

dedicated to enriching the lives of children



Arapahoe County Family Child Care Association

LIFELINE NEWSLETTER

November/December 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tue. Nov 14	Tax Questions/Answers
Tue. Nov 21	CANCELED
December	NO MEETINGS!
Mon. Jan 22	Speech Pathology

+Please note days and dates. Meetings no longer fall always on a 1st or 3rd Tuesday.

ALL MEETINGS ARE FROM
7:00–8:30
And give 1.5 credit hours

Children under age 18 will NOT be admitted to meetings.

We tend to the needs of children all day long. This time is just for you. Thank you for understanding.

Always check the website or call Patty (303-745-6558) for weather related cancellations!

ACFCCA Board Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lori at 303-794-7278

Monthly Workshops

County Workshop

Koelbel Library
5955 S. Holly Street
Centennial, 80121

Tuesday, November 14
Tax Questions & Answers
Speaker: Judy Adams

No December Meetings!

No January Meeting!

Aurora Area Workshop

Smoky Hill Library
5430 S. Biscay Circle
Centennial, 80015

Tuesday, November 21
** this meeting had to be canceled at the last minute due to an injury. It is rescheduled for January 22

No December Meetings

Monday, January 22
Speech Pathology For Kids
Speaker: Sonja Gruscynski



We're on the web!

www.acfcca.org

Find meeting information and newsletters there each month.

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Other Workshops/Training Information

Other Area Association Workshops

Denver County:
Betty@ 303-758-1289

Jefferson County:
Marilyn@ 303-979-5952

Adams County:
Vickie@ 303-284-6038

Douglas County:
douglascountychildcare.com

CAFCC:
Tricia@ 303-914-8687
www.coloradochildcare.com

CPR/First Aid/Standard Precautions Class Instructors

A Caregiver Network
720-767-1862

Buster Posey
303-870-8376

Advanced Care
303-384-3696

Tammy Aaron
720-851-8983

Andrew—Front Range CPR
720-556-6742

Dave Moshner—CPR Colo.
303-818-3737

Medication Administration Class Instructors

A Caregiver Network
720-767-1862

Debbie Bradley
303-359-9553

Susan Bobka
303-693-2762

Tammy Vigil
303-880-6488

Bryan Maki
720-708-9705
*CPR/1st Aid also



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WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Beginning in January, we will be making changes to the Arapahoe County Association meetings. We've made this decision based on several factors including attendance and speaker availability. We plan to try this beginning in 2018 and see how it goes, observe how (and if) it catches on, and then get some feedback.

Here is the plan:

We are cutting back on the number of meetings we will be offering. Instead of two each month, there will be just one each month. On the odd months the meetings will be in Aurora at the Smoky Hill Library. On the even months the meetings will be in Littleton at the Koelbel Library. What this looks like:

January	Smoky Hill	February	Koelbel
March	Smoky Hill	April	Koelbel
May	Smoky Hill (dinner)	June	No Meeting
July	No Meeting	August	Koelbel
Sept	Smoky Hill	October	Koelbel
Nov	Smoky Hill	December	No Meeting

This schedule of meetings will provide 14 hours of credit. The February Conference continues to offer 6 hours; with an additional minimum of 4 at the September mandatory training day. Hence, you do not need to be concerned about how you will achieve your required 15 hours of continuing education credits even if you can only commit to attending one of these two locations.

When we come back in January the only meeting will be January 22 at the Smoky Hill Library. Please mark your calendars, check the newsletter and/or the website to be reminded for which location each month.

Your ACFCCA Board,

Patty, Barb, Carol, Lori, Sheri

Why I Don't Like Play Based Learning

By Sara@happinessishereblog.com

March 20, 2016

The term “play based learning” now evokes in me a much different feeling than it once did. Something like nails on a chalkboard perhaps? No. But because it appears that the term has been hijacked.

Most times that I scroll through my facebook feed I am confronted with countless new, “fun”, “amazing” ideas of what people are calling “play based learning”. But I fear we have become a little confused. With the push for kids to be learning more and more at even younger ages, and more real play time being sacrificed in the pursuit of “keeping up” or “getting ahead”, it infuriates me to see people calling clearly adult directed activities ‘play’. Why? Because play, real play, is IMPORTANT. I’m not sure how many times we have to say this. Study after study after study has confirmed it. And when we start twisting the word **play** to mean something adult led, then we lose our understanding of what children truly need. We stop advocating for play because we’re told schools are doing “play based learning” now. And that’s what kids need right? Well, that obviously depends on your definition.

The other day I came across one of these activities, purportedly mixing “play” with learning. A set of cards with actions on them to do while you read. The child picks one like “stomp your feet” or “clap your hands” and does the action while reading. People were loving it! They commented about how “fun” it was for the kids. How great it was to combine play with learning! And of course about how it was a great idea for “play based learning”.

Let me unequivocally say, this is **not** play based learning.

Play is not something you do **to** a child.

If you have an agenda, if you are requiring them to do it, if you have to make it “fun” to get them to comply, if they are not free to stop at any time, then it is **not** play.

What is Play?

Play is self-chosen. Children were born to play. They love to play. They will play all day if they’re allowed. If you have to coax them into doing something, then it’s not play. Play never feels like work or an obligation.

Play is enjoyable. Play is fun! Play has no agenda. Play is not for the purpose of meeting adult goals.

Play is inherently valuable. All play is learning. No matter what it is. Whether you can clearly see the skills being mastered or not. There is no hierarchy of play.

