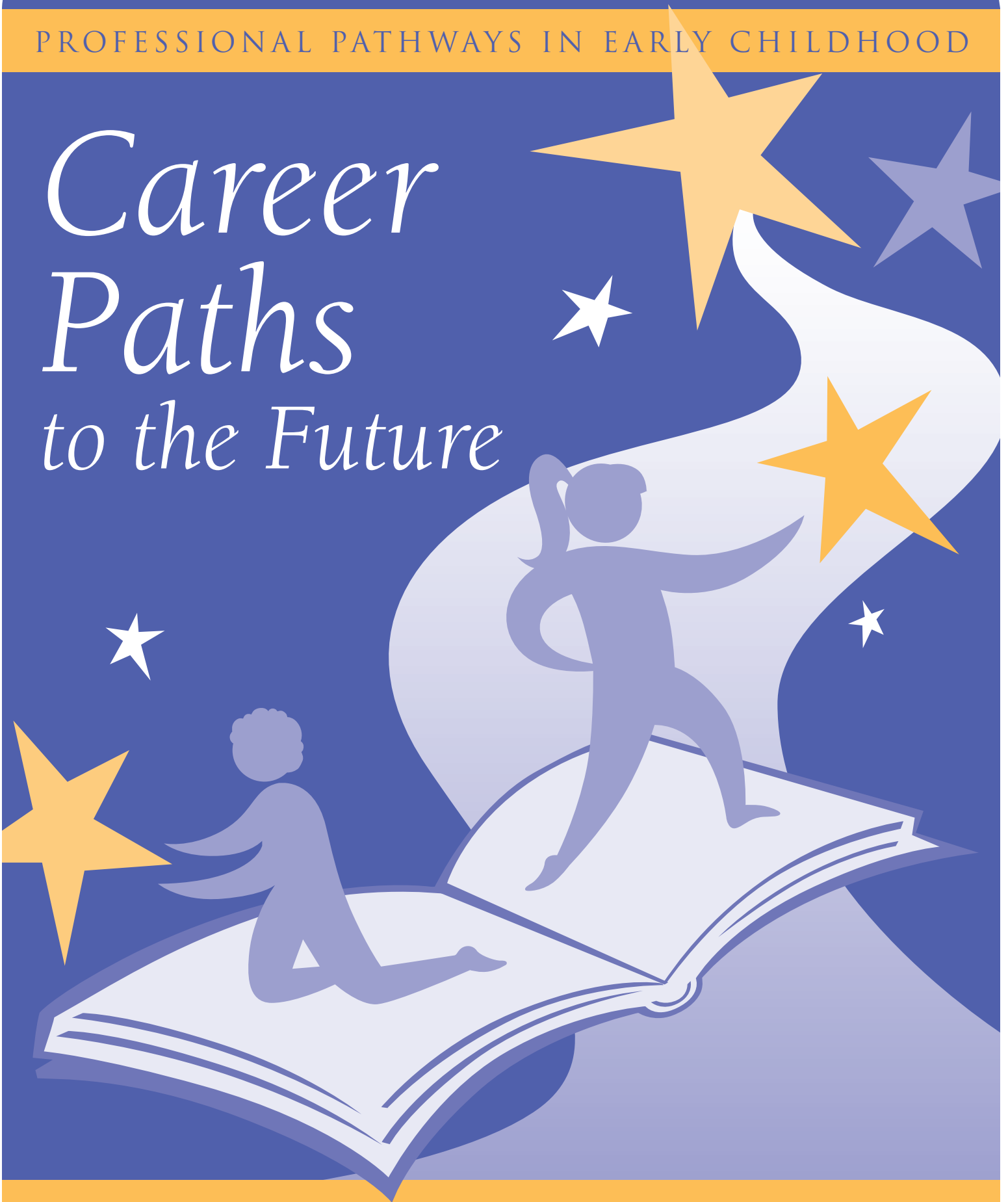


PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Career Paths to the Future



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL OF BOULDER COUNTY

CAREERS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

BACHELOR'S DEGREE* IN EARLY CHILDHOOD OR CLOSELY RELATED FIELD

Qualified to work as:

