

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.

Upcoming Dates

September 22 - First Day of Fall

October 13 - Moving Sale
Acorn at Iris

October 25 - Parent Training
The Creative Curriculum

October 31 - Halloween Parties
**Check with teachers for times*
-Muchkin Masquerade (Pearl St)

Oct/Nov - Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 4 - Daylight Savings Time Ends - set clocks back 1 hour

November 6 - Election Day

November 21 - Pumpkin Pie Party
**Snack Time*

November 22 & 23
NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

December 20 & 21 - Holiday Parties
**Check with teachers for times*

December 24 - January 2
NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

Message from the Executive Director

It's hard to believe we are already in September! The new school year is off to a great start and it's wonderful to see so many familiar Acorn faces at the new Wilderness Early Learning Center (WELC).

This is new venture for The Acorn School, but many of the partners who are also housed at WELC are long-time friends and partners of Acorn. We are excited to be able to offer services from so many other great early childhood programs during your child's day.

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. This mission has helped launch WELC and Acorn is proud to be the leader of the project. However, it takes the entire community to ensure that the project is sustainable long-term. I would love to talk to you more about potential private and corporate donors. If you know anyone who has an interest in supporting early childhood or is interested in the tax benefits of giving to child related non-profits, please let me know.

Please feel free to give me a call or stop in at anytime! Our door is always open.

Welcome to a new school year and to the beginning of some wonderful learning and growing opportunities for your child!

Matt



Board of Directors

Huybert Groenendaal
President

Kelly Bischoff
Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Wood

Karen Weaver

Becky McNeal

Jeff Herman

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The Acorn School 2012-13 Team



Infants - Hippos



Amy - Lead Teacher
- Infant Nursery Supervisor

Elizabeth - Lead Teacher

Jesse - Assistant Teacher
- Yoga Instructor

Karina - Assistant Teacher

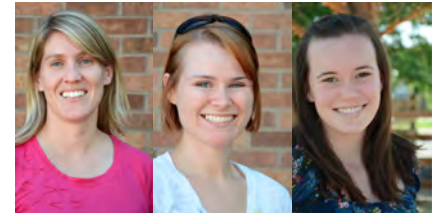


Wobblers - Owls

Diane - Lead Teacher

Kat - Lead Teacher

Sarah - Assistant Teacher
- Schoolwide Floater



Toddlers - Turtles

Adrian - Lead Teacher,
- Training & Orientation
Coordinator

Justine - Lead Teacher

Laura - Assistant Teacher
- Schoolwide Floater



Preschool - Kangaroos

Lauren - Lead Teacher

Suzy - Lead Teacher
- Curriculum Specialist

Josy - Assistant Teacher



Pre-K - Monkeys

Rebecca - Lead Teacher
- Social Coordinator

Chelsea - Lead Teacher

Liz - Assistant Teacher
- Child Health Liaison



Support Staff

Maxima - Cook

Beth - Assistant Cook

Taylor - Schoolwide Floater



Administrative Team

Tara - Communications Director

Kathy - Program Director

Matt - Executive Director

Liz - Program Coordinator

Emily - Development Director

Debbie - Administrative Assistant

ACORN PHILOSOPHY & CURRICULUM



MESSAGE FROM OUR CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

The Acorn School believes that children learn best through play. This is why we have adopted the Creative Curriculum as a framework

for our teaching. The Creative Curriculum is a play-based, child-driven curriculum which focuses on developing each child's social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language skills. It also emphasizes the vital role of the teacher in connecting content, teaching, and learning for all children. One of the ways we foster this role of the teacher in the child's life is through our model of primary caregiving. The Acorn School matches children with teachers (or primary caregivers) who remain with them from infancy or toddlerhood through pre-kindergarten. The children shift classes together, with their teachers, each year while the oldest cluster graduates to kindergarten. This system emulates a family environment within the context of a childcare center, and allows teachers to connect with the parents while fully comprehending the needs and learning patterns of their children.

The five fundamental principles of this curriculum are:

- Positive interactions and relationships with adults provide a critical foundation for successful learning.
- Social-emotional competence is a significant factor in school success.
- Constructive, purposeful play supports essential learning.
- The physical environment affects the type and quality of learning interactions.
- Teacher-family partnerships promote development and learning.

With the move to Wilderness Early Learning Center, we now have many valuable early childhood resources located in the same building. We are excited to work with these Wilderness partners to help us get the most out of our curriculum and philosophy, and to meet the needs of every child at Acorn and beyond.

To learn more about the Creative Curriculum, please come to the Parent Training on October 25. You will receive an invite with more details soon.

Suzy Evans –Curriculum Specialist

Wilderness Partners

The Acorn School - a local leader in early childhood education, providing classrooms for approximately 70 children, infant through pre-kindergarten.

Boulder County Head Start - a comprehensive child development program for low income children and families, including those with special needs, ages 3-5 years old, which will have classrooms for approximately 65 children.

Play Therapy Institute - offers play therapists an inspiring, educational experience in the field of play therapy for the purpose of expanding their play therapy knowledge and deepening their understanding of themselves, as well as offering quality mental health services that are accessible and affordable to children and families.

Boulder Institute for Psychotherapy and Research - a program dedicated to insuring early learning centers and parents receive the support they need to provide the conditions necessary for children to thrive because early brain development sets the stage for all later cognitive and social/emotional development.

The Tiny Tim Center - a program that provides occupational, physical, speech language, and developmental therapy to children birth up to 12 years of age.