Play is unstructured. In play, children make the rules. They decide how long they play for and what direction their play takes.

It seems we have rightly latched onto the idea that play based learning is what is best for children. But instead of recognizing the obvious value in free unstructured play, we have twisted it into a way to get children to learn what we want them to learn. Instead of making more time for play, we're defeating it's purpose by pushing adult agendas and requirements. Need 5 year olds to learn their letters? Make a "fun" playful activity and call it "play based learning". But that's not how it works. We do such a disservice to children by trying to use their natural inclinations for self-education against them, as a way to get them to conform to what we want them to do.

I'm not saying don't play with your kids, don't make suggestions, or don't set up things for them to explore. But, be mindful of your agenda. Children should feel free to play and use what is available however they like, with no expectations. Maybe Johnny paints a picture of a flower with the paints you left out for him. Maybe he experiments with mixing colors. Or maybe he just wants to squirt the paint in his belly button. It doesn't matter, because it's his choice. He is learning through play, and that is always surprising and beautiful to watch.

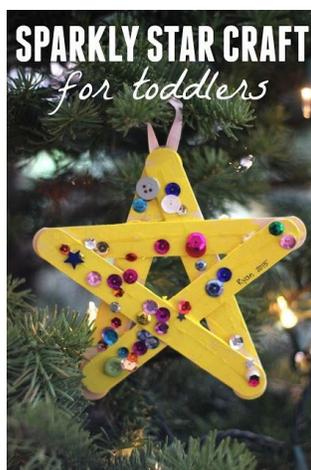
I believe so strongly in the value of free unstructured play for children. This is where true learning is found! Let's stop confusing the meaning of play based learning. Let's leave play to the experts, children. It is not ours to control or influence.

Play is not something you do to a child.

Perhaps play would be more respected if we called it something like "self-motivated practice of life skills", but that would remove the lightheartedness from it and thereby reduce its effectiveness. So, we are stuck with the paradox. We must accept play's triviality in order to realize its profundity.

*Peter Gray, "Free to Learn"
happinessishereblog.com*

Some fun December ideas



ACFCCA Telephone Directory

ACFCCA Main Line Number: 303-246-5146

EXECUTIVE BOARD VOLUNTEERS:

President:
Patty 303-745-6558

Secretary:
Carol 303-363-6634

Treasurer:
Lori 303-794-7278

Newsletter:
Sheri 303-507-4909

Education Coordinator:
Barb 303-340-8125

REFERRALS:

Zip Codes 80010, 80011,
80012, 80013, 80014, 80015,
80016, 80017, 80018
Patty 303-745-6558

Zip Codes 80110, 80113,
80120, 80123, 80125
Rose 303-730-2753

Zip Codes 80111, 80112, 80121
Diana 303-793-0825

Zip Codes 80122
Mary 303-221-0007

RESOURCE AND RE- FERRAL:

Childcare Innovations:
(provider updating)
303-969-9666

HUMAN SERVICES

Main Line 303-866-5958
www.coloradoofficeofearlychildho
od.com

ARAPAHOE COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

6436 S. Racine Circle, Ste 100
Centennial, CO 80111
720-974-9630

LICENSING:

Institute for Racial Equity and
Excellence (IREE)
2821 S. Parker Rd.
Aurora, CO 80014
303-403-2677

OTHER COUNTY REFERRALS:

A Caregiver Network: 720-767-1862
Adams: 303-451-1061
Denver: 303-756-8901 (Mary Jo)
Jefferson: 303-969-8772
Douglas: douglascountychildcare.com



LICENSING SPECIALISTS:

Brenda Beadling (Supervisor) 80111	Brenda@IREEinc.com	720-210-4751
Cammile Espinosa 80120, 80121, 80122, 80123, 80222	Camille@IREEinc.com	720-210-8324
Daralyne Davis-Moody 80015	Daralyne@IREEinc.com	720-419-7381
Kimberly Homuth 80013, 80017	Kimberly@IREEinc.com	720-209-2397
Nicole Hubbell 80012, 80016, 80113	Nicole@IREEinc.com	720-212-6694
Ralph Williamson 80010, 80014, 80018, 80019, 80102, 80103, 80105, 80230, 80231, 80236, 80246, 80247	Ralph@IREEinc.com	720-419-7388
Sarah Alshaeli 80011, 80110, 80112	Sarah@IREEinc.com	720-209-8766

+++ If you need any telephone numbers that are not listed on this page,
please call Patty at 303-745-6558 for more information. Thank you +++

Arapahoe County Family Child Care Association
P.O. Box 473172
Aurora, CO 80047
303-246-5146

president@accfcca.org

www.acfcca.org

**Dedicated to Enriching
The Lives of Children**

ACFCCA Mission Statement

Our mission statement is to support childcare providers and the communities they serve by providing educational opportunities, outreach programs, and legislative support. In order to ensure that the association and its mission remain vital, financial stability, growth and continuous organizational improvements will be specifically targeted as part of what we do.

The Lifeline newsletter is a publication of the Arapahoe County Family Child Care Association. ACFCCA assumes no responsibility for, nor endorses the articles, opinions, or advertising listed herein. Deadline to submit ads or articles is the 15th of each month. Mail information to the above address for inclusion. The editor reserves the right to refuse any submission. Submission does not guarantee inclusion.

***ACFCCA members
are quality child-
care providers with
their community's
childcare needs at
heart***