



Joint Initiatives
FOUNDATIONS

FOUNDATIONS is the early childhood program of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families, which includes Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CATALOG

FOR BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

AUGUST-OCTOBER 2025



EQIT: SESSION A

The 48-hour EQIT Curriculum provides a solid introduction to infant and toddler development, with a focus on providing quality group care for our youngest children.









	Audience: ALL		Cost: \$50
	Date/Time: August 14–October 13, 2025		Domain Competency: CGD, COA, G, FCP, HSN, PDL, PPD, TP
	Location: Hybrid Online and In Person		Trainer: Foundations Erica Evans



PRE-LICENSING | IN-PERSON SESSION

Becoming a Licensed Family Child Care Provider is an exciting career move which offers you the opportunity to provide appropriate care and guidance for other children in your community.



	Audience: ALL		Cost: \$50
	Date/Time: August 18-20 9 am – 3 pm		Domain Competency: Overview of Child Care Rules & Regs, CGD, HNS, DAP, G, FCR, CID, P, AS, SE
	In Person at Ascend Center 1600 N. Union Blvd.		Trainer: Foundations/Shaina Bretag



EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES SERIES

This is a series of four trainings focused on the ELDGs, which outline the developmental milestones and learning progression of children from birth to 8 years of age. These guidelines are essential tools for supporting young children's growth and success across early learning environments.



Audience: ALL



Cost: FREE



Date/Time: August 20, 27 and September 3, 10 | 6:30-8:30 pm



Domain Competency: CGDL



In Person at Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.



Trainers: Foundations
Erica Evans + Shaina Bretag

The registration link goes to the first session, which contains links to register for the other three sessions. (Participating in all sessions is encouraged, but you may register for those that best meet your needs.)



BEYOND THE ACES SCORE | PARTS 1 + 2

Promoting Positive Childhood Experiences: Through the Lens of the Neurosequential Model in Early Childhood Education. Parts 1 and 2 build upon each other. Children's mental health training provides early childhood educators an opportunity to better understand the impact of childhood trauma and how to implement strategies to prevent or reduce the effects. Click the registration button to view the full training description.



Audience: ALL



Cost: FREE



Oct. 14 and 28 | 6:00 - 8 pm
In Person | 1600 N. Union Blvd.



Domain Competency: SEHD



Aligns with Colorado
Universal Preschool Standards



Trainer:
Paula Hergert, M.A. Ed.



Early Childhood Programs...

YOUR FOUNDATIONS TEAM IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Supporting Strong Foundations for Early Childhood

HOW WE CAN HELP

Would you like to open your own early childhood program?
Would you like support as an administrator, director, or teacher at an early childhood program? JI is here to help!
We support **ALL early childhood programs** based on their needs and their starting point – almost always at no cost.



Supports to open a child care business, including pre-licensing training, business and programmatic coaching



Colorado Shines and PDIS applications, rating support, Quality Improvement (QI) spending, and QI coaching



**Business training and coaching
Trauma-informed coaching/training**



Obtaining a CCCAP agreement



Grant availability and applications



Professional development hours, training, catalog, and calendar



Help with provider profiles, seats, matching, and business consultation
Jointinitiatives.org/UPK



Do you have staff openings?
Fill out a **Workforce Form** to help us support your program needs.

bit.ly/ECEWorkforceNeedsForm

The Foundations team at *Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families* is your local early childhood liaison, dedicated to supporting ALL early childhood programs and professionals in building strong early childhood foundations for children and families.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTERS



VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HERE](#) OR
SCAN CODE TO LEARN MORE



Shay Almonte

Foundations Program Director
719.377.8179
salmonte@jointinitiatives.org





YOUR FOUNDATIONS TEAM IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Foundations offers FREE supports! Foundations, the early childhood department of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families, which includes Alliance for Kids, the Early Childhood Council of El Paso County, supports individuals pursuing a career in early childhood care and education. Whether your career path is to be a Preschool Aide, Early Childhood Teacher, open a Family Child Care Home, or become a child care Center Director, we can connect you with resources and help mentor you along the way.