Mental Health Partners/KidConnects - promotes the social, emotional and overall development of young children, reducing the incidence of early childhood expulsions, and increasing the capacity of child care providers to respond to challenging or concerning behaviors.

CU's Child Learning Center - an innovative educational facility that supports a variety of educational programs for typically developing children and for children with special needs, and offers free screenings and assessments for children in Boulder County preschools.

Boulder Public Library - providing family-focused storytime programs on site. Library staff will also prepare and present to WELC parents a workshop on tips and tools for reading effectively to their children. Additionally, the library will provide a collection of youth reading materials, geared for children aged 0 through 5. These materials will be housed at WELC and will be for use by clients on site.

Wellness Initiative - a program whose mission is to improve the physical health, social and emotional development, and academic performance of low-income youth through yoga-based wellness programs.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHILD HEALTH LIAISON

I hope you all are settling into our new space at Wilderness Early Learning Center! I will be taking over as Acorn's new Child Health Liaison, so please let me know if you ever have any questions. Since this is the beginning of the new school year, it is important that all children's health files are current. Please make sure you are up-to-date with the following:

- **Well Checks:** The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests the following schedule for routine health assessments: **At 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, one between 15 and 18 months, and one each year following.** (Child Medical Forms must be turned in after each Well Check. These form can be obtained from the office or on the Parent Page of the Acorn School website if not provided by your doctor.)
- **Immunizations:** Please keep up to date with your child's immunizations. If you choose that your child be exempt from immunizations, The Acorn School must have documentation of this so that we can take proper precautions in the rare event of an outbreak.

Health Alert: Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Colorado is experiencing epidemic rates of Pertussis (whooping cough), with the highest rate of disease in infants less than 6 months of age. Pertussis in early infancy is frequently severe and potentially fatal. Young infants may not have classic cough symptoms and may instead have gasping and abnormal breathing. Symptoms in adolescents and adults may be relatively mild. However, they still can spread the disease to others, including newborns and children who are not fully immunized. Please be sure to monitor your and your child's health to assure the safety of families in The Acorn School community.

Please feel free to contact me for more information! liz@theacornschooll.org

Thanks, Liz Berube - Child Health Liaison

IMPORTANT INFO FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Getting ahold of your child's teacher - We are attempting to limit interruptions in the classrooms. Please leave a message with the receptionist. If you have an urgent matter, we'll gladly hand the phone over to your teacher.

Parents in Partnership (PIP) is an organization run by parents to help make the best of your child's experience at Acorn. PIP will organize parent trainings, social events, parent volunteer day and more. Please let Debbie know if you are interested in getting involved.

Acorn's Website, www.theacornschooll.org, includes weekly meal menus, school closures, parent resources, important forms, and much more. The password for the Parent Page (under Current Families) is *acornparent*.

Acorn is on **Facebook!** If you Like our Page you will get weekly updates about Acorn Events, ECE News, Community Activities, and much more. It's also a great place for you to share Event news with your Friends, and let the rest of the Acorn community know about anything fun or interesting in the community.

www.facebook.com/theacornschooll

Acorn's Photo Page - www.acornschooll.shutterfly.com

PW: acornphotos

Check for monthly updates from your class.

Campaign Scope

Campaign Progress

Major paid and pledged commitments

Gates Family Foundation	\$30,000
Temple Hoyne Buell	\$75,000
City of Boulder	\$960,292
Boulder County	\$900,000
Daniels Fund	\$250,000
Donnell-Kay Found.	\$1,500
Qualistar	\$32,000
CDBG	\$25,000
Anschutz Family Found.	\$5,000
Quick Foundation	\$3,000
Boulder Valley Rotary	\$3,000
Rose	\$50,000
Comm. Found. Bo. Co.	\$25,000
City of Boulder- Solar	\$10,000
Individual donors	\$127,291
In Kind Contributions	\$111,270

Pending requests

CDBG	\$65,000
Boettcher	\$50,000
Elevations Credit Union	\$5,000
AEC Trust	\$25,000
BBVA Compass	\$25,000
MDC Richmond	\$25,000
JJJ Foundation	\$2,500

Total raised as of 8/31/12
\$2,552,653

Total capital campaign goal
\$3,310,000

As of 8/31 we are at 77% of our goal.

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS REPORT

Wilderness Early Learning Center is now a reality. Over the next 2 months 7 tenants will be moving into the building and begin working together to provide the best early childhood services across 4 domains of the Early Childhood Framework for Boulder County. The Acorn School is proud to be leading the effort as the fiscal agent for the project and one of the lead tenant partners.

For a complete breakdown of the project visit http://wildernesscenter.blogspot.com/2012_01_01_archive.html This has been the blog site to keep folks updated on the progress of the project, as well as to show progress in action.

Some highlights of the project include:

- * 8 partners secured with long-term leases to come together in collaboration of services
- * Nearly 80% of the campaign goal raised
- * Over \$40,000 raised in the first annual GALA event with key note speakers former Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien and Congressman Jared Polis.
- * Upon opening on August 20, Head Start is full to capacity, and Acorn has exceeded budgeted enrollment.

We have been on a fast track for opening and were able to meet all deadlines to start the new school year on August 20 for The Acorn School. We are anticipating most tenant partners to be in the building by September 1.

"There is no way to thank The Acorn School for all they have done for us. Now, with Wilderness Early Learning Center, it's amazing to think of how many more families will be helped." -Acorn School Parent