



# Dare to Dream @ Stratton Meadows

**Our mission:** To provide high quality, comprehensive early care and education for **all** children.

**Antlers Place**

108 Antlers Place, 80903

719-634-1277

18 months to 6 years

**Historic Day Nursery**

104 E. Rio Grande, 80903

719-632-0855

2 ½ years to 14 years

**Sand Creek**

550 Sand Creek Drive, 80916

719-591-1556

2 ½ years to 7 years

**South Chelton**

1465 S. Chelton Road., 80910

719-574-4422

6 weeks to 5 years

**Dare to Dream @ Mountain Vista**

2550 Dorset Drive, 80910

719-964-0912

School Age

**Dare to Dream @ Sand Creek**

550 Sand Creek Drive., 80916

719-210-9395

School Age

**Dare to Dream @ Stratton Meadows**

610 Brookshire Ave., 80906

719-538-1409

School Age

**Corporate Offices**

104 E. Rio Grande

719-632-1754

Visit us on the web at

[www.earlyconnectionslearningcenters.org](http://www.earlyconnectionslearningcenters.org)

## From the Directors Desk

Hello Families,

I can't believe how fast this school year went!

The children are very ready for school to be over and have been enjoying the warmer weather.

If you have not let us know yet whether your child will be attending for summer please do so right away as spots are filling up fast. Please remember that there is an activity fee of \$50 for summer and it will need to be paid the first week of summer.

The teachers will have calendars and field trip permission slips to sign

later on this month so please watch out for those. Please watch the times carefully on the calendars as you will not be able to drop your child off if they have left for a field trip as there will be no staff members at the center. Please remember that children are not allowed to be dropped off or picked up from a field trip for safety reasons.

On May 21st we will be having a summer open house from 4:00 to 6:00 to give you some information on what we will be doing this summer and are units for the summer.

If your child will be attending in the fall please let us know as well. We will be at registration again this year so please look for us to renew paperwork. I will call you a few days before to remind you so please double check that we have your correct contact numbers.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Have a great month!

Renate

538-1409

[Rhenning@earlyconnections.org](mailto:Rhenning@earlyconnections.org)

"Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Early Connections Learning Centers Dare to Dream Closure Dates:

May 31

### No School For District 2:

April 12

May 7

May 20 Last day of school

### Rates for Full-Day Care

#### Before and After:

If your child attends Dare to Dream Before and After School there is an additional charge of \$9 for full days.

#### Before & After:

If your child attends Dare to Dream Before school there is an additional charge of 15 for full days.

#### Drop in:

If your child is on a Drop In basis there is a charge of \$25 for full days.

## Chatting With Valarie & Gloria

Hello Families,

The end of the school year is approaching fast. The last day of school is May 20<sup>th</sup>. If your child will be attending this summer please let us know. Just a reminder tuition will be higher for full time.

We have one more regular Storybook Journey to follow this school year. That unit will be

about bugs. "I Like Bugs" will show us different types of bugs, what they eat and how they live. This should be fun. We will also try to do a butterfly garden. Make sure you stop in and check this stuff out. For summer we will have a fun curriculum beginning with sports. For that we have a lot of activities as well as field trips.

Just a reminder our door is always open, so feel free any time to stop in. Please have your child bring a light jacket everyday as we do go outside daily.

Thank you  
Ms. Valarie & Ms. Gloria

## From the Parent Handbook

### HOME VISITS and CONFERENCES

Family participation is encouraged and welcomed. Early Connections Learning Centers uses The Home Visits / Conferences model for family support and communication. Home Visits / Conferences model is designed: To guide families and teachers with a way of sharing valuable information about their child; To individualize the planning process for each child in the context of their family, culture, and community; To explore ways to use a child's family's strengths to promote growth and development; To utilize practical, everyday activities and routines to enhance each child's development at home, in school, and within the community; To create an ongoing process for recording the

growth and development of the child.

Each family (with the exception of school-agers) receives two personal/home visits and two conferences with their child's teacher each year. The first visit occurs upon enrollment and every August thereafter. The visit may take place in the home, at school, or at another mutually agreed upon place. The teacher and family discuss their child's strengths, likes and dislikes, and styles of learning. At this time we work together to set goals for their child's growth and development. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in November to update families of their child's progress. We will also share information with families on child growth and development as well as ideas to use at home to promote growth.