- Adoption Specialist
- Assistive Technology Practitioner/
Rehabilitation Engineer
- Child Advocate/Lobbyist
- Child and Youth Services Specialist
- Child Care Resource and Referral
Director/Coordinator
- Child Care Resource and Referral Specialist
- Child Development Specialist
- Child Life Specialist/Coordinator
- Consultant/Trainer
- Developmental Intervention Assistant III
- Early Childhood Adult Educator/Training
- Early Childhood Coach/Mentor
- Early Childhood Curriculum Coordinator/
Specialist
- Early Intervention Coordinator
- Educator/Trainer
- Family Outreach Coordinator
- Head Start Training & Technical
Assistance Specialist
- Literacy Coordinator/Reading Specialist
- Nutritionist
- Pre-K Teacher in Public School
- Primary School Teacher
- Quality Improvement Manager
- Social Worker
- Plus the previous lists

*May also qualify for the Colorado
Early Childhood Credential Level IV*

***This document is available online at
www.eccbouldercounty.org
under "Resources for Child Care Providers"***

MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE* IN EARLY CHILDHOOD OR CLOSELY RELATED FIELD

Qualified to work as:

- Audiologist
- Child Development Specialist
- Child Health Associate
- Child Psychologist
- College/University Early Childhood
Program Director
- College/University Professor
- Community College Instructor
- Early Childhood Mental Health
Consultant/Specialist
- Early Childhood Research Analyst
- Early Childhood Research Scientist
- Early Childhood Special Educator
- Early Intervention Director
- Inclusion Coordinator
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- Recreational Therapist
- Special Education Specialist
- Speech Language Pathologist
- University Cooperative Extension Agent
- Plus the previous lists

*May also qualify for the Colorado
Early Childhood Credential Levels IV & V*

THE EDUCATIONAL PATH TO

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED

Qualified to work as:

- Aide
- Infant Nursery Aide
- Family Child Care Provider
- Cook
- Nanny/Au Pair

Would not qualify for Colorado
Early Childhood Credential

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE* IN EARLY CHILDHOOD OR CLOSELY RELATED FIELD

Qualified to work as:

- Developmental Intervention Assistant II
- Head Start Lead Teacher
- Home Visitor
- Infant Toddler Specialist
- Nurse Home Visitor
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Parent Educator
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Pre-K Lead Teacher
- Speech Pathology Assistant
- Plus the previous list

*May also qualify for the Colorado
Early Childhood Credential Level III*

TWO COLLEGE CLASSES* IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Qualified to work as:

- Early Childhood Teacher- experience required
- Assistant Early Childhood Teacher
- Family Child Care Provider
- Head Start Teacher
- Developmental Intervention Assistant I
- School-Age Program Teacher
- Plus the previous list

*May also qualify for the Colorado
Early Childhood Credential Level I*

TEN COLLEGE CLASSES* IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Qualified to work as:

- Early Childhood Center Director
- Early Childhood Center Program Administrator
- Mentor Teacher
- Pre-K Teaching Assistant
- School-Age Program Coordinator
- Plus the previous list

*May also qualify for the Colorado
Early Childhood Credential Level II*

*Education
is the Key!*

CAREER POSSIBILITIES AT: *Child Care Centers and Preschools*

Aides:

Staff aides must be at least 16 years of age. Infant staff aides must be at least 18 years of age.

Assistant Early Childhood Teacher:

Several combinations of training and experience meet the requirements for this qualification. For example, two ECE courses, with no experience; or one ECE course, with 12 months of experience.

- For more information, see **Interpretive Memorandum 2010-08***. Or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on “Rules, Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums” then click on “Interpretative Memorandums”.

Early Childhood Teacher:

Several combinations of training and experience meet the requirements for this qualification. Some examples are bachelor’s degree, child development associate (CDA), or two ECE classes with 2 years (3,640 hours) experience.

- For more information, see **Regulation 7.702.54***. Or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on “Early Childhood Teacher.”

Infant Nursery Supervisor:

Several combinations of training and experience meet the requirements for this qualification. Some examples include licensed registered nurse with 6 months (910 hours) of experience caring for infants and/or toddlers, early childhood teacher with a minimum of 1 year (1820 hours) of experience working with infants and/or toddlers and two 3 credit hour classes in infant practices, specific to care and development of infants and toddlers in a group setting.

