



**ECPAC**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP  
OF ADAMS COUNTY

# FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR (FFN) CAREGIVERS

Do you care for other's children while their parents work or go to school?

*Here are important things for you to know and/or consider:*

## What is a FFN provider in Colorado?

If you care for other's children, you are considered a **"License-exempt child care provider."** License-exempt providers can care for up to **4 unrelated children with no more than 2 children under age 2.** Anything more than this is not legal. Learn more:



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FFN Provider information from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.

## Resources available to you for free:

Caring for children in a **safe, healthy, and quality environment** is important as children's brains and body grow faster than any other period of time in their life and it is important to help all children get a great start!

**Free training** is available through the **Colorado Professional Development Information System (PDIS).**

www.ecpac.org

## Register for PDIS training at:

<https://www.coloradoshinespdis.com/s/pdislogin>

Once you have an account - consider these trainings:

- » **Infant Sleep Safety**
- » **Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention**
- » **Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Child Care Providers**
- » **Standard Precautions**
- » **Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma**
- » **Playground Safety for Homes**
- » **Injury Prevention for Homes**



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Outside of the PDIS system - consider taking a **First Aid/CPR class** for children. Check out our training calendar and register for free or low cost trainings.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER IN CREATING A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND QUALITY ENVIRONMENT:



### Health and Safety

- Electrical **outlets are covered**.
- **Staircases are blocked** with secure gates.
- All potentially **hazardous items are removed** or out of reach of children.
- **Doors are locked** at all times.
- **Nutritious meals and snacks** are served.
- A **fire extinguisher** is readily **available**.
- A **first aid kit** is readily **available**.
- All **toys are clean and in good condition**.
- **Outdoor area** (if applicable) is **fenced in and safe** for play.
- **Animals** (including their food, cages, litter boxes, etc.) are **secured** in a separate area.

### Play Environment

- **Playtime, storytime, activity time, and nap time** are part of every day.
- **Limit exposure** to tv, computers, or phones.
- A variety of **materials** (puzzles, blocks, music, make-believe materials) **are available**.
- **Children play for much of the day** and have time to choose their own activities.
- Children and adult caregivers **play together, read together, and sing together**.



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### Communication

- **Communicate with parents** about the child's day - including sleeping, feeding, toileting, and play activities.
- Consider **creating** a handbook with basic **policies and expectations**.

### Interactions

- **Positive interactions** help children form connections in the brain and are the foundation for all future learning and development.
- When adults **provide nurturing**, it supports children's earliest experiences of trust and self-esteem.
- **Consistency** is a key aspect of building trust. When children learn they can expect adults to respond to their needs, they **feel safe and secure** and can focus on growing and learning.
- **Showing respect** is a key way to connect with children and strengthen positive relationships. It helps children **feel more confident** and competent to explore and learn.
- **Consistent, warm responses are essential** and help children to build secure attachments with their caregivers with infants. When children experience adults responding to them, they are **more likely to interact verbally and physically**, and can be calm and engaged in learning.

Want to learn more about  
supporting child development?



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**Interested in Becoming Licensed?**

If you decide to become a licensed provider, learn more about next steps.



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