

Douglas County Child Care Association
Newsletter
October-December 2023 Issue



Community “Matters”

Newborns are birthed into a prolonged period of immaturity and helplessness “altriciality”, unable to survive on their own. Their survival, growth, and development are predicated on the social structures of family and community to provide necessary care for years to come.

A community is a social unit with commonality such as place, norms, culture, religion, values, customs, or identity. Communities may share a sense of place situated in a given geographical area or in virtual space through communication platforms. Wikipedia

Community is limitless by definition, given the origins of birth and parents, extended family, care givers, schools, friends, teachers, coaches, neighborhood, town, country, workplace, faith practices, politics, hobbies, interests, etc. Benefits from community can take us from survival to thriving! These unlimited community “connections” are both a cornerstone and by product of societal organization.

“A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role.” – Yehuda Berg

Our early childhood work as family childcare home providers begats an opportunity to facilitate and create small communities that really matter! Establishing a home environment that feels welcoming, safe, accepting, prosocial, communicative, inclusive, respectful, fun, loving, where best practices are modeled, learning is embedded, and friendships can grow, is foundational!

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” – Coretta Scott King

Our mixed age settings are ideal for social emotional development, scaffolded learning, enrichment gained from age diversity towards leadership, helping, nurturing, tolerance, acceptance, appreciation, and all those building blocks necessary in creating an extended family. For the children, facilitating deepening friendships that can last beyond our walls.

“Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together.” – Paul Ryan

Forming family partnerships, with intentional and meaningful engagement, expands the web of community building and furthers the potential of growing other strong relationships with and among the adults in our family childcare homes. All that we offer in supporting and strengthening families makes a difference. When we engage and seek their input, partnerships blossom.

When we facilitate adults getting to know each other, friendships and support systems are possible. Our community is now a completed..... Circle!


“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

For sake of balance and wise perspective.....let the community building begin. No matter the given stage of our life..... **Community Matters!**

I used to be a classic workaholic, and after seeing how little work and career really mean when you reach the end of your life, I put a new emphasis on things I believe count more. These things include: family, friends, being part of a community, and appreciating the little joys of the average day.” – Mitch Albom

HEAVE-HO,

Angela Rosales



Setting fire to the leaves,
Autumn creeps in,
unleashing her transformation;
a new season begins.
From the crunch underfoot
to the nip in the air,
Autumn goes boldly
with her bright auburn hair.
She dances with the trees
and shakes them to their core.
Autumn leaves them bare,
before opening the door
to Winter, who breezes in
coldly cooling Autumn's embers.
But until then, her majesty is in residence
through October, from September.

MS MOEM

In the Spotlight



Carolyn Martin
Early Childhood Regional Coach, Northwest
Region
Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Here is Carolyn, in the blue hoodie, with her sweetheart Gary in the navy hat, and her nieces Hannah and Esther (with the scarf.) They are at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, where they all met this July 2023 while Carolyn was attending the 18th World Congress of Infant Mental Health. She had the great privilege of presenting with a small group from the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health on Nature-Informed Reflective Practices!

What is your profession/with whom and how long? I have been a Regional Coach since January 2020, first with the Office of Early Childhood and now through the transition to the new Colorado Department of Early Childhood. I love coaching! Before I did this work I was as coach-like as possible while I was Director of the Early Childhood Education Department for Poudre School District—which is also where I taught art for 13 years at the beginning of my professional life. I got my start in early childhood while working in New York City for the Community Schools Division of the Children’s Aid Society—I got to write the grant for and start the Early/Head Start programming at PS 152 in Washington Heights!

What made you decide on your profession? When I was a Community School Director in northern Manhattan, I had the chance to collaborate with the excellent early childhood mental health professionals from Columbia Presbyterian’s Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital. Providing a wide range of services to so many families and their children, from pre-birth through 5th grade, the amazing readiness of the psychiatrists assigned to my schools was a huge support. We collaborated on a wide range of interventions with children and families to meet their needs, and in doing so all of us teachers, administrators, community schools staff, and mental health staff became close.

One night we were celebrating at a baby shower with a wide range of people, and I overheard a conversation in part of the group—but soon many were nodding their heads and saying they thought so too. The person speaking said they thought that they really couldn’t help children with their difficulties until they were in second or third grade. I was surprised to see some people who I thought did amazing work with children in their infancy and even before birth, and who were especially great at working with a child and their family together, agree.

But I was even more surprised by what I thought inside myself—that I felt like I could really do a lot to help a little person who was not born yet, or was only two days or two months old. That we could really have a conversation, and that helping them and their family at the same time increased the good outcomes. I asked myself, “Am I just deluding myself?” and reflected there, and again after the celebration was over. And I felt sure inside that I am not deluded. There are some of us on earth who connect with children from their earliest days, and in the context of their family. It was a huge awakening for me, to realize it was not just that I loved teaching, and serving families and children—but that I was an early childhood person!

