



**December 2025**

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## **The ECC SLV is Hiring!**

The Early Childhood Council of the SLV is seeking a full time Parent Educator to join the Parents as Teachers Program to serve Rio Grande county.

Qualified applicants must hold a high school diploma, a minimum of two years working with young children and families, strong communication and interpersonal skills, ability to build strong relationships, strong computer skills and the ability to work independently. Travel required.

This position offers a 3% IRA match, generous time off benefit, and salary range of \$39,500 - \$43,500 per year. No health benefit available.

Please email resume and letter of interest to [office@eccslv.org](mailto:office@eccslv.org)

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**Join our friends at the Children's Advocacy Center a program of Tu Casa, Inc. for their annual Walk-Thru Gingerbread Festival! ☐**

They'll be handing out gingerbread making kits, toys, and treats to the first 400 children, plus visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus. The event is FREE and open to the public.

☐ First United Methodist Church, 2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa

- ☐ December 6, 2025
- ☐ 9:00–11:00 AM (or while supplies last)

They're also collecting donations for the PALS Children's Program — toiletries, household goods, and hygiene items are all appreciated.

# The "Walk-Thru" Gingerbread Festival

**Free to all children!**

When: December 6th, 2025  
Time: 9:00AM - 11:00AM  
While Supplies last!!  
Where: First United Methodist Church  
2005 Mullins Ave Alamosa, Co 81101

**What to expect!**

- Take home a pre-made Gingerbread kit to decorate at home with family
- Special appearance by Santa Clause & Mrs. Clause
- Hot chocolate courtesy of the Alamosa Starbucks & much more...

**Donations!**

This year we are donating to: **PALS Children's Program**. Please consider bringing household goods, toiletries, and hygiene items to support PALS. We will have a drop off station at this event! Call us for more info @719.589.2465!

**THANK YOU!**

First United Methodist Church,  
Alamosa Starbucks, Connie Robinson, Toys for Tots.  
Photography by Tiff's Perspective LLC & Brandy Rae Photography

**CHILDRENS ADVOCACY CENTER**  
OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY  
**Organized By The Children's Advocacy Center of the SLV**  
A program of Tu Casa, Inc.

## Tiny Hands Daycare Fundraiser Raffle

Tiny Hands Daycare is hosting a community raffle, and

everyone's invited to join in! Tickets are just \$10, and every purchase supports the amazing work they do for local families.

Drawing Details:

- ☐ 922 Weaver Ave, Blanca
- ☐ December 11th, 2025 at 4:00 PM
- ☐ Winner will be contacted by phone

Prizes:

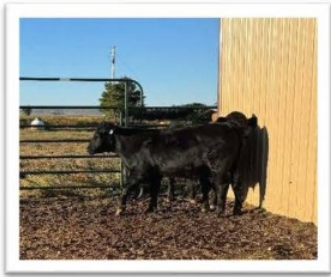
- 1st Prize: Half a steer (fully processed and packaged)
- 2nd Prize: Four cords of seasoned, split firewood

*Both generously donated by Trinchera Ranch.*

Grab a ticket, support a great cause, and get a shot at some seriously impressive prizes!!

# TINY HANDS DAYCARE

## Fundraiser Drawing



### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

**Half a Steer - Processed and Packaged**

**Generously donated by: TRINCHERA RANCH**



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

**4 Cords of Seasoned and Split Firewood.**

**Generously donated by: TRINCHERA RANCH**

**Tickets are \$10 each**

Drawing will be held on  
**Thursday, December 11th 2025 at 4:00pm**  
at **922 Weaver Ave, Blanca CO**  
The winner will be contacted via Phone call.

*If you want to buy a ticket, please call  
(719) 379-2607*

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT OUR LOCAL NON-PROFIT  
EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER!!!**

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## Support Children's Garden in the Spirit of Giving Program!

San Luis Valley Federal Bank members can help Children's Garden Early Learning Center earn a share of **\$40,000** by casting their vote in this year's Spirit of Giving program.

Every account gets one vote, and every vote increases their share of the donation pool.

**How to Cast Your Vote (Spirit of Giving Program)**



Who can vote: Any San Luis Valley Federal Bank member.  
Votes allowed: One vote per account held with the bank.

