



Larimer County Immediate Needs Grant

Presenter: Anne Lance, Teaching Tree
Executive Director



Philosophy & Mission

- **Mission:** Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center provides quality, affordable, early childhood care for families of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Our children are our future; the growth of each child must be considered on an individual basis. We believe in supporting families and strengthening our community by providing a safe, nurturing and supportive education for our children.
- Who we are and what we do:
 - Provide quality child care for low- and middle-income families in Larimer County (county's largest non profit child care provider)
 - Provide a safe and stimulating environment for children year long, while parents work or attend school, supporting their self-sufficiency goals
 - Prepare children for school and lifelong success, ages 6 weeks-5
 - Centers in Loveland and Fort Collins
 - Serve approximately 400 children each year

Grant Impact

- Teaching Tree received \$97,448 to fund classroom cohorting in 2022
- What is classroom cohorting?
 - Implemented cohorting in the early days of COVID in May 2020
 - Keeping classrooms together and not combining in the morning or afternoon
 - This helped to keep classrooms safe and open, per Health Department regulations
 - Decreased the spread of COVID throughout classrooms
 - Decreased classroom closures due to exposure
 - By keeping classrooms open, it allowed parents to have the childcare they need, so they are able to work more consistently



Grant Impact



- When COVID began, adjusted hours to 8:00-5:00 due to limited funding and staffing
 - Moved to 7:00-5:30 to adjust to needs of our families in January 2021
 - Did not have funding to open back up at pre-COVID hours (6:30-6:00) due to health concern with keeping 15 classrooms open for 11.5 hours per day
- The Larimer County funding allowed us to continue cohorting classrooms and extend our hours to 6:00pm daily

2022 Statistics

- **433** students served at both centers
- **170** low-income families supported by scholarship funding
- **\$242,075** in scholarships provided to families
- **5 of 15** classrooms closed from January-February due to COVID outbreaks (0 after February)
 - Closures were 3-5 days max, typically one classroom at a time
- Allowed 795 caregivers to work or attend school

Parent Feedback

- “Teaching Tree has been working very hard to stay open during the pandemic. It has been an extraordinarily difficult situation and their dedication to keeping classrooms open has enabled my family to continue working and provide our child with a more stable routine.”
- “We are grateful to Teaching Tree for doing a great job during the last two years. It has been very challenging and the consistency of Teaching Tree has been a bright spot for us. We always felt our son was safe there.”