Below is a more detailed look at the support we offer.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) CREDENTIAL

- Support with the initial CDA application process
- Support with the CDA renewal process
- Resources for finding a CDA training program
- Help in finding local CDA PD Specialist for a site visit

PRE-LICENSING + LICENSING

- Where to start and what is important to consider when opening a family child care home
- Assistance with zoning and HOA needs
- Support with completing the Licensing application
- Technical assistance and on-site support for setting up your learning environment

COLORADO SHINES PDIS

- Registration Support
- Support to gain or increase your Early Childhood Professional Credential 3.0
- Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) qualification assistance
- Technical assistance for trainer credentials
- Technical assistance for Coaching Credentials
- Job-Embedded Coaching
- Observations for Demonstrated Competencies
- Scholarship navigation support



SCAN ME

For complete details on
Competencies, click **HERE**
or scan the code.



CONNECT WITH US!

Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families (JI) includes the programs of **Foundations**, **Pathways**, and **Voices**. All JI programs allow for a continuum of supports and services for our community. Alliance for Kids, the Early Childhood Council for El Paso County, is housed under JI's Foundations program and your Foundations team is here to support the early childhood community.

GEANINA BROWN, FOUNDATIONS WORKFORCE MANAGER

GBrown@jointinitiatives.org | 719.651.3484

Contact Geanina for questions about professional development scholarships, PDIS, CDA, early childhood qualifications, or other career pathway support.

ERICA EVANS, FOUNDATIONS INFANT + TODDLER SPECIALIST

EEvans@jointinitiatives.org | 719.233.0770

Contact Erica for questions about EQIT, infant/toddler professional development and coaching, as well as reflective supervision.

MEL LOPEZ, FOUNDATIONS CAREER NAVIGATOR

MLopez@jointinitiatives.org | 719.684.6195

Contact Mel for career navigation support to help you determine the best early childhood career pathway, PDIS support, assistance with college enrollment, answers to your CDA questions, portfolio support, and more!



Scan code to visit

BuildmyECEcareer.com

Schedule a career navigation appointment with Mel today!

¡Ofrecemos nuestros servicios en Español!

KELSEY BREINER, FOUNDATIONS PARTNER RECRUITER

KBreiner@jointinitiatives.org | 719.684.6195

Contact Kelsey for high school career pathway support. For details, view the **Partner Recruiter Flyer HERE**.



SCAN ME

For all **early childhood information**, scan code or click **HERE** to visit our Foundations page of the JI website.

CONNECT ON SOCIAL!

@jointinitiatives



Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE +

FEATURES

ABOUT THE CDA+

The CDA+, created by Pikes Peak State College (PPSC), is a ten-session program (80 hours) that allows you to earn seven college credits.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families provides in-person training on Thursdays – see sidebar at right.
- Training is assignment- and participation-based, with no testing required for successful program completion.
- CDA credential will be submitted for PLA college credits.

DETAILS

Prerequisite: Have a current Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. Your current CDA credential will be submitted for college credits, eliminating the need for continual CDA renewal.

Did your CDA certificate expire?

The CDA® Renewal Amnesty Program is available through July 31, 2025. The program gives an opportunity for anyone whose CDA expired as far back as Jan. 1, 2020, to complete the renewal process and reactivate their CDA credential. To learn more about the program, visit the Council for Professional Recognition (cdacouncil.org/en/cda-renewal-amnesty-program)

NO-COST PROGRAM

\$800.00 to help
remove barriers
for the student

SEP. 4–NOV. 6

Thursdays

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

September 4, 11, 18, 25

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

November 6

Makeup Day on November 13

TRAINING LOCATION

1600 N. Union Blvd.
Colorado Springs



CONTACT TRAINER WITH QUESTIONS

GEANINA BROWN

Foundations Workforce Manager

GBrown@jointinitiatives.org

719.651.3484



INTERESTED?

If you have a current CDA and would like to apply for this opportunity, click **HERE** or scan code.



bit.ly/JI-PPSC-CDAPlusForm

NEW! ADVANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS PROGRAM

GET ON TRACK TODAY!

