

*The MISSION of the Acorn School for Early Childhood Development is to provide high quality, accessible, early care and education programs and to advocate for higher standards in the field of early childhood education.*

### Letter from the Executive Director

Have you heard of the **Comprehensive Early Childhood Development System** for Boulder County? Probably not. Should you care about an Early Childhood Development System for Boulder County? Yes! The first three to five years of a child's life are crucial to his or her healthy cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development. What happens during this time can have a significant influence on a child's chances for success later in life.

For more than 10 years, residents of Boulder County have been working to develop a comprehensive early childhood system to serve all of Boulder County's children. The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (ECCBC) has been behind this work and is the primary forum for this countywide planning initiative.

The Framework for a Comprehensive Early Childhood System in Boulder County has two major components:

**Services** support the children, their families, and their caregivers. They address the quality of education and the environments the children are in, at home and during care.

**System Supports** refer to the management and infrastructure to support the services and programs, where the quality control and accountability are managed. The system must meet community goals, which means the community must understand its function and its accomplishments, and hold the system accountable to meet those goals.

A comprehensive early childhood system can help ensure that all children and families have access to high-quality programs and services. A large body of research demonstrates that investment in high-quality early childhood programs yield substantial short and long-term benefits. They achieve these impressive results by:

- supporting healthy early childhood development and effective parenting
- promoting academic success and developing productive adult citizens
- reducing public expenditures on remedial education, crime, and health-related problems
- strengthening local and regional economics

The Acorn School is proud to be a leading partner in this project and looks forward to sharing finished products of services and support systems in the near future. Feel free to contact me at anytime if you have questions about the framework for a comprehensive ECE system for Boulder County. Remember the mission of The Acorn School is provide high-quality, accessible early care and education programs, and to advocate for higher standards in the field of early childhood education.

Sincerely,

Matt Eldred -Executive Director

### Important Upcoming Dates

#### May

10th - Mother's Day

25th - NO SCHOOL -

**Memorial Day**

#### June

6th - CPR for Infants/  
Children

28th - Summer BBQ, 4 pm

TBD - Picnic in the Park

-Come have lunch with  
your kids at the park!

#### July

3rd - NO SCHOOL  
**Independence Day**

**Observed**

9th - PIP Meeting

18th - Garage Sale, 8-12

**-Please donate any unwanted household items to Acorn at anytime. Please think about us during your Spring cleaning.**

### Feature Teacher - Debbie Bethurum

Debbie Bethurum, one of the Lead Teachers in the Infant room, is greatly loved by the parents as much as by the children. When visiting the Infant room, it is not difficult to see how much Debbie enjoys to work with babies and to see them grow up into wonderful children. Debbie always has a great smile and welcoming positive attitude. She loves to share funny stories about the infants, their naughtiness and creative minds.

At the same time, Debbie takes her roles as teacher, guardian and supervisor very serious to make sure that everything goes smoothly and the kids learn and develop their skills. We are often surprised to see our daughter Lilian do something, but then later hear she did this already weeks before at Acorn!

All in all, we can all agree that we are very lucky to have Debbie as our Monkey Supervisor. Thank you Debbie!!



**Did you know?** Several jobs before Acorn, Debbie used to work at the old Stapleton Airport, and during the times there she met quite a few celebrities. After Debbie provided some help, Clint Eastwood tipped \$200!! Also, John Travolta showed Debbie around his airplane and bought lunch for her.....!!

# Creative Curriculum in the Piglet Classroom ~ Families

We have been having so much fun in the Toddler Room and have been learning SO much. We are working on a new lesson plan - Families. We've posted most of the family pictures in our classroom, and will be doing a lot of activities to incorporate the family theme into our daily routine. During Circle Time we will be talking about and learning the sign language for all the members of our families.

Because so many of the families in our classroom are now having babies, we've planned some activities that involve caring for them. We'll be talking about all the differences between babies and toddlers, as well as practicing how to care for babies.



Among all this, we still have so much fun playing games, doing art projects, and even some cooking projects!

Please come by our classroom to see what we have learned!



## Message from the Child Health Liaison

The swine flu has been a hot topic recently so here are five ways to do something about protecting your family from swine flu without going bonkers, gleaned from pediatricians like Joseph Bocchini, chairman of the department of pediatrics at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center and other experts as posted on <http://health.usnews.com>:



1. If a family member has a flulike illness, call the doctor right away. The new swine flu can be treated with antiviral medicines, but those medicines work only if taken within a day or two after symptoms start.
2. To reduce the risk of infection, follow the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 5 simple habits: (a) Keep your distance from people who are sick; (b) make sure family members **wash their hands often**; (c) stay home when sick; (d) cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing; and (e) avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
3. Cancel that trip to Cancún. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends postponing nonessential travel to Mexico until the outbreak there is resolved.
4. Start thinking about what your family would do if your school or day-care center were closed because of swine flu cases in your community. Many companies have emergency plans that encourage telecommuting, for instance. The [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov) site has advice for families and employers, including checklists for schools and employers.
5. Keep current with the swine flu news. The CDC's swine flu website closely tracks cases, as does the World Health Organization's swine flu site.

-Jennifer Carpenter  
Child Health Liaison

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