Personal/Home visits will occur again in February followed by another Parent/Teacher conference in May. These are also used to share information about their child's development. A family may request a conference regarding their child's progress at any time. Early Connections Learning Centers encourages families to communicate concerns through conversations with their child's teachers or center director.

## Safety First

### Talking with Young Children About Threats to Their Safety

Most children who attend school in this country won't find themselves in life-threatening situations, but kids do need to be reassured that they'll most likely be safe in the classroom. However, it's useful to establish some ground rules for communicating about safety issues before problems arise. Here are some ideas:

#### The Words You Need

**The Words:** If anyone ever threatens to hurt you, someone else, or himself, it's important that you tell me about it — even if the person tells you to keep it a secret. If you know that someone has hurt you, someone else, or himself, it's also essential to tell.

**The Reason:** Loyalty to peers is something children learn early in grade school, and most kids dread being labeled a "tattle tale." However, kids need to learn that there are times when "telling" on a friend is essential and could save lives.

**The Words:** If, for some reason, you can't get hold of me when something like that happens, let's think about other people you can tell.

**The Reason:** Help kids think ahead of time about who their adult resources are. Then, if something happens, they'll know where to turn.

**The Words:** I don't expect this will ever happen to you, but if it does I want to make sure you know how to get help.

**The Reason:** Talking about safety issues with children doesn't have to be terrifying if you reassure them that you don't expect that anything bad will happen to them.

**The Words:** Let's talk about this again sometime. I'm happy to talk with you about anything, even if it's something that makes you uncomfortable.

**The Reason:** It's important to let your kids know that you're available and willing to talk to them about whatever they want to talk about.

#### Beyond the Conversation

Make sure you have safety conversations with your kids several times as they grow up. Each time, let them know that you're available when they need help.

From: [www.familyeducation.com](http://www.familyeducation.com)

## You Are What You Eat

### Family Dinners: The Recipe for Connectedness

#### Getting Together for Dinner

Family dinners? Who's got the time? Only one third of U.S. families eat dinner together most nights. The time-honored, slow-paced family dinner of past generations now looks more like a frantic pit stop, where family members simply refuel before beginning their evening activities. But consider this: sitting down at the table together is still one of the best ways for families to grow and stay connected.

Making family dinners a priority is not easy, but the long-term benefits are well worth the effort. The family dinner offers a natural forum that fosters togetherness. It can give all family members a chance to share their lives and to receive encouragement and support. Regular family meals also provide children with a much-needed safe haven of stability in a world that is often confusing and frightening.

Here are nine tips to help you get the most out of your family dinner:

1. Don't feel guilty if family dinners are not a daily event. Start with what's possible at the moment, naturally



2. Family discussions need not begin and end while seated at the dinner table. Family members, including even young children, may begin communicating while helping to prepare the meal and setting the table. Mealtime conversations may continue as the family clears the table and does the dishes.
3. The family dinner should be a relaxing, pleasurable occasion. Unpleasant topics, negative criticism, and passing judgment are not appropriate dinner conversation.
4. Always involve your kids in the dinner discourse. Their participation will not only make them feel more valued; it will also expose them to new language and ideas. The art of conversation and learning how to take turns speaking are important social skills for everyday life.
5. Specific questions to children (for example, "How many nibbles did you get on your line when you and Dad went fishing Saturday?") are more likely to trigger conversation than general questions. ("How was your day today?")

6. Laughter is the best dinnertime music.
7. Family dinners don't always have to be evening events. They also can be weekday or weekend breakfasts or lunches. What's most important is communicating the importance and desirability of these family meals.
8. Change the family dinner location sometimes. How about an afternoon picnic, dinner under the stars, or Saturday breakfast in your child's room?
9. Turn off the TV and radio. Unplug the phone or put on the answering machine. Don't let interruptions spoil this special time.

Having more family dinners may initially be met with some resistance, especially if they are not a regular part of your household schedule. In time, however, the pleasure and security they are guaranteed to provide will have everyone looking forward to coming to the table.

