Introductions

Upcoming Dates

- March 14th and 15th: Class Photos
- March 28th-APTG Meeting TBA
- March 30th-Older Preschool and Kindergarten Art Show @ Tivoli Turnhalle from 5:30-7:00pm. All families welcome!
- April 2, 9, 16, 23: Love and Logic Parent Training from 3:45-5:45. Please sign up at the front desk.
- Week of April 2nd: Summer Break Sign-Up: Optional time for ALL Families. Please sign up at the front desk. Summer Break is May 14th-24th.
- Week of April 9th: Summer Semester Sign-Up. ALL Families will need to sign up for Summer Semester or withdraw if they are not continuing for summer.
- April 13th: Auraria Around the World Night 5:00-6:30PM. Please watch for more info from your classroom teacher.

Accreditation: We will be having our Colorado Shines Accreditation in May. Colorado Shines utilizes a comprehensive approach to evaluate early learning programs for children ages 0-5 years in areas such as health and safety, training and teacher effectiveness, positive learning environment, continuing education and leadership – all characteristics that point to a program’s level of quality and ensures parents’ confidence in the program. We need parents help with hand washing. Please help your child in the morning by washing your hands with them. If you are bringing siblings in to the room with you then everyone MUST wash their hands. We wash hands by
first getting hands wet, then applying soap, counting to 20 or singing the ABC song while we lather, then we rinse, and dry with a paper towel. Please take a minute every morning and do this with your child. It will not only help us with Colorado Shines, but it also helps to minimize the germs going into the classroom. There will also be a parent survey sent out for you to fill out regarding our Center. Please take time to fill this out. It is important to have a positive outcome on our surveys both for our rating score and financial reimbursement rates. If you have a concern about the classroom or Center we would appreciate you expressing it verbally to an administrator. We appreciate your help and support!

◊ Parent Survey Results: Please see attached sheet regarding survey results.

◊ New Security: We continually evaluate our safety procedures and security and make any updates as necessary. We have added some new security in the last month. We will be locking the doors that go from the foyer into the center from 9-3 and buzzing people in. The front desk is busy it might take a second or if they do not recognize you they will ask you why you are here. We will also lock these doors anytime we feel it is necessary for security, no matter what time of day. We would like to remind parents to make sure if you have someone else picking up your child they have their ID with them so we can verify who they are. The Rope will also be pulled from 9-3 daily as well. Please DO NOT duck underneath the rope, please stop and unhook it, walk through, and reattach. We want everyone to use it the way it is intended to be used. Please see any of the four administrators if you have any questions and thanks for your patience as we implement new safety procedures. The Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) also sit in front of our center in the circle as well as walking through building. They will continue to have a presence in our Center and it doesn’t mean that anything is wrong! It is part of their safety patrol. We also have cameras on the outside of the front of the building, along the light rail tracks on Colfax of the young preschool playground, and in the front desk area. The camera up front has sound attached to it so the police department can also hear if there is any commotion and what is going on. There are also motion detectors in the building as well, this allows ACPD to see if there is any movement in case of a lockdown situation. All Admin and the Front Desk have panic buttons. We also have Emergency Call Boxes located in every class and on every playground. These connect directly to Auraria Campus Police. There are also 2 emergency buttons, one in the Big Room
and one near Kindergarten. We practice lockdown drills, tornado drills, and fire drills monthly, in case of emergency the children know what to do.

◊ APTG Parent Board: We are redoing our Parent Board. These are the positions that are open. If you are interested in being an officer on the Parent Board, please see Rachel Ruiz.

APTG Board Officers Positions:

Duties of Officers
a. Duties of the Chairperson. The Chair shall preside at all meetings, call special meetings as required, help organize parent events and meeting topics, and help gather feedback.

b. Duties of the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall help perform the duties of the chairperson as delegated to him/her.

c. Duties of the Secretary & Program Coordinator. The Secretary and Program Coordinator will collectively send notices of meetings, prepare and distribute agendas and minutes of meetings.

d. Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer will assist with the APTG bank account and budgeting. (The Program Coordinator/ Center Director will manage the account.)

e. Duties of the Alternate Committee Members. The Alternate Committee members will include 2-3 parents that can fill-in when other members aren’t present. They will help organize and develop different events throughout the center.

◊ Parents mentioned they were not aware of the Developmental Guidelines. Please see the attached sheet regarding these guidelines. You can also access them at: https://www.cde.state.co.us/early/eldgs

◊ Questions/comments?
What is APTE?

APTE is a group of volunteers working closely with AELC staff to plan and host parent board collaborations with Parent Events.

APTE is not limited to Teacher Appreciation and the money raised is spent on but is a fund raising event.

Food.

Each meeting has a guest speaker and is held on the designated months.

APTE meets 9 times a year on the last Wednesday of the designated months.

Support.

Events and to provide feedback and support.

The group is designed to have parents and AELC staff partner on various events.

APTE is Aurora's Parent Teacher Group.
WHAT ARE THE COLORADO SHINES STANDARDS OF QUALITY?

Information adapted from the First Five Years Organization

This is why it is important for everyone – parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors – to help Children develop and learn on a path to success.

With quality connections every second during these early years, neural connections that can support children to experience stimulating interactions in safe and healthy environments. Quality interactions lead to higher quality early childhood programs. Why do they matter? Did you know that there are only about 2,000 days between the day a child is born and the first day they begin school?

Why Quality Matters?

Leadership/Management – Strong leadership and business practices are critical to maintaining high-quality early education programs.