- For more information, see **Regulation 7.702.56.A2***. Or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare click on “Rules & Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums.”

Infant Nursery Early Childhood Teacher:

Must be qualified as an Early Childhood Teacher, have six months experience working with infants or toddlers and have completed eight (8) hours of orientation in the infant nursery from the infant nursery supervisor.

- For more information, see **Regulation 7.702.56.A3***. Or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare click on “Rules & Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums.”

Infant Nursery Aide:

Must be at least eighteen (18) years old, must have completed eight (8) hours of orientation at the infant nursery and must work under the direct supervision of an infant early childhood teacher.

- For more information, see **Regulation 7.702.56.A4***. Or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare click on “Rules & Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums.”

Child Care Center Director:

A. For a small center (5-15 children, 2 ½-16 years), see **Regulation 7.702.53**.

B. For a large center (16+ children, 2 ½-16 years). Documentation must be submitted to the State of Colorado Division of Child Care to receive a letter of qualification, see **Regulation 7.702.52**.

- For more information, visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on “Director Qualifications.”

Other Positions:

Some programs have additional positions such as: Business Manager, Coordinator, Executive Director, Cook, as well as cleaning and maintenance staff. There are also substitute positions for Early Childhood Teachers, etc.

References:

*For more detailed information on Colorado state rules and regulations for child care settings, contact the Colorado Division of Child Care at 303.444.0202 or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on “Rules, Regulations, and Interpretive Memorandums”. *Note: for a search box: hold “control” (ctrl) button on the keyboard and press the “f” key.*

June 2011

CAREER POSSIBILITIES AT: *Family Child Care Homes*

The State of Colorado's Rules and Regulations: A "Family Child Care Home" (FCCH) is a type of family care home that provides less than twenty-four (24) hour care at any time for two (2) or more children that are unrelated to each other or the provider, and are cared for in the provider's place of residence. All capacities include the providers own children under twelve (12) years of age.

Regular License:

In a regular or standard (FCCH) home, care may be provided for six (6) children from birth to eighteen (18) years of age with no more than two (2) children under two (2) years of age. Care also may be provided for no more than two (2) additional children of school age attending full-day school.

- Check for the exact requirements and rules see **Regulation 7.707.22B*** and **Regulation 7.707.31A** or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on "Rules, Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums."

Large Child Care Home License:

A large child care home provides care for seven (7) to twelve (12) children, from birth to eighteen (18) years of age. The provider needs an assistant when the ninth child arrives at the facility. No more than two (2) children under of two (2) years of age.

- Check for the exact requirements and rules, see **Regulation 7.707.22E*** and **Regulation 7.707.31A & C** or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on "Rules, Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums."

Experienced Child Care Provider License:

An Experienced Child Care Provider (ECCP) is approved for no more than nine (9) children of different age combinations depending upon which option the home is operating. Providers must meet specific requirements in addition to all other rules that apply for family child care licensure. Requires EQIT training - see glossary.

- Check for the exact requirements and rules see **Regulation 7.707.22F*** and **Regulation 7.707.31A** or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on "Rules, Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums."

3 Under 2 License:

A three (3) under two (2) license allows care for six (6) children from birth to eighteen (18) years of age with no more than three (3) children under two (2) years of age, with no more than two (2) of the three (3) children under twelve (12) months. Once approved, the home may alternate between the 3 Under 2 license and the Standard 6+2 license (if previously licensed for the Standard 6 + 2) without special permission from the Department. Requires EQIT training - see glossary.

- Check for the exact requirements and rules, see **Regulation 7.707.22C*** and **Regulation 7.707.31A** or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on "Rules, Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums."

Infant/Toddler License:

There are two types of license for the care of children birth to three years of age.

Infant/Toddler license: Allows a provider to care for four (4) children with no more than two (2) children under twelve (12) months of age. The provider must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

Infant/Toddler Large license: Allows two (2) providers to care for a maximum of eight (8) children, no more than four (4) children under 12 months. One (1) provider must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and the second (2nd) equally qualified provider must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

For both: Each provider must have completed one (1) year of supervised experience caring for children who are younger than three (3) years old. Requires EQIT training - see glossary.

