

What does High-Quality Early Care and Education look like?

Health & Safety

- Equipment is clean and in good repair.
- Electrical outlets are covered.
- Emergency route and emergency numbers are posted.
- The doors are locked and visitors are required to sign in.
- All toys are clean and in good condition.
- The playground has safe surfaces, is fenced and has both sun and shade.

Environment

- The room is warm and inviting.
- The children are happy and involved with both staff and with other children.
- The furniture is child-sized and materials are at the children's level.
- Materials are age-appropriate and there are enough supplies for children to either play alone or to share.
- Different cultures and traditions are seen in the classroom.

Daily Activities

- Nutritious meals and snacks are provided.
- Nap and story time are built into the day.
- Puzzles, blocks, music and make-believe stations are provided.
- Children have a time to choose their own activities.
- Activities are varied and include both outdoor playtime and indoor quiet time.
- A daily schedule is posted.

Teacher/Child Interactions

- There is shared respect between teachers and children.
- Teachers are at children's eye level when talking with them.
- Teachers listen closely to each child and use positive language when talking with them.
- Children are asked questions and not just given directions.
- The teacher attends to children who are upset.
- I am comfortable that my child's culture and traditions will be welcomed.

Top 10 Questions to Ask

- 1** Is your program licensed by the State of Colorado?
All Early Connections locations are licensed by the State of Colorado.
- 2** What hours are you open?
All Early Connections locations are open from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM.
- 3** What days are you closed for holidays or staff training?
See additional insert for Early Connections closures.
- 4** What is the teacher to child ratio?
The teacher to child ratio varies by age and therefore classroom. At Early Connections, we follow state guidelines for teacher to child ratios.
- 5** How will my child spend their day? What is a typical day like?
We strongly believe children learn best through play. Your child will participate in self-selected activities designed to support their development. The day is filled with a balance of active and quiet activities both indoors and out.
- 6** What is your philosophy regarding caring for children?
While preparing children for success in school and life, we provide fun, educational and nurturing care, with a focus on literacy, nutrition and family involvement.
- 7** What training have the teachers and staff had?
Each classroom has a Lead Teacher with a minimum of an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Other teachers meet State of Colorado requirements which include some college coursework or completion of a certificate program. All staff are required to participate in at least 15 hours of professional development training each year. Pursuing higher education is highly encouraged for all staff.
- 8** What do you do when a medical emergency occurs?
All of our teachers are trained in first aid and CPR. We would first call 911 and then the family while providing emergency first aid treatment.
- 9** What kind of daily communication can I expect?
We value parents as partners, making communication extremely important. You can expect to be greeted anytime you arrive at your center. You will receive daily verbal communication as well as occasional emails, monthly newsletters and quarterly conferences or home visits. We are always available to talk with families at anytime.
- 10** Are there ways for me to participate in the program?
YES! We recognize parents as the child's first and most important teacher. We love having parents participate in our classrooms, on Parent Action Committees, attending Family Nights and more!