Joint Initiatives
FOUNDATIONS

FOUNDATIONS is the early childhood program of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families, which includes Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CATALOG

FOR BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS



NOVEMBER 2026 – JANUARY 2027

NEW!



DIRECTORS' PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

This PLC provides a supportive, collaborative environment to help directors overcome internal capacity challenges and advance structured career pathways and equitable pay scale practices.

SCAN ME

SCAN or CLICK to REGISTER

REGISTER HERE

Audience: ALL

Cost: FREE

Date/Time:
Nov. 17| 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Domain Competency:
TP-SEHD

Location: Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.

Trainer: Foundations
Geanina Brown + Mel Lopez



TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES 1 IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTINGS

Trauma 1 training will go over promoting social-emotional development in a trauma-sensitive environment. By taking a look into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), how they affect us as the adults, and how they affect children in the classroom, this training will help both educators and students have a successful learning environment.

SCAN or CLICK to REGISTER

SCAN ME

REGISTER HERE

Audience: ALL

Cost: FREE

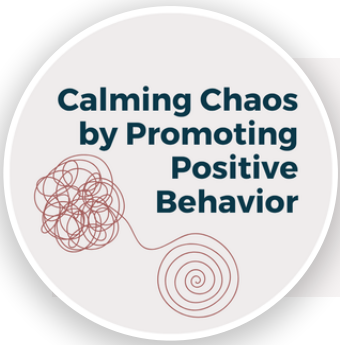
Nov. 19 | 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Domain Competency:
PP- SEHD

Location: Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.

Trainer: Foundations
Jessica Alexander, MA, IMH-E®

NEW!



(2 HRS) CALMING CHAOS BY PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR - 2 HOUR COURSE

This training provides tools for utilizing positive guidance to promote positive group behaviors in the early childhood classroom. Using positive teacher/child interactions and the environment to prevent negative behaviors will be emphasized.

SCAN ME

SCAN or CLICK to REGISTER

Register in PDIS

Audience: ALL

Cost: $10.00

Date/Time:
Dec. 8 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Domain Competency:
TP-SEHD

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Trainer:
Elisha Stewart



THE GROWING BRAIN | 3-PART SERIES

All babies are born with billions of neurons bumping around their brains... but very few of those neurons are connected. That's where YOU come in! The Growing Brain curriculum provides early childhood professionals with the knowledge, support, and evidence-based strategies they can use in everyday moments to support healthy brain development and build the connections babies need for success now and later in life.

SCAN ME

SCAN or CLICK to REGISTER

REGISTER HERE

Audience: ALL

Cost: FREE

Date/Time:
January 20, 24, 27| 6–9:00 pm

Domain Competency:
CGDL

Location: Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.

Trainer:
Foundations/Erica Evans

FOUNDATIONS TRAINING + EVENT REFUND POLICY

Registration and payment for an event or training indicate your agreement to the policies below:

A FULL training/event refund will be provided for Foundations training under the following circumstances:

- The training participant provides a written refund request to Foundations no later than ten (10) business days prior to the first day of the training/event. Proof of registration must be provided with this request.

A refund of HALF of the cost of the training/event will be provided for Foundations training under the following circumstances:

- The training participant provides a written refund request to Foundations no later than five (5) business days prior to the first day of the training/event. Proof of registration must be provided with this request.

Please note the following regarding refunds for series training (have multiple meeting sessions):

- Due to the importance of the information covered on the first day of a course, participants who cannot attend will not be permitted to continue the course and are NOT eligible for a refund.
- To request a FULL refund for a series training, the training participant must provide a written refund request to Foundations no later than ten (10) business days prior to the first day of the training/event series. Additionally, proof of registration must be provided along with this request.
- Participants attending any portion of a series training are not eligible for refunds for subsequent sessions in the series.

Canceled Training/Events

- If a training/event is canceled or postponed by Foundations for any reason, including inclement weather, registrants will be given the options below, and the choice must be made within one week of the canceled training/event through email to Foundations.
- Cancellation of registration and full refund of the cost of the training/event.
- Application of registration payment to a future training/event within three months of the date of the canceled training/event.
- Transfer of payment to a future rescheduled training/event.

