

# Early Childhood Partners of Southwest Colorado



Early Childhood Council of La Plata County

Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, & San Juan Counties

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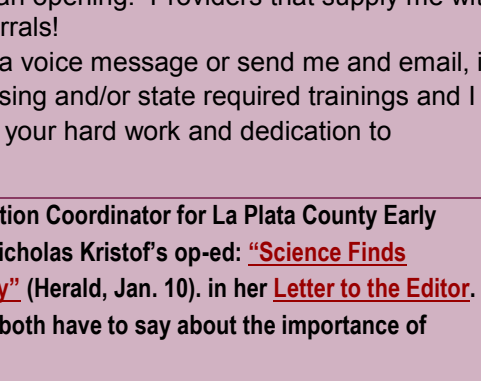


**Letter from the Director of the EC Council of La Plata County:** Tamara Volz  
If you are wondering what is going on for young children and families in our community, read on. You will see there is a lot of collaboration, connections, a flurry of activities, programs and trainings and a great group of committed professionals who are working together to create a system of early childhood in our state. Many thanks to all who participate in this exciting work: the Early Childhood Councils, committee members, stakeholders, Office of Child Care Resource & Referral, and community supporters. The Early Childhood Leadership Commission just presented their annual report to Governor Hickenlooper, Lt Governor Joe Garcia, and members of the Senate Education Committee, Senate Health & Human Services Committee, House Education Committee and House Health & Environment Committee. To see report click on link below  
[Early Childhood Colorado Information Clearinghouse website](#)

Early Childhood Councils across Colorado bring together dedicated partners to coordinate, increase and improve the education, health, social/emotional, and parenting opportunities available to all young children and their families. For information about how we are doing this in our local community visit:  
The Early Childhood Council of La Plata County at [www.ecclaplata.org](http://www.ecclaplata.org). or Montelores Early Childhood Council at: [www.monteloresecc.org](http://www.monteloresecc.org)

## Hello from the Southwest Colorado Office of Child Care Resource and Referral!

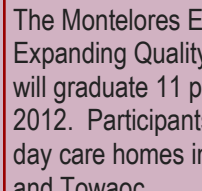
I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself....again. If you haven't heard by now, I, Shannon Bassett, have returned to the position of Child Care Resource and Referral Services for SW Colorado through the Early Childhood Council of La Plata County and Qualistar offices. I am thrilled to be back in the position of supporting our area's local child care providers!



My first undertaking has been to update our child care informational database. Thank you to the 92 out of 106 providers thus far that have given me their time and facts so that we have accurate and reliable information to supply to parents searching for child care and/or funders looking to support early childhood care and education. This data is so **important!** Please remember to contact me when you have an opening. Providers that supply me with this information are given priority with parent referrals!

I am working very limited hours, so please leave a voice message or send me an email, if you have any questions regarding referrals, licensing and/or state required trainings and I will get back to you right away. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to supporting our younger ones.

**Angela Atkinson, our Health Integration Coordinator for La Plata County Early Childhood Council, comments on Nicholas Kristof's op-ed: "Science Finds Biological Basis for Cycle of Poverty"** (Herald, Jan. 10), in her [Letter to the Editor](#). Follow links above to see what they both have to say about the importance of investing in early childhood.



### WHATS HAPPENING IN MONTELORES: Community Based Trainings & Events/Updates:

For professionals who work to make the world a better place who may be feeling tired, numb or overwhelmed? Care for self while caring for others - attend our **Trauma Stewardship**. For more information/RSVP The Nest 970-565-8155

The Pinon Project Family Center in Cortez will be offering 2 Incredible Years parenting classes. Both classes run for 14 weeks, include dinner and childcare and are free. One will be held in Cortez and one in Towaoc. Contact Lindsay Havran or Lara Blair at 564-1195 to register.

The Montelores Early Childhood Council's Expanding Quality in Infant/Toddler Care class will graduate 11 participants on February 3, 2012. Participants represent centers and family day care homes in Cortez, Dove Creek, Dolores and Towaoc.

The Montelores Early Childhood Council is planning their third annual Early Childhood Celebration for Saturday, April 14th. Anyone who would like to help in the planning of this event is encouraged to contact Tyra at [tyra@scyclistens.org](mailto:tyra@scyclistens.org).

The next regular meeting of the Montelores Early Childhood Council is Monday, February 6th at the Church of Christ Annex on the corner of Adams and Montezuma in Cortez at 11:45. Please contact Vangi at [mecc.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mecc.coordinator@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.



Incredible Years Parenting Class at Needham Elementary starts February 7th - its an evening class both the 14 week class and childcare are provided free of charge

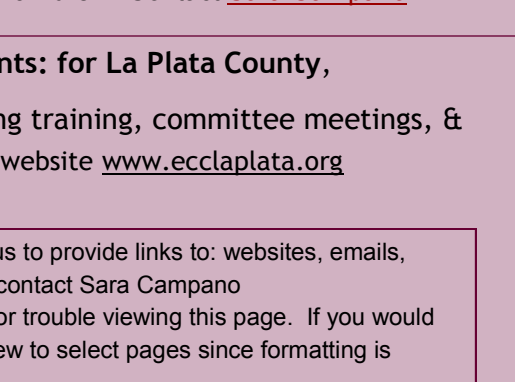
For more information: contact Lindsay Sherman: 970-247-5960 x20

[lindsays@ecclaplata.org](mailto:lindsays@ecclaplata.org)

~La Plata County's Week of the Young Child (WOYC) will be held April 22-28. Please keep a look out for a list of events to take place during this week. If you are interested in helping on the WOYC committee, please contact Heather Hentz at [heatherhentz@centura.org](mailto:heatherhentz@centura.org) for our upcoming meeting time/place.

~The Colorado Association for the Education of the Young Child has launched its new website. [www.coloradoaeyc.org](http://www.coloradoaeyc.org) Please take a few minutes to look it over and find some helpful information. You can find information about upcoming conferences, updates on federal and state legislature and links to important information such as Colorado director qualifications.

**The Colorado Office of Professional Development based in Denver is seeking new members for the Advisory Board. Meetings are in Denver on a quarterly schedule. They are seeking representation from all domains: early education, health, mental health and parent involvement. For information and/or an application, please contact Sudy Opsahl at [sudy.opsahl@state.co.us](mailto:sudy.opsahl@state.co.us) or call her at 303-866-5393.**



Gov. Hickenlooper and Lt. Gov. Garcia receiving dolls at last year's release of 2011 Kids Count in Colorado 2011!

Be an advocate for our children and participate in the **Colorado Children's Campaign Doll Day for 2012**: write a compelling story representing a child in our community, to educate our lawmakers about the importance of investing in and supporting public programs that benefit children. Contact [Sara Campano](mailto:Sara_Campano)

## Community Trainings/Events: for La Plata County,

for a complete calendar of events including training, committee meetings, & more see the [calendar](#), also available via our website [www.ecclaplata.org](http://www.ecclaplata.org)

This new online version of the newsletter allows us to provide links to: websites, emails, community trainings, articles, and more. Please contact Sara Campano [sarac@ecclaplata.org](mailto:sarac@ecclaplata.org) if you have any questions or trouble viewing this page. If you would like to print any copies, be sure to use print preview to select pages since formatting is different with an online version.