

Establishing The Family Center

Campbell Early Learning Center

Arvada, CO



Campbell Early Learning Center is a public preschool that completed its first year of operation in 2024. Before opening its doors, Campbell solidified its family engagement goals by establishing The Family Center within the school building and hiring a dedicated Family Engagement Liaison. Campbell Early Learning Center effectively leveraged The Family Center as an educational asset in the lives of its families by ensuring programming was tailored to their needs. The Family Center's mission and philosophy has been to provide a communal space where families can access classroom learning aligned to events and programming, and district and community resources.

Purposeful language and signage reinforced the idea that The Family Center belongs to the community. This welcoming space and subsequent programming were coordinated by a Family Engagement Liaison.

Throughout the year, The Family Center leaned on community partnerships. This type of partnership fell into two categories. Community support included donations and hosting fundraisers, while community collaboration involved partnerships that aligned with educational standards. This past year, Jovial Concepts, a local nursery and construction company, supported Campbell by sponsoring the construction of a Teaching Garden. This partnership allowed Campbell Early Learning to have the unique opportunity to integrate the project into the school's educational structure. Because of this partnership with Jovial Concepts, The Family Center collaborated with The Arvada Gardener's club, who provided vegetable plants that students then planted in the Teaching Garden. Classrooms will work together to maintain their classroom plot and will work as a team to harvest their crops.

The Teaching Garden was an asset to each teacher's lesson plans. Teachers were encouraged to participate in programming choices and communicate the educational support needs of the students in their classrooms to The Family Center. Collaborating with the PTA fostered stronger community engagement and encouraged more families to participate in both PTA and The Family Center programming. The 6 National PTA Standards were posted in The Family Center to highlight what the relationship between the PTA, school, and The Family Center is and how all three entities work as a team for the betterment of students' educational goals.

Campbell Early Learning documented significant, successful growth within the school community from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. Family engagement data shows Campbell Early Learning in the top percentile. The success of Campbell's approach with The Family Center highlights the importance of ongoing family engagement as an evolving educational strategy, instead of simply a one-time goal.