TRACK 1

Early Childhood Teacher Assistant

- **6 ECE credits** – 90 clock hours over a semester and 10 clock hours of CEUs
- **\$800** in funding is available to help remove barriers for the student.
- **\$500** incentive upon completing credits and CEUs
- **\$750** incentive upon completion of PDIS Level 1 or increasing the credential level

TRACK 2

Early Childhood Teacher

- **12 ECE credits** — 180 clock hours over a semester and 10 clock hours of CEUs
- **\$800** in funding is available to help remove barriers for the student.
- **\$500** incentive after completing credits and CEUs
- **\$1,500** incentive upon completion of PDIS Level 2 or increasing the credential level

Contact Us or Apply Now!



CONNECT

Click [HERE](#) or scan code to **CONNECT** with our Career Navigator.



APPLY

Click [HERE](#) or scan code to **APPLY** for this program.



MEL LOPEZ

Foundations Career Navigator

719.684.6195

mlopez@jointinitiatives.org

¡Ofrecemos nuestros servicios en Español!



**Pursuing a career
in Early Childhood
Education is **EXCITING**
and **REWARDING**.**

Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families (JI)

is excited to partner with
Pikes Peak State College
to offer a new program that
includes **incentives and
personalized support**.

Participants will receive
**career navigation
and coaching**
to work in the field of
Early Childhood Education.

*All coursework is offered by PPSC through
in-person, online, or hybrid settings.*



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FOUNDATIONS TRAINING + EVENT REFUND POLICY

Registration and payment for an event or training indicate your agreement to the policies below:

A FULL training/event refund will be provided for Foundations training under the following circumstances:

- The training participant provides a written refund request to Foundations no later than ten (10) business days prior to the first day of the training/event. Proof of registration must be provided with this request.

A refund of HALF of the cost of the training/event will be provided for Foundations training under the following circumstances:

- The training participant provides a written refund request to Foundations no later than five (5) business days prior to the first day of the training/event. Proof of registration must be provided with this request.

Please note the following regarding refunds for series training (have multiple meeting sessions):

- Due to the importance of the information covered on the first day of a course, participants who cannot attend will not be permitted to continue the course and are NOT eligible for a refund.
- To request a FULL refund for a series training, the training participant must provide a written refund request to Foundations no later than ten (10) business days prior to the first day of the training/event series. Additionally, proof of registration must be provided along with this request.
- Participants attending any portion of a series training are not eligible for refunds for subsequent sessions in the series.

Canceled Training/Events

- If a training/event is canceled or postponed by Foundations for any reason, including inclement weather, registrants will be given the options below, and the choice must be made within one week of the canceled training/event through email to Foundations.
- Cancellation of registration and full refund of the cost of the training/event.
- Application of registration payment to a future training/event within three months of the date of the canceled training/event.
- Transfer of payment to a future rescheduled training/event.

NO REFUND is provided if registrants do not show up for the scheduled training/event or cancel a registration less than five (5) business days in advance.

- All refund requests must be in writing by email only. Phone requests will not be accepted.
- **EMAIL:** Please email refund request to: GBrown@jointinitiatives.org

The refund will be refunded to the original credit/debit card used for the registration.

Please allow five (5) to ten (10) business days for the refund to be placed back in your account.

PARTICIPANT REMOTE LEARNING + PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

To support a positive, safe, and productive remote learning training environment for all in attendance, all participants are expected to follow **Participant Remote Learning + Professional Behavior Guidelines**. Participants who violate the Guidelines are not eligible for a refund and will be removed from the training and may be prohibited from attending future training. For a full description of the Guidelines, click [HERE](#).





WHERE TO FIND EARLY CHILDHOOD CAREERS

Visit the **Joint Initiatives Career Page!**

In addition to searching broad hiring platforms, be sure to visit JI's career page, which highlights opportunities posted by local community organizations and early childhood education programs. Joint Initiatives also posts positions available within its organization, including JI's early childhood department of Foundations, which includes Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.



For all **early childhood careers**, scan code or click **HERE** to visit our Careers page of the JI website.



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