What are some of your biggest challenges in your current position? It is so ironic—coaching makes such a big difference, and is so needed. And, we are building more and more of the foundation that’s needed to ensure that coaching is, in the words of the regional coaching team’s vision, “accessible, desirable, and embraced, with deeply-embedded and defined practices, and a solid structure aligned with all partners across Colorado.” But we’re not there yet, and so gaps or omissions in who is a coach, or who accesses coaching, those can be deeply painful to me.

What are some of the most satisfying things in your position? Coaching, coaching, and reflective consultation with coaches! I really enjoy finding out what is intrinsically motivating and aligned for another person’s growth, and then reflecting with them as they experiment with the changes and adjustments that will get them there. I especially like using nature-infused approaches to self-awareness and self-regulation, and I find that in the field, we are hungry for that and need that.

Tell us a little about your life outside of work. Family, hobbies, etc. I am wildly enthusiastic about earth, in fact, it is one of my favorite planets! I like walking and hiking, swimming, bicycling, dancing, skiing, smelling things, feeling the wind, and just generally enjoying the sunlight and shadow, snow and warmth on earth outdoors! Because I was born in Wyoming I do actually really like the wind—I find it cleansing and friendly, mostly! Because of my deep earth loving, I like to garden and harvest and make preserves. This year’s standout experiments in preserving include making cherry bounce whiskey from cherries harvested off a tree down the block—it has 3 more months to go, but is really good so far. I also tried a Canadian recipe for making crabapple juice with honey in it, and it is soooo good, and a peach cherry marmalade that not only tastes good, it’s kind of perfumey. This year we planted 5 currant bushes so we will have more in the future to make jam from, and I can’t wait!

Celebrating Diversity At Christmas

Celebrating Christmas extends beyond the fun and fanfare of sparkly decorations, carol singing, and crafting. It's also a great opportunity to embrace the diversity within the community of children and families in your service.

This diversity in our population means that Christmas does not look the same to every child. For example a child of French heritage may celebrate [St Nicholas' Day](#) on the 6th of December and enjoy their main Christmas meal called Le Reveillon, on 24th December.

Some young children don't celebrate Christmas at all.

Christmas provides a wonderful opportunity for children, families and educators to learn more about each other and be culturally inclusive. Early childhood services are the ideal location for children to experience a range of cultures and form friendships with people from a variety of backgrounds.

In addition the Early Years Learning Framework describes cultural competence as being much more than awareness of cultural differences and says: It is the ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.

According to the EYLF cultural competence encompasses:

- *being aware of one's own world view
- *developing positive attitudes towards cultural differences
- *gaining knowledge of different cultural practices and world views
- *developing skills for communication and interaction across cultures.

Community Child Care's booklet on *Exploring Celebrations in Children's Services* says, 'Each person has their own culture which they bring with them to the child care setting. What one person may value or believe in may be very different to the next person, even if both are from the same cultural and linguistic background. Christmas will have different meanings for different people, depending on their values, experiences and beliefs...

Having an understanding of the way that culture and cultural practices influence a family's values and beliefs will enable early childhood educators to incorporate celebrations in a sensitive and respectful manner.'

First step: 'How do you celebrate Christmas?'

Talking to families is a great starting point. Asking families what Christmas means to them and how they celebrate draws them in and informs educators.

If they don't celebrate Christmas there's a good opportunity to learn about the holidays that are equally significant in their lives and how they celebrate them. Ensuring inclusivity can encourage meaningful discussions and allows families to provide examples of their own unique traditions.

By working together, parents and teachers can plan strategies for children whose family beliefs do not permit participation in traditional Australian holiday celebrations. Families can take part in creating satisfactory alternatives for the child within the classroom.

Sharing different approaches to celebrations provides a real opportunity for children to think and talk about diversity. Engaging them by sharing their own experiences and traditions brings meaning and inclusivity plus it's a great time to celebrate differences.

Embracing diversity at Christmas time could include some or all of the following ideas:

Sharing

Sit children in a circle and provide an opportunity to share how they celebrate this time of year at home with their families. It's a bit like a show-and-tell. You can use this as a springboard to create ideas for classroom participation such as having a feast of different foods, or consider an art and craft hands-on fun project (see our next article).

Get parents involved

Encourage parents to bring in items or photos from their celebrations to share with the class. Parents and/or children can show the class how different items are used and why they are so special and important to their celebration

Read books

Young children will love a selection of colorful books revealing how different cultures mark the festive season. Children may even have their own Christmas tradition book at home that they can bring in.

Connect globally

You could throw an 'around-the-world' themed party, with food and activities from around the globe alongside the traditional Christmas celebration. Embrace different languages spoken by translating how they express 'Merry Christmas' and even create a poster or sing songs in different languages.

(CareForKids)

Involve the community

A wonderful way to make any major celebration more meaningful is to include your wider community. This might mean inviting guests to your classroom so they can talk about their celebrations. Reaching out to older members of the community or grandparents during this time of year can also be a wonderful experience for children.

