Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Program

Boulder County Public Health recognizes and promotes child care providers that have made breastfeeding support a priority by certifying eligible centers and family child care homes as "Breastfeeding-Friendly." To receive this designation, providers must attend the 2.5-hour training session along with meeting several other criteria.

The next session is Tuesday, April 9.
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm at the St. Vrain Community HUB. For more information, contact Tori Lee at 303-413-7549 or vlee@bouldercounty.org

Child Abuse Prevention Month & Kick-Off Day at the Capital

CO4Kids Campaign partners will be at the Capital on Tuesday, April 2nd to kick-off the Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Campaign. Click here for additional details.

If you cannot attend the event, you can show your support by joining the communities across the nation and Colorado that are planting pinwheel gardens and wearing blue as a sign of our collective commitment to prioritizing children and families.

You can learn more about Colorado’s efforts in preventing child abuse and neglect, including How You Can Help: 50+ ways you can play a role in strengthening families and Tools & Education: Awareness Toolkit, by visiting the Co4Kids website.

Quality Improvement Opportunities

‘Injury Prevention for Child Care Centers’ Now Available on PDIS

The course reviews strategies for preventing injuries in child care centers, examines common indoor and outdoor hazards, reviews licensing and best practices standards related to safety and looks at real-life examples of hazards and injury prevention.

This course should be taken after completing the required prerequisite course, ‘Playground Safety for Child Care Centers’ and counts for two Level 2 clock hours on the Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (PDIS).

News

Planning for Winter Emergencies

Colorado is no stranger to extreme cold and winter weather. Everyone, including child care programs, should have a plan in place for handling weather-related emergencies. Direct programs to the new Emergency Preparedness Manual for Early Childhood Programs (EPM) which, includes tools to create or revise your winter weather plan.

For more information on winter emergencies and other ways to keep children and program staff members safe, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Winter Weather page and Ready.gov.

NEWS!

V O L U M E 3 ,  I S S U E  2  
M A R / A P R  2 0 1 9
Laying the Groundwork for Life: Creating Nature Experiences for Children

Excerpts from an article on the benefits of outdoor play, connecting with nature, and environmental education. Click here for the full article from Community Playthings.

Offering children nature experiences doesn’t have to be overwhelming. Teachers can find ways to incorporate nature into everyday activities.

- Bring natural materials into the classroom. Use shells, rocks, seeds, beans, and tree slices for counting, sorting, and dramatic play activities.
- Use time outdoors as a “listening experience”. Before heading out of the classroom let students know that you will use your ears to “hear nature”. Discuss what sounds you might hear—birds, crickets, the crunching of leaves underfoot. When you return to the classroom, process what you heard in a discussion or through art-making. Create a classroom book with drawings or photographs of the “sounds of nature” in your local environment.
- Make art with natural materials. Start by giving students collection bags on a nature walk. This could simply be a walk around your school building or around the block. Resist your desire to limit what children can put in the bag as long as it is natural, safe, and can fit inside. Children are born explorers and you will be amazed what they notice and collect!

Materials Corner: Nature and Science: exploration in the classroom!

Preschool 3+ years

Material: Footprints - double-sided stones (farmyard, woodland, safari, dinosaur)


ELDG: Science Knowledge & Skills - 2. Observe and discuss common properties, differences, and comparisons among objects.

Infants/Toddler birth-3 years

Material: Soft & Squeezy Animals

ITERS-R: 22. Nature/science - 3.1 Some pictures, books, or toys that represent nature realistically.

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

FCCRS-R: 22. Nature/science - 3.3 Some opportunities to experience the natural world daily, either indoors or outdoors.

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