

# Early Childhood Education News

Red Rocks Community College

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Join us for our annual WOYC Documentation Show of Children's Learning on the Lakewood Campus, April 15-26. On display will be children's work from RRCC Children's Center, The Active Learning Center, Clever Kids Learning Center, Compass Montessori, and Jefferson County Child Care Association, and some of our own RRCC students in the ECE program!

## Week of the Young Child Events

It's April already, so that must mean it's time to start gearing up for another series of events related to Week of the Young Child (WOYC) during this month!

Once again, the ECE department is hosting a Documentation Show on campus to showcase the wonderful work created by the children in several of our stakeholder ECE programs in the community. This year's show will feature children's work from the RRCC Children's Center, The Active Learning Center, Clever Kids Learning Center, Compass Montessori, and Jefferson County Child Care Association.

If you are on the Lakewood campus April 15-26, please stop by and enjoy the many documentation displays located on the east end of campus!

Kathleen and Janiece are particularly excited about collaborating with the Jefferson County Head Start Center to present a free event to our community! A morning of listening, learning, and

discussions on Saturday, April 27, 8am-noon.

This event will feature two guest presenters: Tom Bedard, ECE teacher from St. Paul, MN and author of the [SAND & WATER TABLE blog](#) and Doug Gertner, radio host of 'The Grateful Dad' radio show and founder of EMU Consulting. They will present on the topics of creating sensory rich and dad-friendly environments for young children. In addition, there will be a moderated panel discussion featuring male guest panelists answering questions on the importance of male figures in the lives of young children.



Tom Bedard with young friends!

Please join us for this free event on April 27! Jeffco Head Start Center, 5150 Allison St., Arvada.

## Dear Colleagues



It's no secret that I LOVE technology-or at least I love technology when I figure something out for myself and it works!

This past month I have stretched myself in more ways than I can count! And yes, I have had times where I've wailed "A-gh, I want those last 2 hours of my life back!!"

In those times I try to remind myself 'It's not about what the software does, but what the user does!' And I learn. I hope this Spring, you have had the opportunity to learn something new too!

Janiece & Kathleen

### In this issue:

WOYC event— Jeffco Head Start Center, April 27 8am to Noon. 1

Dear Colleagues 1

Meet James Moholt 2



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Registration is now open for all summer and fall ECE courses. Go to [www.rrcc.edu/admissions/](http://www.rrcc.edu/admissions/) to apply for admissions. If you need advising, contact Janiece Knepe at 303-914-6553 or email: [Janiece.kneppe@rrcc.edu](mailto:Janiece.kneppe@rrcc.edu)  
See you in classes!

## Meet MEC-C member, James Moholt!

Recently, I had the opportunity to interview James Moholt, ECE teacher with the Cherry Creek School District and member of Men In Early Childhood-Colorado (MEC-C).

**Where do you currently work?** I work for CCSD as a general education Pre-K teacher. I have a morning and afternoon class of 15 kids in each session. The classes are blended with a mix of tuition, SPED and CPP students. I have specialists who support the class and they come to the room once a week. Together we plan and implement SPED strategies for kids receiving service. My class has two TA's in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each class is 2.5 hours long. Children as young as 3 yrs. may attend as well as those attending Kindergarten next year.

**How did you get started in ECE?** I began volunteering at my children's preschool, Bethany Early Childcare Center, that morphed into being a substitute and later I accepted a teacher's position in 1998. During this time I was completing my MA in Psychology with an emphasis on school counseling. Throughout my school internship I discovered that school counselors do not counsel. They administrate and discipline. My kids were now older and did not need a stay-at-home dad any longer. I responded to a job wanted ad for a TA in the elementary school. The director of Early Childhood called and asked if I would accept a position as a preschool teacher. I said yes. This was 2006. I love what I do while continually struggling with administrative fiats that are more in line with academic schooling. I believe that preschool is where children learn how to work with and appreciate other people. They have 12 years to learn the alphabet and I guarantee they will do so. My focus is on the social and emotional skills they will need to succeed throughout their lives.

**Do you have personal hobbies you like to use in the classroom with the children?** I love books and wood working and use both as tools in the classroom. I love boys who roughhouse and play lots of games that include physical challenges. I love the kids when they make connections of their own. I love watching them grow in skills and confidence. I love seeing them discover ways to get around "walls." I love seeing them come back years later and say they like school and they are good at it. I hate all the holes in my pants!

**Do you have any advice for men considering entering the ECE profession?** Early Childhood Education is all about nurturing the child. As a male, my concept of nurture is different from many of my colleagues. As the only male on staff at Cherry Creek, I am able to bring a perspective that is unique. I understand that boys communicate physically and need an outlet which allows this. My class is full of games that require group interactions with the academic skills embedded.

James, thank you for sharing a candid view of your work in the classroom and with young children!



Recognizing men in Early Childhood Education and their important contributions to our profession



Fun fact: did you know it is the male seahorse that bears and rears its' young?