



November 2025

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**Congratulations!**  **parents as teachers®**

BLUE RIBBON AFFILIATE

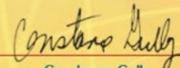
Through the successful completion of the  
Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process,  
**Early Childhood Council of the  
San Luis Valley**

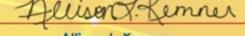
is hereby recognized as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate.

**October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026**



752

  
Constance Gully  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Parents as Teachers National Center

  
Allison L. Kemner  
Senior Vice President and Chief Research Officer  
Parents as Teachers National Center

## Congratulations to Our PAT Team!

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley's Parents as Teachers (PAT) program has been recognized as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate, the highest honor awarded by the national Parents as Teachers organization!

This distinction is given to programs that deliver top-quality, evidence-based services to families and follow best practices proven to help parents support their children's learning and development. To earn this award, affiliates must meet all essential requirements and at least 80% of national quality standards through a rigorous review process.

This recognition places our PAT team among the leading home visitation and parent education programs in the country, reflecting their dedication, consistency, and excellence in serving families throughout the San Luis Valley.

### Why it's a big deal:

- National Recognition: Among the top PAT programs nationwide.
- High Standards: Proven commitment to quality and excellence.
- Family Impact: Helping parents support healthy child development.
- Community Pride: Strengthening families across the San Luis Valley.

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## Adapt to Impact

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood and the University of Colorado Denver encourage you to explore a new, free program, [Adapt to Impact!](#)

*Adapt to Impact* helps licensed Colorado family childcare homes, centers, and preschools create more inclusive, accessible environments for young children with disabilities.

Adapt to Impact offers ongoing professional development, resources, and access to a loan library of adaptive equipment, toys, and materials at no cost. It helps programs offer learning environments and activities that support children with delays and disabilities.

Free program services include:

- A new [Adapt to Impact](#) website
- An expanded [Loan Library](#) with a new online catalogue and library system to borrow adaptive materials, toys, puzzles and resources
- New online, asynchronous Moodle courses available through PDIS in addition to the *Introduction to Universal Design* course
- Access to universal design kits of adaptive toys, materials and resources available to borrow through most ECCs
- An expansive collection of 2-10 minute video training resources to support the adaptive items in the library and kits
- Access to support from Center for Innovative Design and Engineering staff and faculty at the University of Colorado Denver.

Please help us in getting the word out to childcare providers in Colorado. Interested providers can complete the **Adapt to Impact intake form: [Adapt to Impact - Get Started!](#)**

If you have any questions, contact the project team at [AdaptCIDE@ucdenver.edu](mailto:AdaptCIDE@ucdenver.edu).

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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!

Visit our  
Website

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## Taxes

### Colorado State Income Tax Credit

Starting in 2026 (2025 tax year), qualifying childcare workers, and early childhood professionals will be eligible for a refundable \$1,200 Colorado state income tax credit. Tax credits reduce the amount of tax you owe or increase the amount of cash back you receive from your tax refund. Individuals can receive money back even if they do not owe any taxes. This is separate and in addition to the credit offered last year, and YES you can qualify for both!

See <https://cdec.colorado.gov/care-worker-tax-credit> for more details!

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## 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.

## Coaching

Carol Garboden Murray's acclaimed book, *[Illuminating Care: The Pedagogy of Care in Early Childhood Communities](#)* "calls on us to have the courage to challenge the notion that care is subordinate to education."

Garboden Murray writes, "Imagine the difference between the early childhood teacher who treats care as drudgery – and the one who treats care as education and honors care as an intellectual exchange."

She explains that daily care rituals (eating together, resting, diapering, dressing...) are often mistakenly devalued instead of being honored. "Care is the making of humans. Care is the first lesson of love, connection and dependency. Care rituals demonstrate quintessential whole person learning – the integration of mind, body, heart and soul."

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## **FREE CHILD CARE SERVICES IMMEDIATE OPENINGS!!**

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

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



Early Head Start Resource Spotlight: SchKIDules

# Magnetic Visual Schedule (Education Bundle)

Looking for an easy way to support daily routines and smooth transitions in your classroom? [SchKIDules Education Bundle](#) is a ready-to-use tool that helps children anticipate what's coming next throughout their day.

Why educators love it:

- Saves time—no need to print, laminate, or cut pictures.
- Includes over 100 magnetic pieces for activities, days, times, and rewards.
- Supports children with communication challenges or those who benefit from structure and predictability.

Note: Adult use only. Contains small parts—choking hazard for children under 3.

[Visual schedules](#) are perfect for:

- Helping children understand and predict daily routines
- Preparing for transitions between activities
- Rewarding and tracking positive behaviors
- Supporting children with developmental or communication challenges

If you have an Adapt to Impact library account, request the [SchKIDules Magnetic Visual Schedule Bundle](#) from the Library today!

If you would like a loan library account, complete an [intake form](#) to connect and learn the next steps. If you have an account with limited access, refer to the [How to Participate page](#) for information on how to upgrade your account.

Learn more: Watch the Visual Schedules video for tips on using this tool effectively.



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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## Professional Development

### ECC SLV Scholarships Now Open!

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley is now accepting applications for Professional Development

Scholarships supporting early childhood professionals pursuing CDA, associate, or bachelor's degrees in ECE.

Apply soon, funds are limited and available while supplies last!

Contact [lcoresource@eccslv.org](mailto:lcoresource@eccslv.org) for details and the application form.

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## 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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## Community Bulletin Board

We're sharing the following flyers and announcements from our community partners. The information shown is exactly what was provided to us. If you have questions or need more details, please reach out to the contact listed on each flyer. We're happy to help spread the word and support our community!



We are excited to announce that the Sargent Early Learning Center is currently seeking a dedicated board member to join our team.

We are looking for individuals who are either parents of children enrolled at the center or active community members with a passion for early childhood education. As a board member, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of our center, influence important decisions, and help us create a nurturing environment for our children.

If you are interested in this opportunity or would like to learn more, please reach out to Nichole Mathias at [sargentearlylearningcenter@gmail.com](mailto:sargentearlylearningcenter@gmail.com) or 719-852-5214.

We would love to hear from you!

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**WEE CARE  
IN ALAMOSA  
IS HIRING!**

Send letter of intent to  
[fumcweecare@gmail.com](mailto:fumcweecare@gmail.com)



A circular inset image shows two young children, a boy and a girl, playing with colorful blocks and toys in a vibrant, child-friendly environment. The background of the inset is yellow and blue, matching the overall theme of the advertisement.



# WE ARE HIRING!

Join our  
team!



## OPEN POSITIONS: ▾

- Food Provider
- Facility Assistant

### PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME TO:

- [donnamarie5659@gmail.com](mailto:donnamarie5659@gmail.com)
- [rgcdfs@gmail.com](mailto:rgcdfs@gmail.com)



### HAVE QUESTIONS? CALL US:

- (719)657-3101

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

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