

Douglas County Child Care Association
Newsletter
July-September 2024 Issue





DCCCA

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Letter from OUR President, Jeniffer McElroy	3
Summer Hide and Seek	4
Child Care is Education... and More	5-6
Treasurer Report	7
Referral Recap of 4th Quarter	8
Executive Board & DCCCA Volunteers	9
Licensing Specialists and Other Useful Numbers	10-12
Crafts, Treats and Activities	13-17

President's Letter

July 2024

Dear Members,

I am honored and humbled to write to you today as the newly elected president of our association. I am deeply grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in me, and I am excited to work with each of you to further our mission of providing high-quality care and support for children and their families.

As we embark on this journey together, I am committed to upholding the values of our association and continuing to advocate for the well-being of every child in our care. I believe that by working collaboratively and leveraging our collective expertise, we can make a meaningful and positive impact on the lives of the children and families we serve.

I am eager to hear your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, and I encourage you to reach out to me at any time. Together, we can ensure that our association remains a strong, effective advocate and supportive network for our childcare professionals.

Please watch your emails as Sabrina and I gather info for our first upcoming Executive Board nominations and elections for the following positions:

- Secretary
- Membership
- Treasure

We would love to find volunteers with skills or interest in:

- Education Coordinator
- Social Media
- Advertising
- Newsletters
- Door Prizes
- Web

Be on the lookout for:

*** Email surveys and information with upcoming training to support your needed credit hours will be coming shortly.***

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity to serve as your president. I look forward to a productive and successful term ahead.

Sincerely,
Jeniffer McElroy
President
Douglas County Child Care Association



Summer Hide and Seek

In the summer sun, we run and play,
Finding spots to hide away,
Behind the trees and bushes green,
In the warm and bright sunbeam.

Laughter echoes through the air,
As we dart from here to there,
Count to ten, then come and seek,
In our game, no one is weak.

Barefoot in the grass so soft,
Climbing trees and climbing loft,
Sunny days that never end,
Playing games with every friend.

When the sun begins to sink,
We all gather, stop and think,
Tomorrow brings another day,
For more summer games and play.

Child Care Is Education ... and More

By: [Joan Lombardi](#)

Millions of children spend a part of the day in child care while their parents work. These settings – in centers and in homes – are places where children can learn and grow.

We know that children’s language and cognitive skills thrive in quality child care programs, with responsive caregivers who are adequately trained and supported.

In poor quality programs, opportunities to stimulate development are lost or squandered. In large groups with few trained staff, in centers and homes where children have few opportunities to be read to, to be listened to, to be held, in programs where television or isolation replace human interaction and communication, children learn that they have little affect on their environment — precisely the wrong message to promote readiness and school success.

Traditionally, three “places” have been seen to affect a child’s education: family, school and community. Child care is part of all three.

Child care is a family support.

Not only is child care often provided by relatives and other family members, but from the perspective of the child as well as the family, child care is often an extension of the home. Child care provides many opportunities to help parents succeed as “first teachers.”

For young children, child care is school.

Just listen to any group of 3- and 4-year-olds talking about “my teacher.” They have demystified the dichotomy that has fractured the early childhood field for so long. They know it is not child care and education – child care is education. Research clearly tells us that early experiences matter. It doesn’t matter where it happens or what the building is called, what matters is what happens once the children arrive.

Child care is community.

More recently, we have come to appreciate the importance of the community to child development — both the climate in a community and the services provided. Child care is an important part of the community. For school-age children, child care is the “new neighborhood,” whether sponsored by schools or by any of a wide-range of community-based organizations.

People are often reluctant to talk about child care as education. We worry that the term education is too limiting.

We believe that somehow child care is more than education — that it is child development, that it includes health, that it should be supportive of families and their working schedules. These beliefs are not part of the traditional purpose of education, although this too is changing. Also, since child care includes babies and toddlers, traditional education terms don't seem to fit.

Despite these concerns, if we are to improve child care, it must be seen as a service for children as well as their parents — it must be seen as education and more.

We must step up efforts to ensure that funding is provided to improve the quality of those places where children go before they enter school or at the end of the school day. That means providing some funds directly to child care programs to improve their educational services — funding for accreditation, teacher training, and increased compensation.

Improving child care also means enhancing family child care networks, providing home visiting and literacy programs to kith-and-kin providers as well as parents, and ensuring that care that goes on after school is connected programmatically to what goes on during the school day.

We must also keep up our efforts to bring health resources into child care — particularly health consultants who can help ensure health and safety as well as health promotion. Education for young children begins with health, and these linkages must continue into adolescence.

Additional state, federal, and private funds are needed to ensure more improvements and make child care more affordable for more families. This is the time to take every available opportunity — from the classroom and the living room to the hearing room and the board room — to bring these efforts together in order to provide safe healthy learning environments.

Parents should be encouraged to join in this effort. We have to send a message to decision-makers that while parents work, we must make sure that child care works for children.

