Douglas County Child Care Association Newsletter January-March 2024 Issue





DCCCA

January-March 2024

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President's Letter January 2024

Passing the Baton

At the Olympics, and track and field venues from elementary school to college, we have watched relay events that personify teamwork and the value of timing! Four team mates running equal legs of a race while passing a baton at top speed for one and a rolling start for the other! All the practice, collective natural athletic abilities, commitment to building a skill set, focused comradery and allegiance to team trust, takes dedication, attention to detail and trust in the process.

The timing is right for me. As the "anchor" runner, time to acknowledge personal changes making it necessary to pass the baton. Time to acknowledge that a solid organization has been built and is running smoothly at top notch speed. Time to acknowledge that others can step up with a rolling start, receive the baton, and finish another leg of the race!

Growth begats challenge. And challenge summons growth. The natural abilities, skill sets, vision, and dedication of others in membership, can see this organization through its daily operations, challenges and growth towards a promising future. Dropping the baton, false starts, bad timing in exchanges, will be thwarted by current board members helping with a smooth transition, a smoother handoff, and a strong finish to this transition.

Our Douglas County Child Care Association By-Laws, found on our website, provides detailed information from membership to executive board responsibilities to elections. The President, Vice President and Secretary executive board positions are up for nominations this April. Elections will be held in May, with newly elected officers announced by June 1st. Our next fiscal year, under new leadership begins July 1, 2024!

"Continuous effort—not strength or intelligence—is the key to unlocking our potential." —Liane Cardes

"Champions keep playing until they get it right." —Billie Jean King

"Being nervous is not something you should be ashamed of. Nervous means you care, you really want to do well." —Paula Creamer

"One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team." —Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Passing the baton to you,

Angela Rosales

Snow flakes

Snowflakes spill from heaven's hand Lovely and chaste like smooth white sand.

A veil of wonder laced in light

Falling gently on a winter's night.

Gracefully beauty raining down

Giving magic to the lifeless ground.

Each snowflake like a falling star

Smiling beauty that's spun afar.

Till earth is dressed in a robe of white Unspoken poem the hush of night.



Linda A. Copp

Toddlers and Reading: Describe but Don't Drill

Memorization is NOT the key to reading

Parents see many advertisements promising that their child can become the next Einstein with the right combination of learning toys and DVDs. It's easy for parents to get caught up in the hype that new, better products make smarter children. And because so many of these products emphasize memorization, it can sometimes cause families to think that a focus on memorization is what's important.

Complex language is what's important

In fact, using flash cards is not an effective way to help toddlers build language and literacy skills. Flash cards emphasize memorization rather than the communication and language skills that really foster early literacy. Memorizing is often mistaken for learning. But rote memorization is a lower-level skill compared to skills developed through using complex language during meaningful conversations with young children about ideas and feelings. Rote memorization may make sense for older children—for example, when learning math facts—but young children's brains simply are not ready for it.

Don't underestimate talking and listening

Talking, listening to and telling stories, and hearing new vocabulary words are really the keys to early literacy. Abby needs to build these important skills before she is ready to recognize letters and words. And she works on them every day by telling stories, hearing her parents and teachers introduce new words and complex language, and listening to them read aloud from books and other materials. These daily interactions help her make the connection between words on a page and spoken language.

Meaningful interactions that use complex language can be very simple. Abby's parents and teachers encourage early literacy when they pay attention to what she does and make comments that connect to her experience.

For example, Sam can talk about what Abby eats at dinner:

Sam says, "Abby, I see you ate all your chicken. Chicken is good for you."

He then extends his arms, flexes his biceps, and says, "It will help you grow big and STRONG!"

Throughout the day, he can describe a variety of emotions, like surprise, excitement, or sadness, as appropriate, and he can give Abby the context she needs to make sense of the new words she hears. For example, he can repeat the words Abby uses or use words in place of her gestures:

Abby points to the cracker box and says "cra."

Sam asks, "Would you like some crackers? [handing her the crackers] Are these the crunchy crackers that Abby wants?"

By using a rich vocabulary to describe their everyday lives, Sam can say the words Abby will soon be ready to use herself.

Literacy learning: What infants and toddlers know and can do

When we understand that children learn at different ages and stages, we can set realistic goals for our youngest children. Such goals lead children to develop early literacy skills that will last a lifetime.