3. Learning Environment – Children have toys and activities to learn from new skills. The setting is clean.

4. Family Engagement and Relationships – Parents and providers are partners in the child's early learning and care.

5. Workforce Qualifications and Professional Development – Well-trained, responsive, and effective teachers are essential to a high-quality early childhood education program. The teaching helps guide children's growth to promote children's most.

Child Health – Children have healthy snacks and meals. Higher quality programs will also track children's development to make sure they are growing.

The Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System is a part of child care licensing for early childhood programs in Colorado. Programs that choose to be assessed can be assessed as a high-quality program (quality levels 3, level 4, and level 5) will have an onsite visit to score the program in the following quality standards:
Child care programs rated at levels 4 or 5 are recognized as having achieved "high quality." Programs that are working on or who have been rated level 3 are recognized as "Participating in Quality Improvement." Programs with higher ratings have stronger classroom instruction, training for staff, and family engagement to support children's success. At level 1, licensed child care programs must meet Colorado's licensing requirements for health and safety.

Colorado Shines raises the quality of programs on a scale of 1 to 6.

Research shows this kind of assistance helps providers improve the quality of their programs. When more young children are ready for school, we all benefit. Learning and development, Colorado's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), is required for licensed child care providers supporting children prior to entering kindergarten and helps early learning programs offer high-quality care. It offers support and resources to child care providers so they may support each child's development and helps families choose quality care. Colorado Shines helps families and high-quality child care and early learning programs that fit theirs and their children's needs.

How does Colorado Shines work?

- Challenge Grant:
  - Funded from the State of Colorado through two federal grants: Child Care Development Fund and Race to the Top-Early Learning.
  - Provides seed money, unique skills, culture, and support the development of the whole child.
  - Far reaching child care and early learning programs receive resources and training to improve the quality of their programs and there is an additional support system for children.
  - Families know their children are in quality child care settings.

Colorado Shines helps families know and high-quality child care and early learning programs that fit theirs and their children's needs.

What does that mean for families?

Colorado Shines provides a quality rating and improvement system used to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs.

What is Colorado Shines?
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Water</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Soap</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Scrub while singing “ABC’s” (Count 20 Secs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rinse</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Dry using one paper towel</td>
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Parent Survey Results

1. Please rate the general quality of communication between:

School and Home:
30.06%-Extremely High Quality
49.08%-High Quality
20.86%-Satisfactory

Your Teacher and Home:
45.40%-Extremely High Quality
39.88%-High Quality
1.23%-Satisfactory

Did you know we provide many communication opportunities for families?
- Daily and/or weekly notes from teachers
- Weekly newsletters from classrooms
- Monthly newsletters from the center
- Calendars for the center and/or specific rooms
- Billing statement communications
- Parent communication board by the front desk
- Posters posted at the front doors
- Facebook page
- Auraria Early Learning Center blog
- Conference reports every semester (with website access to the same reports on your child’s development)

2. What are your suggestions for parent involvement at center events, including APTG (Auraria Parent Teacher Group), trainings, and family events?

-Vary the start times/days of week

-I suppose posted flyers at the front doors might grab my attention more
- the events are easier to attend when they are at the beginning or end of the day.

- I may be more likely to attend meetings and trainings if they take place in the evening. Daytime events do not work with my work schedule.

Did you know that fliers for APTG are sent via email as well as posted on the doors leaving the Center? We are testing the start times of APTG Meetings to earlier or later in the day.

3. Did you attend a parent/teacher conference this year?

78.53%-Yes

21.47%-No

Did you know we conduct parent-teacher conferences twice a year, or as requested.

4. Did you attend Back-to-School Night and learn about Early Learning Developmental Guidelines?

- 53.99%-Yes

- 42.33%-No

- 3.68%-Comments (see below)

   I'm not aware of this.

   I was not familiar with the Developmental Guidelines

   Did you know we have an annual educational information session on the early learning and development guidelines at our Back to School Night in the fall.

5. Please provide any other thoughts/comments/feedback about the Auraria Early Learning Center.

   - I wish at least one director would stay until the center closes

     A Director is present in the center all day. Mary and Emily are present in the mornings; Rachel and Lisa are present in the afternoons. Please stop by any of their offices with questions, comments, or concerns.
My only concern is security at the school. I would think having locked front doors with security codes that the parents could use would be a good investment.

Please refer to the email about the new policy on our new safety measures. We are now locking doors from 9-3 daily.

- Please publish the calendar of events on your webpage on time. Even better - publish it several months in advance.

- Providing a calendar with the years worth of parent events though the year.

Did you know we also email out Semester Calendars at the beginning of each semester with all important upcoming dates, activities, and closures for the semester. These are also posted on our website under Current Parents then AELC Calendar.
The Colorado Early Learning and Development Guidelines are an important resource for early childhood educators and families. These guidelines provide a framework for ensuring that young children receive high-quality early education and care. They are designed to support children's development in all domains, including cognitive, social-emotional, and physical domains. The guidelines are based on research and best practices in early childhood development and are intended to help teachers and caregivers create enriching learning environments for young children. The guidelines cover a range of topics, including assessment, curriculum, and family engagement, and are intended to help ensure that all children have access to high-quality early learning opportunities. By following these guidelines, educators can help prepare children for success in school and in life.
Throughout the guidelines, many domains are more fully explored. The complex connections within and across domains are explored across pages. This chart illustrates the essential domains of learning within the Colorado Early Learning and Development Guidelines. It represents the progression of the development of young children. The graphic highlights the essential 21st-century skills.