From: [www.familyeducation.com](http://www.familyeducation.com)

## Cha-Ching" - Ways To Save Money

When money is tight, you might be tempted to look for "big" ways to start saving more money each month. However, quite often, you'll find that saving money in "little" ways every day begins to add up to considerable savings. Put these money saving tips into practice, and make a point of putting the money you save into the bank.

#### #1: Use Coupons Effectively

If you're going to bother to clip coupons, make sure you use them in a way that saves you the most money possible. Ex. Find out what days your store doubles coupons, use the store's sale flyer to watch

for sales to use with your coupons.

#### #2: Use inexpensive Toiletries

Use toiletries that have money-back guarantees, buy brand name products at a dollar store.

#### #3: Use Generic Laundry Detergents

Add it to your dollar store shopping list.

#### #4: Do Not Have Your Clothes Professionally Dry Cleaned

Either don't buy clothes that need to be dry cleaned, or use the dry cleaning fabric sheets that can be used in the dryer.

#### #5: Drink Water

Drink tap water during the day.

#### #6: Make Your Own Snacks

Buy in bulk and store them in snack-sized Zip-loc bags.

#### #7: Double Your Recipes When You Cook

Purchase twice the ingredients and freeze the extra batch. Saves on ingredients and keeps you from ordering out if short on time.

#### # 8: Buy Generic Foods and Staples

Ease the family into the changes by mixing

generics in with name brand items.

#### #9: Only Buy Used Cars

Buy a decent "certified" used car from a dealer you trust.

#### #10: Downgrade One Luxury Item

Think about downgrading or eliminating things like your cell phone or cable plans.

Excerpted from: Jennifer Wolf, About.com Guide



## From the Get Well Center

### McNeil Consumer Healthcare Announces Voluntary Recall of Certain OTC Infants' and Children's Products

Fort Washington, PA (April 30, 2010) - McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Division of McNeil-PPC, Inc., in consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is voluntarily recalling all lots that have not yet expired of certain over-the-counter (OTC Children's and Infants' liquid products manufactured in the United States and distributed in the United States, Canada, Dominican Republic, Dubai (UAE), Fiji, Guam, Guatemala, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, and Kuwait.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare is initiating this voluntary recall because some of these products may not meet required quality standards. This recall is not being undertaken on the basis of adverse medical events.

However, as a precautionary measure, parents and caregivers should not administer these products to their children. Some of the products included in the recall may contain a higher concentration of active ingredient than is specified; others may contain inactive ingredients that may not meet internal testing requirements; and others may contain tiny particles. While the potential for serious medical events is remote, the company advises consumers who have purchased these recalled products to discontinue use.

The company is conducting a comprehensive quality assessment across its manufacturing operations and has identified corrective actions that will be implemented before new manufacturing is initiated at the plant where the recalled products were made.

Consumers can contact the company at 1-888-222.6036

and also at [www.mcneilproductrecall.com](http://www.mcneilproductrecall.com). Parents and caregivers who are not sure about alternative pediatric health treatment options should talk to their doctor or pharmacist and are reminded to never give drug products to infants and children that are not intended for those age groups as they could result in serious harm.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Division of McNeil-PPC, Inc. markets a broad range of well-known OTC products.

Recalls include certain:

- Infants' Tylenol and Children's Tylenol Products
- Infants' Motrin and Children's Motrin Products
- Children's Zyrtec Products
- Children's Benadryl Products



**"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it."**

**-Buddy Hackett**

## Focus on Community Resources

### Colorado Legal Services

#### Colorado Legal Services Programs

A United Way Partner Agency 

Colorado Legal Services assist in civil matters with divorce; allocation of parental responsibilities (e.g., custody); protection orders; evictions;

housing discrimination; foreclosures; immigration (VAWA/U Visa); powers of attorney; collections; bankruptcy; consumer issues; denials/decreases/overpayments/etc. of public benefits such as Food Stamps, TANF, Low Energy Assistance Income, Medicare and Medicaid; denials of Social Security Disability or SSI; hearings on unemployment benefits. Colorado Legal Services is free to

those who meet the income guidelines provided by the Federal Government, except those aged 60 or over there is no income restriction. Please call to schedule an appointment at (719) 471-0380. Hours of operation: 8:30 AM-Noon and 1-5 P.M., Monday through Friday Located at 671 S. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

[www.coloradolegalservices.org](http://www.coloradolegalservices.org)