- Check for the exact requirements and rules, see **Regulation 7.707.22D** and **Regulation 7.707.31 A & B*** or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on "Rules, Regulations and Interpretative Memorandums."

References:

*For more detailed information on Colorado state rules and regulations for child care settings, contact the Colorado Division of Child Care at 303.444.0202 or visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on "Rules, Regulations, and Interpretive Memorandums". *Note: for a search box: hold "control" (ctrl) button on the keyboard and press the "f" key.*

June 2011

CAREER POSSIBILITIES AT: *Head Start*

Boulder County is served by two federally funded Head Start programs. They are Boulder County Head Start, which has classrooms in Boulder and Lafayette; and the Wild Plum Center, serving Longmont.

Classroom Aide:

Head Start encourages centers to hire from within their parent population for this position. Classroom aides must be at least 18 years of age and prior experience working with young children is preferred. Boulder County Head Start does not use classroom aides.

Teacher Aide:

Must be at least 18 years of age and possess either a high school diploma or GED. Prior experience working with young children is preferred. Starting in 2013, aides must have a CDA or be enrolled in a CDA program.

For Boulder County Head Start, aides must be bilingual (read, write, speak and understand Spanish) and must be Early Childhood Teacher qualified or must obtain the qualification within one year.

Head Teacher:

Boulder County Head Start requires a current CDA, a bachelor's degree in ECE, child development or a related field. Related fields include elementary education, psychology or family studies, with an additional 18 credit hours in ECE. Also required is 1 year of experience teaching preschool.

Wild Plum requires a bachelor's degree in ECE or a related field. If the degree is in a related field, a minimum of 39 credits are required in ECE.

Coordinators:

Coordinators positions cover a variety of disciplines. Coordinators must have both education and experience in the necessary disciplines. Each Head Start program uniquely organizes these positions. For specific information, contact the Head Start programs directly (see References).

Coordinator positions include:

<i>Education</i>	<i>Nutrition</i>
<i>Family Services</i>	<i>Parent Involvement</i>
<i>Disabilities</i>	<i>Resource and Referral</i>
<i>Health</i>	<i>Transitions</i>
<i>Mental Health/ Social Emotional</i>	<i>Transportation</i>

Director:

Directors are required to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in ECE or a field related to social service programs. Must have 3 years of experience in supervision, training and work with low-income community groups. Must have experience researching, writing and managing grants and budgets.

Head Start is a federally funded program for preschool children from low-income families. They also receive healthy meals and snacks and a variety of medical services. Head Start also offers families educational opportunities, referral services and many other activities throughout the year.

References:

- Boulder County Head Start, 303.441.3980
- Wild Plum Center, 303.776.8523, www.wildplumcenter.org

CAREER POSSIBILITIES AT: *Public Schools*

Boulder County is served by two public school systems. They are the Boulder Valley School District and the St. Vrain Valley School District. These are publicly funded educational institutions serving 5–18 year olds and certain populations of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Both Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley school districts offer teen parenting programs, which provide care for infants and toddlers.

Classified Positions:

These positions do not require a Colorado teaching license. Must be 18 years of age. A college degree, though not required, is preferred.

Positions in this category include the following:

- Paraeducator
- Bilingual paraeducator (varying requirements for Title I schools and others)
- Preschool teacher/director with Colorado Preschool Program (must be small center director qualified, see Child Care Centers and Preschools page)
- Infant or toddler teacher in teen parenting program (most positions require infant nursery supervisor qualification; see Child Care Centers and Preschools page)
- Pre-K teacher in St. Vrain public preschools (must be small center director qualified)
- Family liaison
- Kindergarten enrichment teacher

Teachers and Coordinators:

These positions do require a Colorado teaching license and either a bachelor's or master's degree.

Job opportunities include:

- Early Childhood/Special Education Teacher
- Colorado Preschool Program Coordinator
- Special Education Preschool Coordinator
- Kindergarten Enrichment Coordinator
- Child Find Coordinator
- Instructor of early childhood classes at the high school level

Terminology used in the school districts does not mirror terminology used by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care. The school districts specifically do not use the term Early Childhood Preschool Teacher.