Children between the ages of 18 and 24 months begin to recognize and react to the sounds of language. That's why toddlers start paying attention to rhymes in songs and identify sounds different animals make. Recognizing that a cow says "moo" and a dog says "ruff, ruff" is learning in context.

Children 18 to 24 months old begin to develop "imitative reading." For example, when Sam reads a favorite book to Abby, she often finishes the phrases. Sam says, "Brown bear, brown bear, what do you . . . ", then stops so Abby can finish the phrase, "see." This behavior shows that Abby's language capacities are developing as expected for a child her age. Such seemingly simple activities build connections in Abby's brain and help her develop the skills she will need to communicate and learn to read.

For more on infant and toddler development see: <u>Healthy Beginnings: Supporting Development and Learning</u> <u>from Birth through Three Years of Age</u>.

Try this!

To help your child develop a rich vocabulary try using new and interesting words to talk about something familiar (for example, *automobile* instead of *car*, *lovely* instead of *nice*, *humongous*instead of *big*, *dice* instead of *chop*).

Read your child's favorite books and let her fill in familiar sounds (like animal noises) or phrases (like familiar rhymes).

Source: Adapted from the Rocking and Rolling column by N. Darling-Kuria, 2012, "What Do We Mean by Reading Readiness?" Young Children 67 (1): 54–55.

In the Spotlight





Jennifer Girdler

Licensing Specialist
NARA National Regulatory Professional Credential (NRPC)

What is your profession/with whom and how long?

I am currently a Licensing Specialist with the State of Colorado, working primarily in the Parker area. Before this, I spent many years in Early Childhood Education, starting as a classroom teacher, then an Assistant Director, and then a program Director.

What made you decide on your profession?

I went to school to be an elementary school teacher, something I had wanted to be since I was a child. The year I graduated I needed a summer position, and applied at a child care center. I never left! Turns out I loved teaching our youngest children!

What are some of your biggest challenges in your current position?

I think the biggest challenge is seeing how hard it is for programs to stay fully staffed, and how that turn over/understaffing affects each program.

What are some of the most satisfying things in your position?

I love supporting programs in any way I can – answering questions, finding solutions, and celebrating any and all successes! It's really rewarding when a program shares they have gotten a quality rating, or found the perfect teacher to open that next classroom or had a great parent event!

Tell us a little about your life outside of work. Family, hobbies, etc.

I am married and my husband and I have been together over 20 years now. We live in Littleton with our two cats, Reggie and Moose. We love to do anything outdoors – hiking, rock and ice climbing, biking and running. I also love plants and am an avid reader.

Treasury Report– 2nd Quarter October 1, 2023—December 31, 2023

		Balance Forward	\$5,401.58
Income:			
	Membership Dues	\$40.00	
	Total Income	\$40.00	
Expenses:	CAFCC Affiliate Dues	\$84.00	
	Education	\$200.87	
	Total Expenses	\$284.87	
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Ending Balance			\$5,156.71
Respectfully Submitted, Susan Moberly			
DCCCA/Treasurer/Membership			

October-December 2nd Quarter 2023 Referrals

Castle Rock		Highlands Ranch		Parker	
Under 18 months	9	Under 18	13	Under 18	3
Full Time:	7	Full Time:	5	Full Time:	2
Part Time:	2	Part Time:	8	Part Time:	1
Over 18 months	8	Over 18	4	Over 18	4
Full Time:	7	Full Time:	2	Full Time:	2
Part Time:	1	Part Time:	2	Part Time:	2
School Age	0	School Age	0	School Age	0
Total	17	Total	17	Total	7
DCCCA WEBSITE	5	DCCCA WEBSITE	11	DCCCA WEBSITE	7
Colorado Shines	6	Colorado Shines	1	Colorado Shines	0
PROVIDER	2	PROVIDER	1	PROVIDER	0
OTHER:	4	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
	Referrals	Volunteers	
Castle Rock	Sabrina Fulks	303-660-5584	sabricus- tomemb@gmail.com
Highlands Ranch Lone Tree Acres Green Centennial	Cathleen Zeiler	303-791-3386	highlandsrancherefer- ral@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 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 <u>ececon-</u> <u>sultingwithKatie@outlook.com</u>	
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	

