed family child care providers and advocates who work to promote community welfare. They provide child care referrals for family providers and regular trainings! Trainings are free for members, but all providers are welcome for a small fee. The next training is September 5. Visit the [BCFCCA website](#) for more information!

**All trainings apply to indicators 1.1-1.12.—EC Professional Credentials.*

Materials Corner



Infant/Toddler 0-3 years

Material: Feelings Books
(click [here](#) for a full list!)

ITERS: 12. Helping children understand language—7.3 Staff talk about many different topics, including feelings; 28. Discipline—7.2 Staff help children learn to use communication to solve problems.

ELDG: Emotional Development— Expression of Emotion, Emotion Regulation; Social Development—Empathy, Social Understanding: expressing and responding to emotions.

Preschool 3+ years

Material: Emotion Mirrors

ECERS: 28. Discipline—7.2 Staff use activities to help children understand social skills; 33. Interactions among children—5.2 Staff help children develop appropriate social behavior.

ELDG: Social Development— Self-Regulation, Emotional and Behavioral Health.

FCCRS: See same indicators as above: Helping children understand language, Discipline, & Interactions among children.






Back to School: Be Sure to Vroom!

What Is Vroom?

“New science tells us that our children’s first years are when they develop the foundation for all future learning. Every time we connect with them, it’s not just their eyes that light up—it’s their brains, too. In these moments, half a million neurons fire at once, taking in all the things we say and do. We can’t see it happening, but it’s all there, all at work. That’s why Vroom is here.

Vroom turns shared moments into brain building moments. Whether it’s mealtime, bathtime, or anytime in between, there are always ways to nurture our children’s growing minds.”

www.joinvroom.org

- 1. Look 
- 2. Follow 
- 3. Chat 
- 4. Take Turns 
- 5. Stretch 

Vroom provides tips, activities, and a mobile app to support teachers and parents of children at every age in making the most of their daily routines to boost learning!

**ITERS: 12. Helping children understand language, 13. Helping children use language, 27. Staff-child interaction, 6-9: Personal care routines.*

**ECERS: 16. Encouraging children to communicate, 17. Using language to develop reasoning skills, 18. Informal use of language, 32. Staff-child interactions, 9-12: Personal care routines.*

**ELDG: Language Development, Cognitive Development.*

→While Vroom provides support in language development, it also encourages engagement in a variety of topics throughout the day, therefore also promoting many other areas of learning, from music to science to math!

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Colorado Shines
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NEWS!

From the Quality Improvement Program

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

NOV/DEC 2017

News

SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 14, 2018

Spring Mini
Conference

St. Vrain Community
Hub | 515 Coffman
St, Longmont

Celebrate the
Week of the Young
Child with us!

CONGRATS ON
YOUR COLORADO
SHINES RATING!

LEVEL 4
Vicky Funk | Superior
Kid Care
Superior

Infant and Early Child Mental Health Consultation: A Briefing Report

There is a growing body of evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of using infant and early childhood mental health consultation (IECMHC) for preventing and reducing the impact of mental health problems in young children. Jordana Ash, Colorado's Director of Early Childhood Mental Health, recently contributed to a ZERO TO THREE briefing paper on the positive outcomes of IECMHC. [Download the publication to learn more.](#)

Supporting families with mental health consultations, such as KidConnects, is best practice toward quality! *See *Colorado Shines documentation indicators 2.11-12.*

Call 303-245-4418 to reach the KidConnects Warm Line.

Growing Readers Together Early Literacy Calendar

Through a generous grant from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, the Colorado State Library and *Growing Readers Together* developed an early literacy calendar that includes a reading list and tips from the ELDGs. [Download and print](#) for your families!

**Earn points for Colorado Shines documentation indicator 2.2—Materials offered for all families.*

Next Round of Healthy Beginnings, Active Futures

Applications for the next round of Qualistar's Healthy Beginnings, Active Futures grant is now open! Please note that the application is different than the first round. [Download the new application on their website!](#) Applications are due:

November 10, 2017 by 5:00pm.

Quality Improvement Opportunities

Quality Nights with Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

Join us for monthly training opportunities on topics emphasizing quality in early care and education programs. All early childhood professionals and administrators are welcome!

All Quality Nights will be 6:00-8:00pm at Aspinwall @ Josephine Commons Community Building.

Attendance is \$10, or FREE for providers with a current MOU with ECCBC.

NOVEMBER 27, 2017

Enhancing the Early Childhood Professional

Register [here](#) beginning November 1.

DECEMBER 18, 2017

Empowering Teacher-Family Relationships

Register [here](#) beginning December 1.

**Receive 2 clock hours of professional development after each Quality Night towards your Professional Credential 2.0.*

Materials Corner: PUPPETS!

Preschool: Use puppets to role play and model emotions, self-regulation, cooperation, conflict resolution, and friendship skills. Puppets also allow children a safe way to express themselves.

ECERS: 28. Discipline—7.2 Staff use activities to help children understand social skills; 33. Interactions among children—5.2 Staff help children develop appropriate social behavior.

ELDG: Emotional Development—Expression of Emotion, Emotion Regulation; Social Development—Empathy, Social Understanding; expressing and responding to emotions.

Infant/Toddler: Use puppets to verbally map the children's activities and emotions. Toddlers can use puppets to tell stories and practice labeling emotions.

ITERS: 12. Helping children understand language—7.3 Staff talk about many different topics, including feelings; 28. Discipline—7.2 Staff help children learn to use communication to solve problems.

ELDG: Social Development—Self-Regulation, Emotional and Behavioral Health.

FCCRS: See same indicators as above: Helping children understand language; Discipline; and Interactions among children.

Sesame Street in Communities

An excerpt from the NPR article, "For Traumatized Children, An Offer of Help From the Muppets," by Anya Kamenetz. Read the [full article](#).

Cookie Monster is all wound up. The Count has him hold up his furry blue fingers, count them (of course), and blow on each one in turn as if he were blowing out a birthday candle. Afterward, Cookie declares, in his familiar growly voice, that he feels much better.

"Hey! Me feel terrific! Me calm. Me relaxed."

You won't be catching this scene on HBO or PBS. It's part of a special initiative called Sesame Street in Communities. Free materials, including videos, books and games, [were released October 6, 2017] to help parents and caregivers, in turn, help young children cope with traumatic experiences.

The science of adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs for short, is beginning to transform education and social services. ACEs include poverty, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, divorce, and mental illness or substance abuse on the part of a caregiver.

A new analysis of the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health...shows that nearly half of American children experience at least one of these adversities, and 1 in 5 have had at least two. Research shows that growing up with more ACEs negatively affects children's development, education, and even later in life, chronic disease and longevity. But children's brains are also resilient, and they can recover with the right kind of responsive care.

Visit [Sesame Street in Communities](#) to learn more!

The Quality Improvement Team

Nicole Malone, AA
Quality Improvement
Navigator

303-895-3419

nmalone@eccbouldercounty.org

Caitlin Moles, MA
Quality Improvement
Coach

303-895-3403

cmoles@eccbouldercounty.org

Robin Pennington, BS
CCR&R and Colorado Shines
Outreach Coordinator

303-895-3430

rpennington@eccbouldercounty.org

Office of Early Childhood:
cdhs_oec_communications@state.co.us
303-866-4453

Colorado Shines Support:
cdhs_coshines@state.co.us
pdishelp@cde.state.co.us
844-447-4441
M-F 8:30am-5pm