

Kids First - Child Care Resource Center is a department of the City of Aspen, and is funded through a .45% city sales tax for Affordable Housing and Child Care. This tax was initially passed by Aspen voters in 1990 and has renewed until 2038.



Kids First

CHILDCARE RESOURCE CENTER

Kids First grants over \$340,000 to fund quality improvements, bus passes, teacher education, and infant / toddler operations to 13 licensed childcare programs and over 70 staff people. Professional development is a key component of ensuring quality care for children. Kids First pays over \$54,000 as education and wellness incentives, and brings national speakers to an annual fall in-service for all Pitkin early childhood staff. Kids First contributes to T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for childcare staff in Pitkin County. Kids First funds Raising A Reader in five early childhood classrooms.

In 2015 over \$345,000 was paid on behalf of qualified families in Childcare Financial Aid from Kids First to local childcare programs.

Kids First programs that may interest you:

- **Childcare Resources for Families:** Kids First helps families make informed choices about choosing quality childcare; we offer consumer education and answer specific childcare questions.
- **Financial Aid:** Kids First provides scholarships for qualified families to help pay for licensed childcare in Pitkin County. (Financial documents required.)
- **Funding to Childcare Providers:** Kids First gives annual funding for quality improvements, staff development, infant and toddler program operations, accreditation, bus passes, and childcare expansion costs.
- **Technical Assistance:** Kids First coordinates learning opportunities for childcare programs and provides technical assistance for specific program concerns. Non-profit board member training is offered annually, as well as the annual in-service day for all early childhood staff.
- **Coaching and Resource teaching staff:** Kids First Staff serve as substitute teachers, and as quality improvement assessor and coach on site to all licensed childcare programs in Pitkin County. Kids First staff coordinates training for early childhood staff members and provides professional development planning.
- **Childcare staff incentives:** Kids First awards childcare staff a yearly award based on attained education, employment retention, and current early childhood college class enrollment. Childcare staff may also choose to work toward a quality improvement goal, earning an incentive for that achievement.
- **T.E.A.C.H.:** Kids First provides funding for the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program to help early childhood teachers pay for a college education in early childhood education.
- **Quality Rating and Improvement System:** Kids First provides support for childcare program quality assessments and improvements, now called Colorado Shines.
- **Social Emotional Consultant:** Kids First provides early childhood social emotional consulting in the classrooms.
- **Nurse Consultant:** New in 2015, Kids First provides a Nurse Consultant to support child health in the classrooms!
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Kids First represents Pitkin County on the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council, a network of early childhood professionals in Eagle, Garfield, Lake and Pitkin Counties. We also work closely with the Aspen Community Foundation's Cradle to Career Initiative goal of Ready for Kindergarten.
- **Parenting workshops and resources:** Kids First sponsors events to support your child's growth and development from birth to school.
- **Referrals if you are concerned about your young child's development:** Kids First is your contact for referrals to Early Intervention Colorado developmental screening (child find) for young children. 888-777-4041

KIDS FIRST

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Kids First Mission: Promote the availability of quality, affordable early childhood care & education, and provide early childhood information and resources.