NO REFUND is provided if registrants do not show up for the scheduled training/event or cancel a registration less than five (5) business days in advance.

- All refund requests must be in writing by email only. Phone requests will not be accepted.
- **EMAIL:** Please email refund request to: **GBrown@jointinitiatives.org**

The refund will be refunded to the original credit/debit card used for the registration.
Please allow five (5) to ten (10) business days for the refund to be placed back in your account.

PARTICIPANT REMOTE LEARNING + PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

To support a positive, safe, and productive remote learning training environment for all in attendance, all participants are expected to follow **Participant Remote Learning + Professional Behavior Guidelines**. Participants who violate the Guidelines are not eligible for a refund and will be removed from the training and may be prohibited from attending future training. For a full description of the Guidelines, click **HERE**.

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Early Childhood Programs...

YOUR FOUNDATIONS TEAM IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Supporting Strong Foundations for Early Childhood

HOW WE CAN HELP

Would you like to open your own early childhood program? Would you like support as an administrator, director, or teacher at an early childhood program? JI is here to help! We support **ALL early childhood programs** based on their needs and their starting point – almost always at no cost.

Supports to open a child care business, including pre-licensing training, business and programmatic coaching

Colorado Shines and PDIS applications, rating support, Quality Improvement (QI) spending, and QI coaching

Business training and coaching
Trauma-informed coaching/training

Obtaining a CCCAP agreement

Grant availability and applications

Career navigation and professional development hours, training, catalog, and calendar

Help with provider profiles, seats, matching, and business consultation
Jointinitiatives.org/UPK

Do you have staff openings?
Fill out a Workforce Form to help us support your program needs.

bit.ly/ECEWorkforceNeedsForm

The Foundations team at *Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families* is your local early childhood liaison, dedicated to supporting ALL early childhood programs and professionals in building strong early childhood foundations for children and families.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTERS

SUBSCRIBE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE HERE OR SCAN CODE TO LEARN MORE

Shay Almonte
Foundations Program Director
719.630.0927, Ext. 719
salmonte@jointinitiatives.org

@jointinitiatives

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WORKFORCE NEEDS FORM

SCAN ME

SHARE YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM STAFF OPENINGS!

To support early childhood education (ECE) programs and the ECE workforce, **Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families** is offering a ***NEW*** platform for programs to **share their workforce needs related to open staff positions (e.g., teachers, assistants, directors).**

Please take a moment to fill out the short form using the QR code or the link below. It can be completed any time you have openings, and the data gathered will be used to connect ECE programs with qualified professionals.

QUESTIONS?

Geanina Brown, Foundations Workforce Manager
gbrown@jointinitiatives.org | 719.650.3484

CLICK HERE

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Foundations is the early childhood program of JI, which houses Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.

bit.ly/ECEWorkforceNeeds

Joint Initiatives
FOR YOUTH + FAMILIES

FREE Support!

Job Placement + Career Advancement

FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS

EARN MORE BY ADVANCING YOUR CAREER!

One-on-one career navigation support can help you:

- Advance into positions with higher pay
- Find open positions matching your goals and needs
- Take the next step without figuring it out alone

JI's Career Navigators stay connected with you. We don't just send you a link – we're here to support getting the right fit for YOU!

FILL OUT A QUICK FORM TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED – WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

bit.ly/ECEJobPlacement-Advancement

QUESTIONS?

Geanina Brown, Foundations Workforce Manager
gbrown@jointinitiatives.org | 719.650.3484

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YOUR FOUNDATIONS TEAM IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Foundations offers FREE supports! Foundations, the early childhood department of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families, which includes Alliance for Kids, the Early Childhood Council of El Paso County, supports individuals pursuing a career in early childhood care and education. Whether your career path is to be a Preschool Aide, Early Childhood Teacher, open a Family Child Care Home, or become a child care Center Director, we can connect you with resources and help mentor you along the way.