Personal experiences

Give children an opportunity to experience and learn that not everyone celebrates holidays in the same way. Some families celebrate by focusing on religious events and traditions, while others may celebrate the holiday in more secular ways. Create opportunities for children to talk about these differences, emphasizing that our individual ways of celebrating is what makes this time especially meaningful and unique for each of us.

Early Childhood Consultant, Catharine Hydon, wrote, 'Becoming culturally competent is about connections and relationships. Firstly, as educators, connecting to our own cultural identity, knowing what's important to us and where these ideas come from. From there, our efforts to recognize and celebrate the cultural identity of the children and families we work with can be as small as learning a greeting in a child's home language, introducing a Dreamtime story, or asking a family about how they plan to celebrate their version of New Year.

As we become more confident we can look for bigger projects that intentionally invite children to think and learn about their own and others' cultural identity, challenge prejudice when we encounter it, and explore new ways of knowing and being.

Cultural competency is ultimately about respect, learning to respect our own and each other's identity, standing up to actions that erode these rights and exploring ways to demonstrate this commitment every day.

Treasury Report– 1st Quarter

July 1, 2023—September 30, 2023

		Balance Forward	\$5,777.73
Income:			
	Membership Dues	\$820.00	
	State Membership Dues	\$160.00	
	Class Fee	\$10.00	
	Telephone Refund	\$38.97	
	Total Income	\$1,028.97	
Expenses:	Telephone	\$59.08	
	Education	\$620.14	
	Website	\$32.50	
	Office Supplies	\$163.40	
	CAFCC Membership Dues	\$520.00	
	Total Expenses	\$1,405.12	
Ending Balance			\$5,401.58
Respectfully Submitted, Susan Moberly DCCCA/Treasurer/Membership			

July-September 1st Quarter

2023 Referrals

Castle Rock		Highlands Ranch		Parker	
Under 18 months	8	Under 18	6	Under 18	5
Full Time:	3	Full Time:	6	Full Time:	5
Part Time:	5	Part Time:	0	Part Time:	0
Over 18 months	5	Over 18	10	Over 18	5
Full Time:	4	Full Time:	9	Full Time:	4
Part Time:	1	Part Time:	1	Part Time:	1
School Age	0	School Age	0	School Age	0
Drop In	0	Drop In	0	Drop In	0
Total	13	Total	16	Total	10
DCCCA WEBSITE	6	DCCCA WEBSITE	3	DCCCA WEBSITE	10
Colorado Shines	0	Colorado Shines	9	Colorado Shines	0
PROVIDER		PROVIDER	2	PROVIDER	0
OTHER:	5	OTHER:	2	OTHER:	0

EXECUTIVE BOARD AND ADDITIONAL DCCCA VOLUNTEERS			
President	Angela Rosales	303-766-9241	amagr8rose@q.com
Vice President	Vickie Scholl	303-707-0812	gtscholl@hotmail.com
Secretary	OPEN		
Treasurer Membership	Susan Moberly	303-841-5899	susantboada@comcast.net
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Castle Rock	Sabrina Fulks	303-660-5584	sabricus-tomemb@gmail.com
Highlands Ranch Lone Tree Acres Green Centennial	Cathleen Zeiler	303-791-3386	highlandsranchereferral@gmail.com
Parker/Elizabeth	Joanne Payne	303-805-0824	tjsspayne@msn.com
Election Coordinator	OPEN		
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	Vickie Scholl		
Douglas County Zoning	OPEN		
Employer Identification	EIN#	1-800-829-4933	http://www.irs.gov/businesses/smallbusinessesself-employed/employer-idnumbers

LICENSING SPECIALIST INFORMATION AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS		
Supervisor	Christa Ferrari	720-425-6294 Christa.Ferrari@state.co.us
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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 eecon- 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	1-800-799-5876	https://cdec.colorado.gov/
24 Hour Child Protective Line	303-271-4131	
Immunization Line	303-237-7178	
Rocky Mountain Poison Control	303-222-1222	
NAFCC (National Association for Family Child Care)	800-359-3817	
Child Find for Douglas County	720-433-0020	https://www.dcsdk12.org/cms/ One.aspx? portalId=220484&pageId=5759334

Food Programs

[illegible]

Leaf Confetti Nature Wands



<https://www.learningandexploringthroughplay.com/2021/11/leaf-confetti-nature-wands.html?m=1>

Apple Birdseed Homemade Bird Feeders



<https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/apple-birdseed-homemade-bird->

Paper Plate Leaf Turkey Craft



<https://www.ourkidthings.com/paper-plate-leaf-turkey-craft/>

Paper Plate Turkey Wreath



<https://www.theresourcefulmama.com/paper-plate-turkey-wreath-craft/>

Apple Pie in a Cup



<https://www.theprintableprincess.com/apple-pie-in-a-cup-freebie/>

Parent Gift



SNOWMAN PAPER PLATE MASKS



<https://meaningfulmama.com/snowman-paper-plate-masks.html>

Easy Reindeer Cookies



<https://ourbestbites.com/easy-reindeer-cookies/>