

Become a licensed child care provider

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Becoming a licensed family child care provider in the home has many benefits. Child care can be an exciting and fulfilling career that offers the versatility of flexible hours, the chance to be at home with children or grandchildren, the opportunity to learn new skills, and the ability to earn a good income for the family.

The Northeast Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral will have a State of Colorado approved pre-licensing training, "There's No Place Like Home" Dec. 29 and 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rural Communities Resource Center in Yuma.

The two-day training includes one credit from Northeastern Junior College. This training is part of the requirement for people interested in obtaining a family child care provider license. Potential child care providers from throughout Northeast Colorado may take part in this training.

A licensed family child care provider offers care in her or his own home to a small group of children, usually up to eight at one time. As a home based business, the family child care provider develops their own policies for operation such as hours, daily schedule, rates, and fees.

With more than one half of all mothers with children under 5-years-old working outside the home, the family child care provider offers an invaluable economic service to the community and parents.

Family child care homes are places in which young children do much of the "work of childhood"—playing, growing and learning. Those who choose to become family child care providers experience the many rewards of helping children become capable adults of tomorrow.

If one would like to know more about caring for young children as a profession they may contact Sheila or Claudia at the Northeast Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral at the Rural Communities Resource Center at 970-848-3867 or 1-877-338-CARE (2273).

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In Morgan County contact Mary at the Morgan County Family Center at 970-867-9606.

Child Care Resource and Referral and the Family Center have Division of Child Care licensing applications available and they provide assistance in filling out the forms. Information is available regarding child care food programs, child care provider associations, and other area resources for child care providers.

The training is sponsored by the Northeast Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral with funding from Qualistar Early Learning through CDHS, Northeastern Junior College, Rural Communities Resource Center, Cheyenne County Department of Social Services, Lincoln County Department of Human Services, Phillips County Department of Human Services and the Yuma County Department of Human Services.