



# Jeffco F.I.T. Coalition

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## Upcoming Event:

- The next Jeffco F.I.T. Coalition Meeting will be held on August 9, 2005 from 3:00-4:30 at the Jefferson County Court and Administration Building, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden.

**Become a Member!**

**Please call Mia Geraci,  
303-239-7074**

## Welcome!

The Jefferson County Families with Infants and Toddlers Coalition (Jeffco F.I.T.) brings a diverse group of agencies and organizations together under the common mission of enhancing and promoting supportive services for Jefferson County's children from prenatal to age three. Since its inception, five years ago, the coalition continues its work of sharing information and coordinating services while also identifying gaps in services and programs. All of the coalition's members are dedicated to providing interventions and programs that target the issues facing today's families. In order to successfully target our interventions, it is important that we consider some of the following trends:

- ◆ Half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended.
- ◆ Babies born to unmarried women quadrupled from 500,000 to 2 million from the years 1978 to 1996.
- ◆ Single parents account for 27% of family households with children under the age of 18.
- ◆ The number of single mothers increased from 3 million to 10 million between 1970 and 2000.
- ◆ More than two million fathers are the primary caregivers of children under the age of 18 (a 62% increase since 1990).
- ◆ 60% of children spend time in a full or part time child care settings.
- ◆ By the year 2020 Hispanics will make up 25% of the United States population.
- ◆ The third leading cause of death for children under age 1 year is unintentional injuries.



*U.S. Bureau of Household and Family Statistics 2000*

Intervention services provided by Jeffco F.I.T. coalition are essential to providing Jefferson County's infants and toddlers a healthy start. High quality intervention services have been proven to reduce rates of child maltreatment and neglect, unintended pregnancies, substance abuse and domestic violence, as well as increasing maternal health and well being, developing economic self-sufficiency and promoting positive parenting.

Jeffco F.I.T. is the advisory board for the Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment's Partners for Healthy Families Program, a local Nurse Family Partnership Program providing nurse home visitation services to low-income first time parents.

# About Jeffco F.I.T. Coalition

Jeffco F.I.T. meets twice a year and publishes this newsletter quarterly. Thank you the support of organizations and agencies providing services to Jefferson County's children. If interested in becoming a member of Jeffco F.I.T. coalition, please contact Mia Geraci, chairperson at 303-239-7074.

## Mission:

To enhance and promote supportive services to Jefferson County families with children, prenatal to age three. Jeffco F.I.T. achieves its mission through information sharing, coordination of services, and identification of gaps in services.

## Goals and Objectives:

- ◆ To promote information sharing among service providers
- ◆ To increase awareness of available services
- ◆ To improve Coordination and Collaboration of Services to Families
- ◆ To promote the Enhancement of Continuum of Services



*"We find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body."*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## A Success Story—Vanessa and Victoria\*

Vanessa started the Partners for Healthy Families program at Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment in July, 2001. At the time, she was living with her parents while working on a psychology degree at Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Vanessa was prepared to parent her child without the father, who was not supportive of Vanessa and her pregnancy. With the support of her parents, she was able to continue her education taking night classes. She graduated from college in May, 2002 and decided to further her education with a degree in nursing. Vanessa became a Certified Nursing Assistant at a local hospital. It was not long before she was accepted into a nursing program. She continued to work part-time while studying to support herself and her child.

Vanessa's parents helped with child care while she was at school and work. Vanessa took the responsibility of parenting seriously and spent as much time with her baby as possible. She learned to do homework and entertain a toddler at the same time. Despite lack of sleep and juggling work and school, Vanessa successfully completed the Partners for Healthy Families Program in February, 2003.

Vanessa went on to graduate in May, 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). She has had many job offers and is carefully deciding which one will be best for her and her daughter. The two of them are moving into their own home this month. Victoria is a happy, healthy 4 year old and enjoys going to preschool. Both of them are looking forward to their first summer of no school and more free time.



**Vanessa and Victoria are truly a success story!**

\*Names have been changed

## Focus on a Jeffco F.I.T. Coalition Member: METRO DENVER CHILD CARE RESOURCE and REFERRAL PARTNERS

Metro Denver Child Care Resource and Referral Partners serves as the local Resource and Referral Agency in the Metro Denver area. A Resource and Referral Agency works to enhance the quality and supply of early care and education services by supporting communities, children, families, and child care providers. They offer free community child care referrals for Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Douglas, Gilpin, Jefferson and Park counties. Metro Denver Child Care Resource and Referral Partners help providers and families of children with special needs. They work with the community to offer trainings, a mentoring program, technical assistance, grants and the Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program.

Metro Denver Child Care Resource and Referral uses a database called NACCRRAware, which is available to the public on-line by visiting [www.frcce.org](http://www.frcce.org). The NACCRRAware database has over 3,000 licensed child care providers. This includes center, family, preschool, Headstart and before and after school. NACCRRAware offers the public the following:

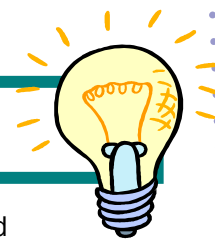


- A list of referrals for parents with information about child care in their area. A typical search includes age of child, days and hours of care needed and location. Searches can be more specialized for specific needs.
- Reporting information which includes number of referrals (can be broken down by county), requests for care by age (type of care requested), statistical analysis of client children by age, average rates by age, and analysis of child ages cared for by providers.

The NACCRRAware database has over 3,000 licensed child care providers.

For child care referrals, families may call 303-381-2990.  
Residents of Clear Creek, Gilpin, or Park Counties should call the Mountain Community Referral Line at 303-914-6275.

## It's a Great Idea: MOMMY ROCKS



Mommy Rocks is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide mothers and their new infants a "place" of their own as small as it might be to continue the life long bonding and loving process. Mommy Rocks receives referrals from county WIC dieticians, Community Health Nurses and local community agencies.

Mommy Rocks delivers rocking chairs to low-income mothers. The rocking chairs are new and gently used. They have a unique touch—many of them have a painted angel design. The designs are painted by local artists who donate their time. The founder of Mommy Rocks wants an angel on each chair to look



over the shoulders of the mothers and babies. Each mother also receives a tote bag that contains a storybook, flashlight and batteries, children's music CD, layette set, crocheted sweater and hat, diapers and baby wipes, blanket and folder of parenting tips, immunization, car seat safety and poison control information and other items for first time parents.

Since May 2002 community support has helped deliver 185 chairs to moms and their babies. What a great service to families!

Check out Mommy Rocks at:

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

Or call 303.601.8421



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**We're on the Web!**

<http://health.jeffco.us>

*(Click on Jeffco F.I.T. at bottom left  
of page under quick links)*



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