Below is a more detailed look at the support we offer.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) CREDENTIAL

- Support with the initial CDA application process
- Support with the CDA renewal process
- Resources for finding a CDA training program
- Help in finding local CDA PD Specialist for a site visit

PRE-LICENSING + LICENSING

- Where to start and what is important to consider when opening a family child care home
- Assistance with zoning and HOA needs
- Support with completing the Licensing application
- Technical assistance and on-site support for setting up your learning environment

COLORADO SHINES PDIS

- Registration Support
- Support to gain or increase your Early Childhood Professional Credential 3.0
- Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) qualification assistance
- Technical assistance for trainer credentials
- Technical assistance for Coaching Credentials
- Job-Embedded Coaching
- Observations for Demonstrated Competencies
- Scholarship navigation support

SCAN ME

For complete details on **Competencies**, click **HERE** or scan the code.

If you need help with the PDIS, email PDISHelp at pdishelp@cde.state.co.us or call 1.844.447.4441, option 2.

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CONNECT WITH US!

Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families (JI) includes the programs of ***Foundations***, ***Pathways***, and ***Voices***. All JI programs allow for a continuum of supports and services for our community. Alliance for Kids, the Early Childhood Council for El Paso County, is housed under JI's Foundations program and your Foundations team is here to support the early childhood community.

GEANINA BROWN, FOUNDATIONS WORKFORCE MANAGER

GBrown@jointinitiatives.org | 719.651.3484

Contact Geanina for questions about professional development scholarships, PDIS, CDA, early childhood qualifications, or other career pathway support.

ERICA EVANS, FOUNDATIONS INFANT + TODDLER SPECIALIST

EEvans@jointinitiatives.org | 719.233.0770

Contact Erica for questions about EQIT, infant/toddler professional development and coaching, as well as reflective supervision.

MEL LOPEZ, FOUNDATIONS CAREER NAVIGATOR

MLopez@jointinitiatives.org | 719.684.6195

Contact Mel for career navigation support to help you determine the best early childhood career pathway, PDIS support, assistance with college enrollment, answers to your CDA questions, portfolio support, and more!

Scan code to visit
BuildmyECEcareer.com
Schedule a career navigation appointment with Mel today!

¡Ofrecemos nuestros servicios en Español!

SCAN ME
For all **early childhood information**, scan code or click **HERE** to visit our Foundations page of the JI website.

CONNECT ON SOCIAL!

@jointinitiatives

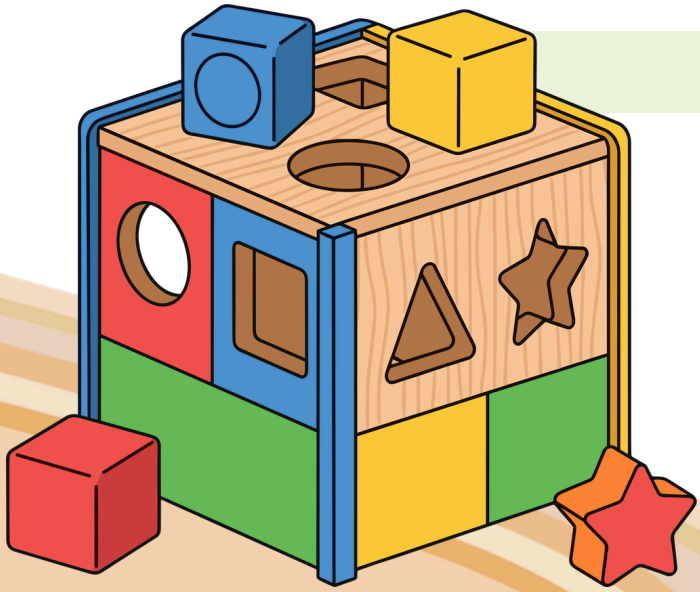
Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families

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WHERE TO FIND EARLY CHILDHOOD CAREERS

TAKE YOUR CAREER TO NEW HEIGHTS!

Visit the **Joint Initiatives Career Page**! In addition to searching broad hiring platforms, be sure to visit JI's **ECE Job Board**, which highlights opportunities posted by local community organizations and early childhood education programs. Joint Initiatives also posts positions available within its organization, including JI's early childhood department of Foundations, which includes Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.



Jointinitiatives.org/ECEcareers

For all **early childhood careers**, scan code or click **HERE** to visit the **ECE Careers Job Board.**

For all careers, including those that are youth-focused, please visit our main careers page at Jointinitiatives.org/careers.

SCAN ME

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