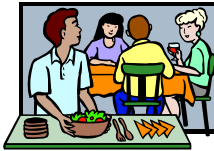


Enhancing Early Brain Development: What You Can Do!



Eat dinner together as often as possible

If your child shows musical aptitude or interest, let him take instrument lessons or join a choir



Listen to your child and find out what matters to her—respect the feelings she expresses even if you disagree. (example "it must have been embarrassing when the teacher yelled at you" rather than, "it serves you right for talking in class!")

Play board games together



Plan which TV shows to watch and watch them together—ask questions about what they've seen

Practice math facts or spelling words while riding in the car, or listen to books on tape

Make up stories together

Save some of their drawings and school work—look at them together and note progress

Pursue a hobby or sport together



Choosing the Best Care for your School Age Child



Child Care Connections
125 N. Parkside Dr. Suite 202
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719)638-2057



When you visit a program for school age children, do you find:



- Individual, large group, and small group activities available; children have the opportunity to choose from among a variety of activities.
- Opportunities for children to complete a project over several days or weeks
- Quiet time and space available to do homework or relax alone; adult assistance available if needed
- Sufficient quantity and variety of materials and space to use them so that conflict between children is minimized
- Staff who teach and model conflict resolution techniques



- Staff having meaningful conversations with children based on child's interests
- Children given responsibilities and input into planning activities, trips and projects
- Staff who allow and encourage children to make decisions and solve problems
- Materials which include sports equipment, board games, art, science, dramatic play, cooking, music, construction materials, books, writing and publishing materials, etc.
- Access to safe outdoor play area



You'll want to question when you see:

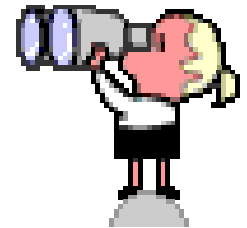
- All children required to do the same thing at the same time
- Unlimited use of TV or videotapes
- Staff standing to the side simply watching the children, or talking among themselves for long periods of time
- Children bored or constantly switching activities



Quality early care and education isn't costly.... It's priceless!

School Days

The school-aged child's world is rapidly expanding—school, sports, lessons, friends, before and after school activities, etc.



They are learning all the time—not just academic skills, but attitudes towards learning and towards themselves and their abilities.