**How to vote:**

- Online at [www.slvfed.bank](http://www.slvfed.bank)
- OR in person at any SLV Federal Bank branch.

**Voting window:**

- Opens: Monday, November 13th
  - Closes: Friday, December 12th
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## Mental Health

We're excited to announce that at the start of the new year, Kristen and Kathryn will be providing Seedlings Trauma Training in Monte Vista!

**Training Details:**

- ☐ **Dates:** Wednesdays, January 7th – March 11th (10 sessions)
- ☐ **Time:** 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
- ☐ **Location:** Monte Vista (Kids connection, 134 Washington St.)

Details provided upon registration!

This FREE, 10 week training offers valuable tools for understanding and responding to trauma. Participants will also enjoy **dinner, a self care gift, and childcare** during each session.

Space is limited to **15 adults**, so early registration is encouraged.

Please see the flyer below for full details and information on how to sign up.

# DID YOU KNOW TRAUMA IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH & CAN BE PASSED DOWN TO YOUR CHILDREN?

BUT THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO BLOCK THE EFFECTS!



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Attend our FREE classes based on science with clear and brief content. Helpful for you to identify trauma responses and appropriate coping skills. Our hands-on learning and relationship-building approach is designed to expand supportive social connections.

## CONTACT

Kathryn Trujillo  
ECMH Consultant  
sehealth@eccslv.org  
Cell: 719-850-0977

Kristen Love  
ECMH Consultant  
Mobile2@eccslv.org  
Cell: 719-992-4380

## INCLUDED IN SESSIONS

- FREE Childcare & Respite Care
- FREE Dinner Provided
- 10 FREE Self-Care/Wellness Gifts
- A Supportive and Judgement-Free Space to Manage Stress
- Support from Peers

scan to register!



Getty Stock



## Good Job Isn't Good Enough: Real Tools To Replace Praise, Rewards, and Punishment

*Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontczak & Dr. Julie Causton*

Children who struggle with transitions, crying, refusal to share, attention seeking, hits/kicks others, lack of self-regulation can test our patience. These are classroom behaviors that challenge

us and push our hot buttons!

Many caregivers use behavior management systems such as stickers and treasure boxes to get children to do what we want. These strategies are ineffective and leave children who are still learning classroom skills feeling hopeless which increases their frustrations and behaviors.

Here is a **FREE** on-demand training that supports caregivers in recognizing the impact of praise, rewards, and punishments on young children's emotional regulation; reflection around personal beliefs about discipline, behavior, and support; how to apply brain-based strategies in real-life classroom scenarios; an understanding of control-based vs. connection-based approaches to behavior supports; and how to develop healthier responsive strategies, co-regulation practices, and intentional language shifts.

☐ Watch the replay and get all the downloadable tools and resources we shared

here: <https://www.inclusiveschooling.com/good-job/>

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## Coaching

### 1-2-3 Dance with Me

Try it out!

Let's make music and math together! The benefits of enjoying music with children of all ages range from language exploration and physical development to building relationships with adults and peers, and more.

Did you know that experimenting in rhythm connects music, math, and culture? Rhythm helps children learn to recognize one-to-one correspondence and to identify and predict distinct patterns. Choose songs that children enjoy from their cultures and in their home languages, and then help them practice moving to the beat.

For infants or toddlers, this might look like the adult swaying with them in time, the child bouncing or nodding, or clapping.

For older children, you can encourage singing, clapping, jumping, dancing, drumming (if culturally appropriate), shaking a noisemaker, or swinging a scarf with the beat of the music.

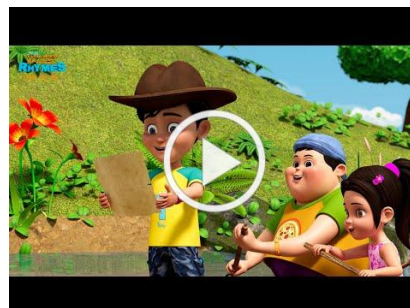
Model the ways of musical exploration, share in the children's joy, and follow their interests with types of music and ways to express themselves in culturally respectful ways!

Click on the videos below for music to enjoy in your classroom!

