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EarlyEducation in the News  
News, Research, Calendar of Events and Open Positions  
October 8, 2006  
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- Child care center casualty of Oracle deal
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Denver Preschool tax sees opposition  
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A civil rights group said Tuesday it is opposing Denver's push to raise the sales tax for early childhood education because it would give some taxpayer money to religious schools.

"We just don't do this in America," said Bruce DeBoskey, the Anti-Defamation League's regional director. "It is a classic entanglement of government and religion."

[Denver Preschool tax sees opposition](#)

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Child care center casualty of Oracle deal  
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Eric Ortman half-jokes that his daughter, Katrina, has already been the victim of corporate takeovers at the ripe age of 2.

The takeover is Oracle Corporation's purchase of Siebel Systems. And the victims are dozens of children who lost their day care when Oracle shuttered Siebel's two child care centers, in Emeryville and San Mateo, which have been open since 2001.

"She loved her teachers. She loved going to the day care center every day," Ortman said of the Emeryville center where his daughter has been since she was 6 months old.

The San Mateo center was closed with the rest of the Siebel campus, which Oracle is seeking to sublease.

[Child care center casualty of Oracle deal](#)

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Running a child care facility can put owners in a difficult financial situation  
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Providing professional child care is an especially challenging businesses, particularly when it comes to funding.

Gudde is one of several local child care business owners who say they are in a constant

challenge to provide the best service they can while staying affordable for parents.

“There's months that it wasn't easy,” Gudde said. “There's so much that a person doesn't even think of.”

There are the obvious costs - food, rent or mortgage, utilities and staff. But overhead costs also include laundry, building maintenance, cleaning supplies, insurance, first aid supplies, office equipment, art and craft supplies, paper and postage.

[Running a child care facility can put owners in a difficult financial situation](#)

Promoting Child Development from Birth in State Early Care and Education Initiatives

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Starting Off Right: Promoting Child Development from Birth in State Early Care and Education Initiatives describes a menu of strategies some states are using to improve early care and education for infants and toddlers, and supports to their families. In the period from birth to age 3, early experiences shape the architecture of the brain—including cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional capacities—at a phenomenal rate. Early care and education is a key strategy states can use to promote positive development for very young children, including those in low-income families. And since a growing proportion of very young children spend extensive time in the care of someone other than a parent, state policies to promote the quality and continuity of those settings and relationships should be part of a strategy to assure children are ready for school.

Promoting Child Development from Birth in State Early Care and Education Initiatives  
<http://www.clasp.org/publications/startingoffright.htm>

### Exercise Not Tied To Preschool Obesity

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Organized efforts to get preschoolers moving appear to have little influence on whether or not they become overweight, new research suggests.

Preschool-aged children in a Scottish study who participated in regular exercise sessions did develop better motor and movement skills than children who did not. But they were no less likely to become overweight during the yearlong study than more sedentary children. Participation in organized exercise also did not appear to promote more activity during free play.

[Exercise Not Tied To Preschool Obesity](#)

How Safe Is Your Child's Daycare and Preschool?

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We worry about our schools, but what about our pre- schools and daycare's? What's being done at that level to keep your kids safe?

Our youngest children, placed in the care of centers and preschools. Parents leave hoping and praying everything will be okay. But, of course there's always... what if? Heartland News went to two childcare centers in Cape Girardeau....both with different ways of handling security. "There's always a teacher with the children at all times", said

Chris Gonzales. Gonzales is the director of A Step At A Time Preschool. It's a home away from home for about 43 children. The school has three entrances...all open. They use a bell system to alert teachers when someone comes inside. They also use walkie talkies. But, one thing they don't have is an emergency plan. It's something they're developing now in wake of the recent school shootings. "It's sad, but it's something you have to deal with", said Gonzales.

[How Safe Is Your Child's Daycare and Preschool?](#)

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Big donors back preschool tax in Denver
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Supporters of a sales tax to pay for early-childhood education programs in Denver have raised nearly \$1 million, mostly in large chunks from businesses and the area's heavy-hitting philanthropists.

That figure is nearly four times the amount raised for a similar measure that failed in 2000, and officials said they expect to raise much more in the weeks before the Nov. 7 election.

Contributions to the "Preschool Matters" campaign - a push led by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper - total more than \$995,000. The group has received 26 cash or in-kind contributions of at least \$5,000 from 162 individual donors, according to campaign finance records filed Monday.

[Big donors back preschool tax](#)

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Health centers help reduce teen pregnancy, report says
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School-based health centers are linked to a decline in the teen pregnancy rates among blacks in the 1990s, according to an article in the recent issue of American Journal of Health.

The authors compared the declining birth rates of teens in schools with and without school-based health centers. The article reports that Colorado and national teen birth rates dropped significantly, especially among blacks and Anglo teens. Latino teen birthrates were flat during that time in Colorado.

The researchers were particularly interested in black teen birthrates in Colorado because of the magnitude and speed of the decline, and because the most dramatic drop was in Denver.

[Health centers help reduce teen pregnancy, report says](#)

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