

Early Childhood Education News

Participate in a short on-line survey for Early Childhood Education students who are recent graduates, or within 6 months of completing their teacher training program.

Lend your voice to research about ECE students' knowledge, practices, and comfort levels around social-emotional and behavioral assessment and intervention.

Survey participants will be entered into a drawing to win one of ten \$50 Amazon.com gift cards.

Use the following link to take the survey:

[https://
oregon.qualtrics.com/
SE/?
SID=SV_aaC7KcUgAFucS
Ms](https://oregon.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aaC7KcUgAFucSMs)



Special points of interest:

- Looking for something to do? Check out <http://www.denver.org/what-to-do>
- The Effective Teaching Spiral (see page 2)
- Summer semester begins June 4, 2012!

It's Summer Time!

Just say the words 'summer time' and you conjure up all sorts of thoughts, and ideas for how you want to spend your time relaxing, vacationing, chillin' out, or playing!

With the longer days and warmer weather comes all kinds of opportunities to spend our time in the pursuit of all things recreational!

So with that thought in mind, consider some of the following possibilities for interesting, fun, and mostly outdoors recreational things to do:

- First Fridays-free zoo or museum entrance on the first Friday of each month
- Music-learn to play the Ukulele on Wednesday evenings at The Children's Museum
- Visit the Denver Chalk Art festival in Larimer Square downtown Denver.
- RAFT workshops
- Rockies games-try sitting in the Rock Pile for a fun change of pace
- Hiking-Jefferson county open spaces
- Fishing/outdoors -Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Botanic gardens/Chatfield Arboretum—gardening
- Swimming at Chatfield or Cherry Creek Reservoirs for a beach experience
- Bike trails all around town
- Walk or run a 5K
- Free jazz concerts in City Park and elsewhere
- Summer reading programs with the library
- Free movies in Civic Center Park

Find out more, more, more at the official travel and visitor bureau for Denver at:

[http://www.denver.org/
what-to-do](http://www.denver.org/what-to-do)

Most of all, enjoy something new this summer!



Dear Colleagues

Summertime is here! Kathleen and I have both been enjoying a bit of break before launching the summer semester.

We are also pleased to be launching a new project, an interactive website called the '*The Effective Teaching Spiral*.' This project has been a labor of love for us, having worked on it's development since September of last year!

Visitors to the website will find a wealth of information and resources related to observation and planning for young children. We hope you get a chance to visit our new website! We would love to hear your feedback about it!

We hope you enjoy some summer break to renew yourselves. There are so many opportunities to take advantage of and maybe you will

bump into my kids and I as we are hiking or fishing or playing ukuleles!

Be on the watch for a summer advising session in August before the start of the fall semester!

Kathleen & Janiece



The Effective Teaching Spiral is ready to launch!



For many months Kathleen has been percolating an idea—to create a web-based resource that provided users information about conducting effective observations on young children and how to use the information collected for planning purposes and other teaching related activities.

In fall, 2011, Kathleen and Janiece got the go ahead from their dean to create this resource. Over the next *nine months*, we met weekly to brainstorm, collect information, search out helpful resources and organize *all this stuff* in a user –

friendly guide we called **The Effective Teaching Spiral!**

Why a spiral, you ask? Because a spiral represents upward and/or outward movement from its' starting point just like beginning teachers. As they continue to practice the skills outlined in this web-based resource, their skills become better, more defined,

What skills are you talking about? Skills that include observation, collecting information, reflecting on that information, communicating with others and taking action based upon all the information

collected.

So why is this important? We have found that this set of skills is so fundamental to effective teaching, yet it is not the easiest set of skills to practice. This resource was designed to offer suggestions and additional help to promote the skill level of the ECE professional no matter what level of expertise they possess.

<http://rrcc.edu/ece/effectiveteaching.html>

"We have posed commonly asked questions about what effective or appropriate practice looks like in the teaching spiral..."

A continuous cycle of activities takes place in which the teacher engages in specific practice to acquire knowledge about an individual child or a group of children, pausing to analyze and reflect upon the information before moving on to the next activity in the sequence.

In this resource we have posed commonly asked questions about what effective or appropriate practice looks like in the teaching spiral

and then we have provided a variety of teaching resources that support effective and appropriate teaching practices associated with each of these activities for the ECE professional.

Our intended audience for this website includes not just students, but teachers, directors, coaches and other early childhood professionals. We hope you will use this

resource to organize and inform your daily practices with young children.

Each page in this website can be viewed in sequence or as a stand alone resource. All the information gathered and shared here is available in a bibliography page located at the end of the website. We believe this information to be accurate and reflective of current high quality early childhood practices in



our profession. We will regularly update this resource as new information becomes available.

Kathleen and I hope you visit **The Effective Teaching Spiral** website often! We want to hear your comments and suggestions