English Video:



Punjabi Video:



Spanish Video:



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**Immediate Child Care Openings in Alamosa (Toddlers 12–30 Months)**



Early Head Start has free childcare spots open now in several locations for qualifying families.

Contact Ramona or Erica at [719-937-4010](tel:719-937-4010) for more information.

Spots are limited—apply today:

Click [Here](#) to complete the interest form.

# Early Head Start<sup>x</sup>

## Free Quality Child Care Services!

### Birth to 3

Expectant Families and Teen Parents

- Child Care 28+ hours per week
- Year-Round Program
- Family Services
- Education Services
- Health Services
- Nutrition Services
- Disabilities Services
- Community Resources



Families with children with special needs are encouraged to apply  
Military families encouraged to apply  
We do not provide daily transportation to & from the center. However, we may be able to provide transportation in certain circumstances in conjunction with other community agencies.

**Begin Application Here**

Contact us Today!  
(719) 937-4010  
401 Santa Fe Ave  
Alamosa, CO 81101



Service Areas:  
Saguache  
Costilla  
Alamosa  
Rio Grande

☀️ **Now Enrolling: Quality Family Child Care Homes** ☀️

**Serving Rio Grande, Alamosa & Conejos Counties.**



## Are you in need of trusted, high-quality childcare?

Our licensed Family Child Care Home Providers are now accepting new enrollments!

- ☐ Small group settings
- ☐ Individualized attention
- ☐ Safe, nurturing environments
- ☐ Flexible availability

We currently have multiple openings in:

- Rio Grande County
- Alamosa County
- Conejos County

Let us connect you with a provider who fits your family's needs!

Contact Amanda Atencio at [ecresource@ecclsv.org](mailto:ecresource@ecclsv.org)

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## Resource & Referrals

### Licensing Provider Hub Technical Help Desk

The Division of Early Learning Licensing and Administration (DELLA) is pleased to introduce the Licensing

## Provider Hub Technical Help Desk!

This new resource offers technical assistance to individuals using the Licensing Provider Hub for the following:

- How to use a licensing or QRIS login to access the Licensing Provider Hub.
- How licensed individuals or applicants register in the Licensing Provider Hub.
- Technical questions or challenges with online licensing forms within the Licensing Provider Hub, including applications, change request forms, renewals, child abuse and neglect (Trails) background inquiry forms, injury forms, and stringency appeals and hardship waiver forms.

The new licensing help desk will launch on November 17, 2025. Information on accessing the new licensing help desk will be available to individuals who submit applications through the Licensing Provider Hub.

This new licensing help desk is designed to support online access to the Licensing Provider Hub and will not replace the existing licensing support services.

If you have any questions please contact Amanda Atencio at (719) 937-4010 or email [ecresource@eccsslv.org](mailto:ecresource@eccsslv.org)

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## Raising Colorado Kids Resources

Raising Colorado Kids is a website full of resources for Colorado families. It is designed as a central hub to help families locate resources, information, and supports related to early childhood, child development, childcare, and family services in Colorado.

What can you find at this website?

- Guidelines and expectations for children's growth (from birth to age 8)
- Help identifying and evaluating childcare options
- Resources for families in need of assistance
- Information and application guidance

What are you waiting for?! Check this website out today!

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## Professional Development

### Scholarships Available for Early Childhood Professionals!

Are you currently working in early childhood education or pursuing a career in the field? Great news—scholarship opportunities are available to help you continue your education and professional growth!

These scholarships can support coursework, credential programs, and degree pathways designed to strengthen the early childhood workforce.

Investing in your education not only benefits your career but also enhances the quality of care and learning experiences for young children in our community.

For those interested, please reach out to [Lcoresource@eccslv.org](mailto:Lcoresource@eccslv.org) for local scholarship information.

For those working towards their master's or doctorate in Early Childhood take a look at this scholarship from [The Denver Foundation](#).

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## Big Refund Alert: Colorado Educators Qualify for Major 2025 Tax Credits!





## Are you an early childhood educator?

You could get **up to \$2,943 back** in your 2025 Colorado state tax refund! These two tax credits recognize your essential role providing care and education for Colorado's youngest learners and support your financial stability.

