



**WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

**LIVING UNITED**

**PROVIDES**

# Child Care Provider Professional Development

## OPPORTUNITIES

Like other child care providers, Molly is required to complete continuing education hours each year in order to maintain her licensure. Often these classes can be costly, so she relies on United Way of Weld County's professional development trainings, which are always low or no cost, offered at convenient times, and presented on interesting, up-to-date topics.

## ABOUT UNITED WAY OF WELD COUNTY

United Way has the vision, experience, relationships, and ability to take on and solve some of Weld County's biggest challenges. Through United Way, together we are building a better Weld County, one where children are reading to learn by the start of fourth grade, youth are working at good jobs by age 25, families have stable housing, older adults are aging well, and people are connecting to the help they need. **Will you join us?**

Reading Great by 8-involved programs help children enter kindergarten ready and read at grade level by the start of fourth grade.



Over **90%** of brain growth occurs during the early years, between **ages 0-5**. The people who help care for your child are also those who help shape your child's mind.

## CHALLENGES

In the United States, nearly 11 million children under age 5 are in child care each week. It's imperative that child care providers continually work to offer the highest quality care possible. As such, all licensed child care providers must complete a specified number of hours of professional development each year in order to maintain licensure. Local community colleges help child care providers meet these requirements and provide the opportunity for participants to earn college credits; still there is a great

need for free or low cost trainings, as well as trainings that are offered in the evening. What are some of the indicators of high quality child care?

- low child/teacher ratios
- small group size
- staff with higher education and on-going training
- prior experience and education of the director
- low teacher turnover
- positive teacher/child interactions
- accreditation or higher than minimum licensing standards
- age appropriate activities
- good health and safety practices





**“I am so blessed to be a part of such a great conference. World renowned speakers, fellowship, meals, and more. Thank you United Way of Weld County...feeling united for sure.”**

**– Jennifer, Home Care Provider and Love to Learn Conference Attendee**

## **INVESTMENTS**

Child Care Provider Professional Development trainings offer over 15 hours of continuing education to Weld County child care providers each year. The trainings host speakers from the Colorado higher education system, ensuring the presentations are of high quality and encouraging providers to enroll in classes taught by an experienced teacher. The relationship built with the speakers during the trainings also helps to reduce the fear that is often a barrier to enrolling in college classes.

Sample class titles include “Every Child Ready to Read,” “Cavity Free Kids,” and “Emergency Preparedness.”

United Way of Weld County also hosts an annual training series. This is a collection of Saturday classes regarding children’s health and education at which a provider can earn up to 12 hours of professional development.

**In 2020-2021, 142 providers attended professional development trainings with little or no charge.**

**\$6,695 in education scholarships for early childhood courses were awarded to 22 early childhood professionals.**

## **GIVE**

Make a donation to United Way of Weld County to support Child Care Provider Professional Development trainings and you could be eligible for a 50% tax credit on your state income tax!

## **ADVOCATE**

Keep informed of and advocate for state and federal legislation that will benefit families.

## **VOLUNTEER**

Become part of the Professional Development Committee and help bring about the annual training series.

**Please contact the UWWC Community Impact team at [Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org](mailto:Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org) or 970-353-4300 for more information or to get involved.**