



The Early Years Matter

The early years of life are critical to a child's learning and development. Quality early learning programs, including child care and preschool, help children start early and start strong on the path to life-long success.

Steps to Finding Quality Child Care

- 1 Call the referral line for care options:
1.877.338.2273
- 2 Search for a quality child care online:
ColoradoShines.com
- 3 Find program details and assistance:
ColoradoOfficeofEarlyChildhood.com
- 4 Visit programs and bring checklist →
- 5 Your child is enrolled! What's NEXT?
Visit FamilySPEAK.org for resources!

Video Library includes child development video series!

Quality Child Care Checklist

Health and Safety

- Equipment is clean and in good repair.
- Electrical outlets are covered.
- Emergency route and emergency numbers are posted.
- The doors are locked and visitors are required to sign in.
- All toys are clean and in good condition.
- The playground has safe surfaces, is fenced and has both sun and shade.

Environment Basics

- The room is warm and inviting.
- The children are happy and involved with both staff and with other children.
- The furniture is child-sized and the materials are at the children's level.
- Materials are age-appropriate and there are enough supplies for children to either play alone or to share.
- Different cultures and traditions are seen in the classroom.

Daily Activities

- Nutritious meals and snacks are provided.
- Nap and story time are built into the day.
- Puzzles, blocks, music and make-believe stations are provided.
- Children have a time to choose their own activities.
- Activities are varied and include both outdoor playtime and indoor quiet time.
- A daily schedule is posted.

Teacher/Child Interactions

- There is shared respect between teachers and children.
- Teachers are at children's eye level when talking with them.
- Teachers listen closely to each child and use positive language when talking with them.
- Children are asked questions and not just given directions.
- The teacher attends to children who are upset.
- I am comfortable that my child's culture and traditions will be welcomed.



Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council

719.634.8045 | Allianceforkids.org | @Allianceforkids | @allianceforkids_epc

FamilySPEAK | 719.466.0099 | FamilySPEAK.org | @FamilySPEAK



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COLORADO SHINES
START EARLY
START STRONG
QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

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