### **NEW** \$1,200 Care Worker Tax Credit

You may qualify if you:

- Provided at least 720 hours of child care in 2025 to children age 5 or younger (not your own); and
- Worked at a licensed child care center or family child care home or served as a family, friend, or neighbor (FFN) caregiver; and
- Had an adjusted gross income of:
  - \$75,000 or less (single)
  - \$100,000 or less (joint)

How to claim:

1. Complete the Care Worker Tax Credit attestation in PDIS (My Account > Profile Settings)
2. File your Colorado State Income Taxes

**Learn more**

<https://cdec.colorado.gov/care-worker-tax-credit>



CDEC cannot provide tax advice. If you have additional questions about how to file your tax return, please contact a tax professional. Get help filing your taxes by visiting <https://tax.colorado.gov/community-tax-help>.

For questions about creating your PDIS account or completing the attestation, contact the PDIS Help Desk at [cdec\\_pdishelp@state.co.us](mailto:cdec_pdishelp@state.co.us)



**COLORADO SHINES**  
START EARLY  
START STRONG  
QUALITY EARLY LEARNING



### Up to \$1,743 Early Childhood Educator Tax Credit

You may qualify if you:

- Hold an active Early Childhood Professional Credential (ECPC) in 2025; and
- Worked more than 6 months in a licensed child care center or family child care home; and
- Had an adjusted gross income of:
  - \$75,000 or less (single)
  - \$150,000 or less (joint)

Credit amounts by ECPC level:

- ECPC Level 1: \$872
- ECPC Level 2: \$1,162
- ECPC Levels 3, 4, 5, or 6: \$1,743

How to claim:

1. Ensure your ECPC is active in 2025 (Apply or renew by Dec. 1, 2025)
2. File your Colorado State Income Taxes

**Learn more**

<https://tax.colorado.gov/early-childhood-educator-income-tax-credit>



#### Can You Claim Both Credits?

Yes! If you meet the criteria for both, you may receive up to \$2,943 with your 2025 tax refund.

## Quality Improvement

### Colorado Shines Quality Improvement Funds

Colorado Shines Quality Improvement funds are now available for licensed childcare programs that are rated at a Colorado Shines Level 1 or higher. Quality Improvement funds are allocated based on program type (center or home-based), the number of classrooms, coaching observations, and Colorado Shines quality rating level.

If you need additional information, please contact Monique Bosch at [eccoach@eccslv.org](mailto:eccoach@eccslv.org)

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## Stay Updated on Local Resources

This time of year, there are lots of community supports and opportunities popping up and we know it can be hard to keep track of them all.

While our newsletter goes out once a month, we often come across helpful resources online that we share on our Facebook page to keep things streamlined and easy to find.

Follow us here to stay informed!

<https://www.facebook.com/eccslv>

## Community Bulletin Board

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## Children's Garden Early Learning Center in Alamosa is hiring!

Now hiring level 2 ECE teachers. Salary depends on experience and PDIS level.

Teachers must hold a minimum of a level 2 in PDIS and must have the ability to be flexible, open to learning, and to take on new tasks/problems as they occur. He/she must also be able to pass the CBI/FBI/TRAILS background checks prior to official offer.

To inquire on this position and get information on how to apply. Please call Children's Garden directly at [\(719\) 937-4654](tel:7199374654)

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# REMINDER

*We are closed for Winter Break  
from December 22-January 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Normal business hours will resume  
on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2026

Wishing everyone a wonderful  
holiday season and a  
Happy New Year!



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**Do you have something you would like to share in our newsletter?**

If individuals and organizations in the community want to share relevant information through this email list, ECCSLV will do their best to include the information in the next available e-newsletter.

ECCSLV considers requests based on relevance, capacity, and timeliness. We do not guarantee that all information will be shared.

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Stay connected with us!

Subscribe to our  
newsletter!

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**Click on the social media links below to follow us on all platforms!**

We post regularly to our social media accounts regarding events and important last minute information that is usually not included in our bi-weekly newsletters.

Be sure you are subscribed so you don't miss out!



Early Childhood Council | 401 Santa Fe Avenue | Alamosa, CO 81101 US

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