References:

- Boulder Valley School District Human Resources, 303.447.5031, www.bvsd.k12.co.us
- St. Vrain Valley School District Human Resources, 303.682.7237, www.stvrain.k12.co.us
- BVSD Colorado Preschool Program, 303.447.5075
- Child Find/Special Education at BVSD, 303.447.5078
- Child Find/Special Education/Colorado Preschool Program at SVVSD, 303.772.6649
- Colorado State Rules and Regulations for Child Care Settings, 303.444.0202, www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare

June 2011

OTHER CAREER POSSIBILITIES: *in Boulder County*

Child Care Resource & Referral: The City of Boulder, Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Division is home to the Child Care Subsidy & Referral (CCSR) and the Recruitment & Training (R&T) programs providing free child care referrals and consumer information for families, child care subsidies for low income children, and recruitment, training and quality improvement services for child care providers. For more information regarding job opportunities with this agency, please visit the City of Boulder, Human Resources web page at www.bouldercolorado.gov

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (ECCBC): The council's mission is to expand and improve the comprehensive system of quality early childhood services for families in Boulder County. Positions include Executive Director, Programs Director, Program Coordinators, Planners and administration staff.

Early Intervention: Several private nonprofit agencies serve young special needs children. Kid Connects, Imagine!, and the Boulder Institute for Psychotherapy and Research (BIPR) Zero to Five are three agencies that employ early intervention specialists. These positions require a degree in early childhood special education or a closely related field.

Evaluation and Training: Various agencies employ quality rating scale evaluators and ECE trainers. Environmental rating scale evaluators have received specialized training and endorsement as reliable observers in the environmental rating scales (ITERS, ECERS and FDCRS) and are employed to perform assessments of day care centers and child care homes.

Health: The Child Health Promotion Program, part of Boulder County Public Health, promotes health, safety and quality of care for children and families in child care settings. Positions include ECE specialists, who train and mentor providers and parents. Requires a degree in ECE, public health or nursing.

Higher Education: Front Range Community College and Naropa University offer ECE programs in Boulder County. Positions such as higher education

professors are available at the college level. A master's degree in ECE or a closely related field is required for adjunct professors. Doctorate degrees are required for professors in 4-year institutions. Contact specific institutions, as requirements vary.

Mental Health: The Child Development Program, part of Child, Adolescent and Family Services at the Mental Health Partners, Inc., provides early intervention and prevention services for young children and their families. Positions include child development consultants, who consult with and train child care staff, parents and children in various child care facilities. Requires a master's degree in social work, psychology, child development or a closely related field.

Licensing Specialists: Employed by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to monitor child care facilities, these specialists ensure that all state health and safety licensing standards are met.

VOLUNTEERING: *A Path to Professional Development*

In exchange for your time and effort, you can learn valuable skills. It becomes a part of your professional portfolio. It is something you show to potential employers.

Boulder County Association for the Education of Young Children (BCAEYC), a professional membership organization, serves and acts on behalf of early childhood educators through advocacy, leadership and professional development. 303.938.8233.

Colorado Children's Campaign is a statewide nonprofit agency promoting the well-being of all children, with special emphasis on early intervention and long-term prevention. www.coloradokids.org

Colorado Association of Family Child Care
www.coloradochildcare.com

Useful Resources

Boulder County Resources

Boulder Institute for Psychotherapy & Research: www.bipr.org

Boulder Valley School District, Human Resources: 303.447.5031, www.bvvsd.k12.co.us

Child Health Promotion Program: 303.413.7502
www.bouldercounty.org/help/family/pages/chphome.aspx

City of Boulder, Children, Youth and Families: 303.441.3564, www.bouldercolorado.gov/cyfhhs/rt.
To find brochures for the following trainings, click on "Where can I renew health and safety training?": First Aid, CPR, Universal Precautions, Medication Administration, Child Abuse Reporting

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County: 303.895.3409, www.eccbouldercounty.org
For the current Training Calendar, Professional Development Record and Financial Incentive Application (only in January)

Imagine!: 303.665.7789, www.imaginecolorado.org

Kid Connects: 720.406.3637, www.kidconnects.org

St. Vrain Valley School District: Human Resources, 303.682.7237
www.stvrain.k12.co.us

