



## Educational Opportunities

There are many educational opportunities in our area, from college classes, to conferences, to a variety of community-based trainings on topics requested by directors and providers. MECC's Professional Development Coordinator, Lindsay Havran, along with members of the PD Committee, are developing a training calendar and online registration through this website, so check back soon to see their progress. Meanwhile, you can contact Lindsay for questions and information.

**Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care:** This statewide program, a collaboration between the Colorado Departments of Education and Human Services/Division of Child Care, is a 48 hour course of training provided over 16 3-hour modules. Although it was designed specifically for professionals who work with infants and toddlers, it has been highly praised by most professionals who've taken it, regardless of the ages of children in their care. This relationship-based curriculum was designed by experts in the field of early childhood specifically for adult learners and covers topics such as: the importance of brain development in the first years of life; responsive caregiving; infant/toddler development across all domains; partnering with families; the importance of culture; welcoming children with special needs; and guidance strategies.

An important companion piece to this curriculum is on-site *coaching* offered to all participants. This coaching is based on the same principles that underlie the curriculum: relationships are key; everyone has strengths that can be built on; coaches support providers to reflect on and apply new understanding gained in the course to their own practice. Each participant is required to have up to 2 hours of coaching and can have up to 8 hours over the course of a year.

This course and the coaching are free to providers taking it through MECC. Participants receive all the curriculum materials, as well as a Coaching Journal if they participate in more than 2 coaching visits. It is taught every Fall in Cortez. Lindsay Havran and Mary Dodd are the instructors and coaches. They have both attended the required 70 hours (8 days) of training necessary to teach the course, as well as the required Coaching with RELATE training, and are approved by the Colorado Office of Professional Development as trainers.

See additional requirements at:

[http://www.cde.state.co.us/early/early\\_eq\\_eqitcourse#sthash.bN6avApW.dpuf](http://www.cde.state.co.us/early/early_eq_eqitcourse#sthash.bN6avApW.dpuf)

**Incredible Years (IY) Teacher Classroom Management Program:** This course was first offered in the 2013 - 2014 school year to preschool teachers, taught by MECC's Coordinator, Vangi McCoy (herself a former IY Coordinator), and Lindsay Sherman, the IY Coach for Invest in Kids. This evidenced-based program has several goals including: promoting positive relationships and social competence, increasing home-school collaboration, and decreasing conduct problems. It has been very popular. Check with Vangi about future offerings.

**South West Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference:** This important annual professional development and networking event for local early care and education professionals is held in the Fall of each year at Fort Lewis College. The title of each conference is **IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS**, and it features fantastic keynote speakers at lunch, and interesting break-out sessions. Continuing education units are awarded. MECC is an active partner in planning and implementing this conference, which was first held in 2011. Our Coordinator is on the planning committee, and MECC members have presented at all the conferences. Planning for each conference gets underway as soon as the previous conference ends. Between 200 and 300 professionals attend each year. Visit <http://coloradoaeyc.org/category/district-group-updates/southwest-colorado/> for a brief summary of the 2013 conference. Click on the News and Events button in the top right-hand corner of our website for pictures from previous conferences.

**Child Care Education Institute Online Courses:** MECC has purchased slots from The Child Care Education Institute to enable local professionals to take college courses for CEUs in the convenience of their own homes. They offer 100+ courses at various levels of knowledge, that fulfill various licensing and Head Start requirements. Additionally, they offer courses that lead to the Child Development Associate credential. Contact Lindsay Havran for enrollment information, and check out the website at: <http://www.cceionline.edu/index.cfm?id=3>

**College Courses:**

Southwest Colorado Community College, a division of Pueblo Community College, offers an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education, with courses at both the Mancos and Durango campuses. Many of you have taken some or all of these courses and know that our Coordinator, Vangi McCoy, teaches several. She is acknowledged by her students as a great teacher who inspires and motivates people to do their best. To read more about the program, visit this website: <http://www.pueblocc.edu/Academics/AreasStudy/ArtsSciences/EarlyChildhoodEd/>