



Our Philosophy:

At Explorers Early Childhood Education, Inc. we believe that education should be as multifaceted as the children we serve. Our blended model avoids the limitations of a single pedagogy, instead weaving together the world's most effective educational traditions to create a holistic, foundational experience.

The Five Roots of the Explorers Educational Model:

- **The Independence of Montessori:** We utilize the "Prepared Environment" and self-correcting materials to foster deep concentration, autonomy, and a sense of order. Children are empowered to follow their own rhythms of discovery.
- **The Inquiry of STEAM:** Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics are not subjects—they are lenses. We encourage children to ask "Why?" and "How?", using trial and error to solve real-world problems.
- **The Expression of Reggio Emilia:** Our classrooms are filled with natural light and "provocations." We view the child as a strong, capable protagonist, and we use the "Hundred Languages of Children"—from clay to coding—to make their thinking visible.
- **The Resilience of Outdoor Education:** Nature is our co-teacher. Whether rain, snow, or shine, we spend significant time in the Colorado landscape, building physical grit, ecological literacy, and a profound respect for the Earth.
- **The Heart of Civic Engagement:** We believe children are citizens of *today*, not just tomorrow. We engage with our local community through service projects, visits to local landmarks, and practicing the democratic process within the classroom.

Afternoon Teacher (Part-time)

Position Summary

The Afternoon Teacher is responsible for maintaining the pedagogical flow of the classroom during the second half of the day. You will lead afternoon snack, facilitate outdoor play, and manage the pickup process with parents. This role requires a "utility player" mindset—someone who can jump into a Reggio-inspired art project one minute and help a toddler with a Montessori "practical life" task the next.

Location: Durango, Colorado

Starting Hourly Wage: \$21 - \$23 per hour

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- **Afternoon Activities and Instruction:** Set up engaging, open-ended STEAM or Reggio inspired activities that invite children to explore as the day winds down.
- **Outdoor Leadership:** Lead afternoon sessions in our outdoor classroom, focusing on nature observation and physical movement.
- **Family Engagement:** Be the face of Explorers during pickup. Share meaningful "nuggets" of a child's day with parents, ensuring a professional and warm connection.
- **Environment Restoration:** Help reset our beautiful environments (Montessori-style) so they are "prepared" and sparkling for the next morning's discovery.
- **Nurturing Transitions:** Assist with post-nap wake-ups and late-afternoon snacks with a calm, gentle presence.
- **Safety & Compliance:** Ensure strict adherence to health and safety protocols, including sanitization, emergency preparedness, and mandated reporting.
- **Bilingual Environment:** Maintain a language-rich environment where **Spanish and English** are used interchangeably to support cognitive flexibility and cultural appreciation.

Technical Skills, Knowledge & Abilities

- **Adaptability:** Ability to transition between different age groups (Infant, Toddler, or Preschool) as ratios shift in the afternoon.
- **Storytelling & Engagement:** A knack for leading group songs, stories, or games that keep children engaged during the "witching hour."
- **Reliability:** Since you are the closing anchor for our families, consistent attendance and punctuality are vital.
- **Weather-Hardy:** Enthusiasm for being outside in Durango's afternoon sun or winter flurries.
- **Colorado Shines PDIS:** Ability to navigate and maintain professional records within the Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System.
- **Behavioral Guidance:** Skilled in positive redirection and conflict resolution strategies tailored to young children.
- **Risk Management:** Knowledge of safety protocols for off-site excursions and outdoor play.
- **Bilingual Proficiency:** Intermediary level fluency in **Spanish** is highly preferred to lead our dual-language initiatives.

Qualifications & Experience

- **Education:** High School Diploma or equivalent required (required); Courses in **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** or a related field (strongly preferred).
- **Credentialing:** Must meet **Colorado Lead Teacher Qualifications** (ECT qualified). This typically includes: Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential 3.0 (Level 1 or higher).

- **Experience:** 1+ years in an Early Childhood Education setting preferred.
- **Clearance:** Must pass a comprehensive background check, including Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fingerprinting.

Compensation & Benefits

- **Competitive wage:** \$21 - \$23 per hour
- **Professional Growth:** Great entry point for those looking to build hours toward Lead Teacher certification.
- **Health & Wellness:** Eligible for Monthly **Health Stipend** after 6 months to assist with medical, dental, or vision premiums.
- **Eligible for Retirement Plan** (upon completion of required service period): Simple IRA program with **employer matching contributions**.
- **Tax Incentives:** Assistance in applying for the **Colorado Early Childhood Educator Income Tax Credit** (up to \$1,700+ annually for qualified levels).

Schedule

- **Flexible Afternoon Shifts:** e.g., Monday, Wednesday, Friday; Tuesday, Thursday; Monday-Friday (2:00 PM - 5:15 PM).

Ready to lead the next generation of Explorers? Submit your resume and a brief cover letter sharing your personal "teaching philosophy" to durangoexplorers@gmail.com.

Explorers is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees and families.