Wild Plum Center:
(Head Start programs in Longmont)
www.wildplumcenter.org

Statewide Resources

Colorado Children's Campaign:
www.coloradokids.org

Colorado Commission on Higher Education:
www.state.co.us/cche/institutions.html

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS):
www.cdhs.state.co.us

Colorado Department of Human Services,
Division of Child Care: www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare

Colorado Office of Professional Development:
www.ColoradoOPD.org

Qualistar: www.qualistar.org

National Resources

Council for Professional Recognition awards (CDAs): www.cdacouncil.org

Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center Head Start: www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov

Office of Head Start: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs

Area Colleges

Adams State College: www.adams.edu

Colorado Community Colleges on Line:
www.cconline.org

Colorado State University: www.colostate.edu

Front Range Community College:
www.frontrange.edu

Metropolitan State College (Metro State):
www.mscd.edu

Naropa University: www.naropa.edu

Red Rocks Community College, www.rrcc.edu

Regis University: www.regis.edu

University of Colorado at Denver:
www.ucdenver.edu/Pages/UCDWelcomePage.aspx

University of Northern Colorado: www.unco.edu

Professional Organizations

Boulder County Association for the Education of Young Children (BCAEYC): 303.938.8233

Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC): www.coloradoaeyc.org

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): www.naeyc.org

Colorado Association of Family Child Care:
www.coloradochildcare.com

National Association of Family Child Care:
www.nafcc.net

Glossary



ALTP (Alternative Teacher Licensure Program):

Licenses qualified candidates as teachers through a site-based, 1-year program of training and supervision (requires a BA). Each ALTP is developed and operated by a school district, a charter or private school, BOCES or an institution of higher learning. A professional support team provides instruction, supervision and evaluation. Upon successful completion, candidates earn a 3-year provisional teacher license, Colorado's standard entry-level license.

Articulation: Refers to the ability to transfer coursework and degree or major requirements from 2-year higher education programs to 4-year colleges and universities (P3Report).

BVSD (Boulder Valley School District): One of the two school districts serving Boulder County. The other school district is SVVSD.

CDA (Child Development Associate): A credential awarded to those who have completed a list of requirements, including 120 hours of training (as set forth by the Council for Professional Recognition), and who have successfully passed the verification visit. A CDA can be awarded in several areas: Center-based Infant/Toddler, Center-based Preschool, Family Child Care, Bilingual, and Home Visitor. A CDA may be required to work for Head Start, along with other Head Start requirements. Classes may be taken at Front Range Community College that will satisfy the academic requirements; however, additional requirements need to be met, including an on-site observation and creation of a Professional Resource File. For more information, visit www.cdacouncil.org.

Child Care Rules and Regulations: Established and approved by the Colorado Department of Human Services to define the criteria for how a program can receive and maintain a license to operate a preschool, child care center, family child care home or after-school program (P3Report).

College Degrees:

AA (Associate in Arts): Usually a 2-year, undergraduate degree offered by a community college. Some of these degrees can be used to transfer to a 4-year college, but some are terminal degrees that do not transfer.

BA (Bachelor of Arts): Usually a 4-year, undergraduate degree offered by a college or university.

MA (Master of Arts): A postgraduate degree offered by universities.

PhD (Doctorate): A postgraduate degree offered by universities; usually the most advanced degree offered.

Degrees currently accepted as closely related to Early Childhood: Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Family and Child Development or Child Psychology.

Note: See Regional Accreditation and Diploma/Degree Mills.

Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential:

This credential was established in the spring of 2000. Credentials are issued by the Colorado Department of Human Services in conjunction with the Colorado Office of Professional Development as a means of providing professional recognition to ECE providers through a system that recognizes both academic coursework and practical experience. There are six levels of credentialing. Credentialing applications are available through www.coloradoOPD.org.

Credentials: Documents certifying that an individual has met a defined set of requirements set forth by the grantor of the credential; usually related to skills and knowledge, may include demonstrations of competence (National Child Care Information Center) (P3Report).

Diploma/Degree Mills: Institutions that award "degrees" based on life experiences, rather than academic studies. They sometimes use fake accreditation information to lure unsuspecting students into providing payment for degrees that prove worthless, especially prevalent in online institutions.

