

## WHO ARE WE?

Custer County Kids Council (CCKC) is a collaborative of many local organizations, agencies, and key individuals working together to facilitate and promote quality programs and services for all children and families prenatal through Age 8.

We are one of 34 early childhood councils in Colorado that are part of the Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance.



*“Together, Councils improve the quality of learning environments to prepare young children to enter Kindergarten; build the resources and skills of families; ensure that families have access to social, physical, and mental health services; and deliver resources to increase the effectiveness of early childhood professionals.”*

<https://ecclacolorado.org/>

## OUR BOARD

Our board consists of members and supporters representing a broad range of stakeholders and one part-time paid council coordinator.

### MEMBERS

Janet Candelaria – Custer County Medical Clinic Board, EMS

Jessica Carter – Youth Services Librarian; West Custer County Library

Tiffany Cumming – Early Childhood Specialist; Solvista Mental Health

Terry Eiland – Custer County Preschool Director-Teacher

Robert Gemin – Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation

Beth Green – Immunization Nurse; Custer County Public Health

Laura Lockhart – Custer County Department of Human Services Director

Elizabeth Maestas McCabe – Chamber of Commerce

Doreen Newcomb – C-1 District School Board

Mark Payler – C-1 School Dist. Superintendent

Amanda Reiff – Lighthouse Pregnancy Center Board; RN; Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

Angela Sheehorn – Director; Children First, Pueblo

Lori Short – Excellence in Education

Elanor Straight – Parent representative

Kathy Taylor – HMHF Children’s Health Fund Chairperson

### SUPPORTERS

Lisa Kaufman – Altitude Fitness; Preschool Staff

Jay Printz – Board of County Commissioners

### OTHER

Kathy Clark – CCKC coordinator

## ALL OUR KIDS DESERVE A STRONG START IN LIFE



P.O. Box 297, Westcliffe, CO 81252

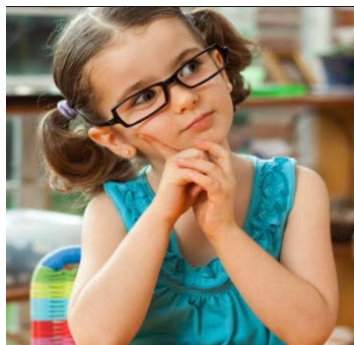
[custercountyecc@gmail.com](mailto:custercountyecc@gmail.com)

PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN PRENATAL – AGE 8

## WE ALL PLAY A ROLE IN THAT START!

## WHY EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS

DID YOU KNOW?



**95% OF BRAIN DEVELOPMENT  
OCCURS BY AGE 5**

### A FEW MORE FACTS

- The fastest rate of brain development occurs from age 0-3
- If babies' bodies grew as fast as their brains, they would weigh 170 pounds at one-month of age
- Social-emotional development begins at birth
- Social interaction increases the speed of learning
- ALL adults who are part of a child's life impact his/her brain development

**COMMUNITIES RICH IN EARLY  
CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND  
LEARNING EXPERIENCES SHOW  
GREATER PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL  
GAINS**

## CUSTER COUNTY RESOURCES

### EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Preschool and Daycare

- Custer County Preschool, 719-783-4891
- Robin Gaide Daycare, 719-783-9632
- Willene Squire Daycare, 719-783-2508

#### Programs for children 0 – Age 8

- Altitude Fitness, 719-783-0750
- West Custer Library: Play and Learn; Camp Happiness, 719-783-9138

### FAMILY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

#### Socialization

- Mothers of Preschoolers, 913-710-6109

#### Services

- Custer County Sharing Center, 719-783-3303
- Department of Human Services, 719-783-2371
- Family Crisis Center, call 719-275-2429
- Lighthouse Pregnancy Center, 719-783-4357
- Valley Parks & Recreation Youth Center, 719-783-2289

### HEALTH AND WELL BEING

#### Services

- Custer County Public Health, 719-783-3369
- Family-Nurse Partnership, 719-275-2301
- Solvista Mental Health, 719-783-0566
- Custer County Medical Clinic, 719-783-2380

## STATE RESOURCES

Colorado Early Learning & Developmental Guidelines: <https://earlylearningco.org/>

Colorado Shines: <http://www.coloradoshines.com/>

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP): [http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec/OEC\\_Families?p=family&s=Colorado-Child-Care-Assistance-Program&lang=en](http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec/OEC_Families?p=family&s=Colorado-Child-Care-Assistance-Program&lang=en)

Colorado Office of Early Childhood (OEC): <http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec?lang=en>

Colorado Department of Education, Early Learning and School Readiness: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/early>

Early Childhood Colorado Framework: <http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/early-childhood-colorado-framework/>

Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA): <https://ecclacolorado.org/>

Growing Strong Colorado - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: <http://grg.colostate.edu/>

## NATIONAL RESOURCES

CDC Milestone Tracker: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones-app.html>

Child Care Aware: <http://www.childcareaware.org/>

Healthy Children: <https://www.healthychildren.org>

Zero to Three: <https://www.zerotothree.org/>