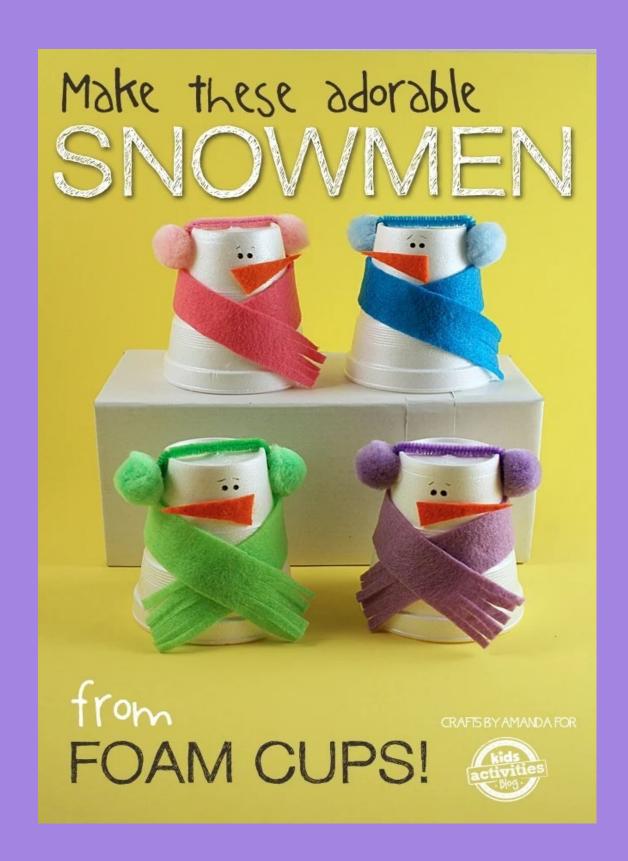
LICENSING SPECIALIST INFORMATION AND OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS			
Colorado Association of Family Child Care (CAFCC)	(303) 403-4262	coloradocafcc.org	

Food Programs		
Southwest Food Program	719-573-2246	southwestcacfp.com
Wildwood Food Program	303-730-0460	www.wildwoodonline.com
Kids Nutrition Company	303-987-4851	kncinc.org

Stained Glass



https://kindercraze.com/festive-winter-window-decor-and-freebie/



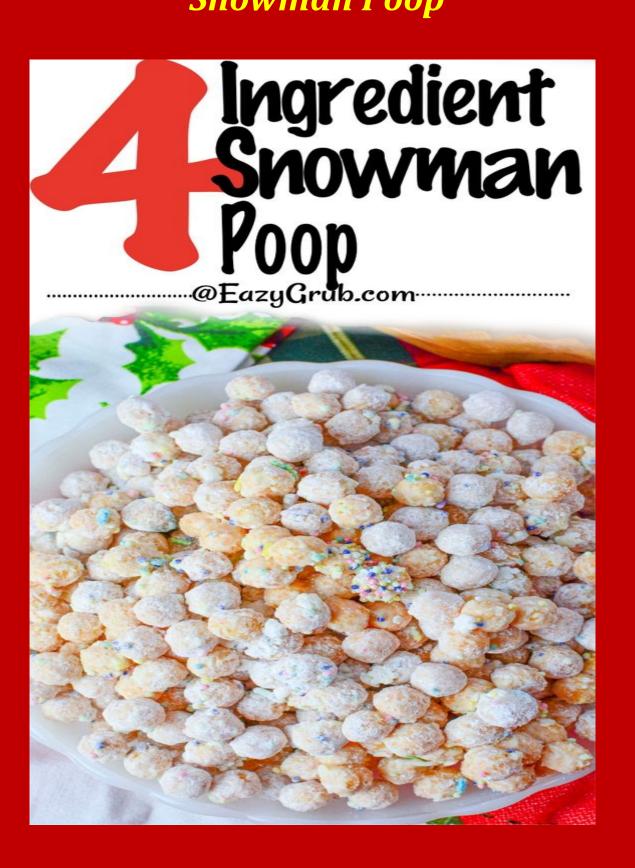
https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/62019/snowman-craft-foam-cups/

SPARKLY ICICLE CRAFT



https://kidscraftroom.com/sparkly-icicle-craft/? utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+KidsCraftRoom+

Snowman Poop



https://eazygrub.com/4-ingredient-snowman-poop/

Snowman Donuts



https://helloyummy.co/snowman-donuts/





https://thesavvyage.com/addictive-holiday-puffcorn-recipe/