Glossary

Director Qualifications: Individuals who are seeking employment as a director or substitute director of a large child care center in Colorado must apply and obtain an Official Large Center Director Qualification Verification Letter (OLCDQVL) from CDHS, Division of Child Care, in order to function in this capacity. Large center director qualification requirements are defined in Section 7.702.52 of the Colorado State Rules Regulating Child Care Centers.

Early Childhood Teacher: This is a relatively new term, introduced by the Division of Child Care in 2009. It designates an individual working in a child care facility other than Family Child Care to be qualified to be alone with a group of children. There are several paths to qualification. (For more information, visit www.co.gov/CDHS/childcare and click on “Early Childhood Teacher.” All paths require at least two college courses in Early Childhood. These classes must be 3-credit courses and one must be ECE 101 or ECE 103. In most cases, verifiable work experience with children is required. Please note that this terminology is not used by BVSD or SVVSD.

Early Childhood Teacher Certificate (at FRCC): This is a certificate offered by Front Range Community College that covers the academic requirements needed to meet the Early Childhood Teacher qualifications. The certificate, with transcripts and verifiable experience, would need to be submitted to the Colorado Division of Child Care to receive a letter of qualification.

Endorsement: A specialized credential that can be added to a teacher’s license. Endorsements demonstrate that a teacher has met state requirements in particular content areas (such as linguistically diverse education or early childhood). An endorsement can also denote a specialized program of study or educational attainment added on to a state or nationally awarded credential.

EQIT (Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care): The Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care Initiative is a collaboration between the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care.

The primary goal of EQIT is to increase the quality and availability of responsive care for infants and toddlers throughout Colorado. The 48 hour training is available through the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County, at www.eccbouldercounty.org.

License-Center, Preschool and Family Child Care Home: Providers of child care and early learning services are required to meet certain safety and quality standards to receive a license, or permit, to operate, from the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care (P3Report).

License-Teacher: Most K-12 school districts require teachers to have licenses, which the Colorado Department of Education grants to individuals who have met or are in the process of meeting state-defined requirements (P3 Report).

P3 Report: Colorado’s Early Learning Professional Development System Plan. Developed by the P3 subcommittee of Governor Ritter’s P-20 Council. Copies of the report are available through the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County at www.eccbouldercounty.org.

Regional Accreditation: For community colleges, colleges and universities, this accreditation is provided by an independent organization and provides assurance that the school’s programs are of the highest standards. When deciding whether to apply to a particular institution, investigate whether the institution has been accredited. Accreditation is necessary for the institution to participate in both federal- and state-sponsored financial aid programs. Also, you must have attended an accredited institution for college credits to be accepted at or transferable to another accredited institution, including one where you plan to do postgraduate work.

For a list of accrediting institutions, visit: www.k12.wa.us/certification/colleges/reg_accred.html.

SVVSD (St. Vrain Valley School District): One of the two school districts serving Boulder County. The other is BVSD.

PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD: This brochure has been devised to assist those presently working in the field of early care and education (ECE) and those seeking to enter the field. The goal of the brochure is to give an overview of the potential early childhood career and job opportunities that exist in Boulder County, Colorado.

POST SECONDARY OPTIONS IN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION: This brochure offers information on education beyond the high school level for those seeking to advance their professional development.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RECORD: The companion document to this brochure that provides a place to record education, training and work experience. This record acts as a guide for further career development. Those who pursue careers in ECE are encouraged to continually be learners themselves and to keep a permanent record of their professional achievements. By gaining knowledge and experience through professional development opportunities and higher education programs, ECE professionals not only improve the quality of the experience for children and their families, but they can also receive greater job satisfaction as they grow as professionals in the field.

Thanks to all who assisted with the revision of this document:

The Professional Pathways Committee of the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County
City of Boulder, Children, Youth and Families, Child Care Recruitment and Training
Colorado Department of Human Services, Child Care Division, Child Care Licensing
Colorado Office of Professional Development
Front Range Community College, Boulder Campus



This publication is funded through a grant provided by the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation to the Professional Pathways Committee of the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County. Published June 2011.

For more information go to www.eccbouldercounty.org