Treasury Report – 4th Quarter April 1, 2024—June 30, 2024

		Balance Forward	\$4,588.93
Income:			
	Total Income	\$0.00	
Expenses:	Website	\$120.00	
	Education	\$38.97	
	Board Meeting	\$54.73	
	Total Expenses	\$213.70	
Ending Balance			\$4,375.23
Respectfully Submitted, Vickie Scholl DCCCA/Treasurer/Membership			

April-June 4th Quarter 2024 Referrals

		Highlands Ranch		Parker	
Castle Rock					
Under 18 months	17	Under 18	14	Under 18	8
Full Time:	14	Full Time:	10	Full Time:	3
Part Time:	3	Part Time:	4	Part Time:	5
Over 18 months	12	Over 18	2	Over 18	5
Full Time:	11	Full Time:	2	Full Time:	4
Part Time:	1	Part Time:	0	Part Time:	1
School Age	0	School Age	0	School Age	0
Total	28	Total	16	Total	13
DCCCA WEBSITE	5	DCCCA WEBSITE	8	DCCCA WEBSITE	13
Colorado Shines	13	Colorado Shines	0	Colorado Shines	0
PROVIDER	5	PROVIDER	1	PROVIDER	0
OTHER:	2	OTHER:	2	OTHER:	0

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ADDITIONAL DCCCA VOLUNTEERS			
President	Jeniffer McElroy	303-688-3851	jbreeze43@yahoo.com
Vice President	Sabrina Fulks	303-660-5584	sabricustomemb@gmail.com
Secretary	OPEN		
Treasurer	OPEN		
Membership	OPEN		
	Referrals	Volunteers	
Castle Rock/Larkspur	Edie Wyn	303-681-3227	CastleRockDCreferral@outlook.com
Highlands Ranch Lone Tree Acres Green Centennial	Cathleen Zeiler	303-791-3386	highlandsranchereferral@gmail.com
Parker/Elizabeth	Joanne Payne	720-353-0278	tjsspayne@msn.com
Election Coordinator	Cheryl Behrens	303-791-2859	R1Behrens@msn.com
Continuing Education Committee	OPEN		
Continuing Education Committee	OPEN		
State Representative	OPEN		
State Representative	OPEN		
Hospitality	Maria Ciurczak Violy Lindner Rita Predmore	303-470-8909 720-344-4505 303-690-0610	
Newsletter Editor	OPEN		
Douglas County Zoning	OPEN		

LICENSING SPECIALIST INFORMATION AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Supervisor	Christa Snodgrass	720-425-6294 Christa.Snodgrass@state.co.us
Lead Specialist	Amanda Schoniger	720-584-0380 Amanda.Schoniger@state.co.us
Highlands Ranch 80124, 80126, 80129	Sam Nikui	720-600-8641 Samantha.Nikui@State.co.us
80134	Jennifer Girdler	720-688-2381 Jennifer.girdler@state.co.us
Castle Rock: 80101, 80104, 80108, 80109, 80135, 80116,80118	Heather Sporrer	720-237-2298 heather.sporrer@state.co.us
Parker: 80138, 80130, 80125 Centennial: 80112	Tina LePage	719-619-6260 Tina.LePage@state.co.us
Douglas County/QRIS Level 3-5 Coach/Navigator	Katie Nester	303-258-6245 ececon- sultingwithKatie@outlook.com
QRIS Level 1-2 Coach/ Navigator/PDIS/Licensure	Beth Burke	720-287-9882 Beth.Burke@rrcc.edu
Colorado Department of Early Childhood	(800)-799-5876	https://cdec.colorado.gov/
24 Hour Child Protective Line	303-271-4131	https://cdhs.colorado.gov/ child-welfare#:~:text=If% 20you%20are%20concerned% 20about,there%20is%20an% 20immediate%20threat.
Immunization Line	303-692-2000	https://cdphe.colorado.gov/child- cares-schools-and- collegesuniversities-immunization- resources
Rocky Mountain Poison Control	303-222-1222	https://www.rmpds.org/

LICENSING SPECIALIST INFORMATION AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

NAFCC (National Association for Family Child Care)	(202)-796-5700	https://nafcc.org/
Colorado Association of Family Child Care (CAFCC)	(303) 921-1277	coloradocafcc.org
Colorado Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Delays	(888) 777-4041	https://cdec.colorado.gov/early-intervention-for-infants-and-toddlers https://dcfs.my.salesforce-sites.com/eicolorado/El_QuickLinks?p=Home&s=Make-a-Referral&lang=en
Child Find for Douglas County Ages 3-5 Years of Age	720-433-0020	https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/childfind
Employer Identification	EIN# (800) 829-4933	https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/

Paper Plate Turtle Craft



www.firefliesandmudpies.com/tissue-paper-and-paper-plate-turtle-craft/



Cloud Dough



thebestideasforkids.com

www.thebestideasforkids.com/cloud-dough

Homemade Orange Dole Whip Recipe



<https://findingtimetofly.com/orange-whip-like-disney-world/>

Beach Bear Dirt Cups



<https://www.madetobeamomma.com/beach-bear-dirt-cups/>