



EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION SPECIALIST

Duties:

Performs professional and supervisory work addressing early childhood nutrition issues and services for provider groups, families and community groups within each of our three counties. General direction is provided by the Director of Nutrition Services or a Nutrition Program Manager. Has direct supervisory accountability for all operations and activities, as well as any positions or employees that may be added in the future within the early childhood nutrition program. The early childhood nutrition specialist provides professional public health nutrition services related specifically to children, care providers and families on obesity prevention, physical activity and age appropriate nutrition outside of established WIC obesity prevention efforts; performs professional and supervisory work in the administration of public health nutrition services for provider groups, families, and community groups. Provides professional public health nutrition services. Participates in grant writing and research; responsible for sustainability of funding and programming. Assists in the development and implementation of program procedures and policies and other aspects of nutrition and obesity prevention.

Works with early child care providers to ensure that foods provided in early child care facilities and programs meet the quantities and meal patterns that balance energy and nutrients with children's ages, appetites, activity levels, special needs, and cultural or ethnic differences in food habits and that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Participates in the planning, developing, organizing, and implementing of nutrition and obesity prevention services for children ages 2–6 years; participates in the goal setting process; evaluates nutrition and physical activity programs; utilizes evidenced-based practices in the provision of services. Coordinates with facilities to develop nutrition programs that involve parents in the nutrition component of their child care facility. Develops nutrition programs with an emphasis on minimal fat, sugar, and sodium as well as adequate amounts of fruits and vegetables and whole-grain products. Collaborates with other agencies (schools, physicians, CDPHE, FDA, USDA, food/nutrition councils, state/metro wide initiatives) in the formulation and coordination of nutrition, physical activity, and obesity programs. Teaches child care personnel to encourage positive experiences with food and eating. Trains caregivers to ensure they have appropriate knowledge in early childhood nutrition, physical activity requirements and food service. Serves on the Early Childhood Task Force for COPAN at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and early childhood councils in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. Participates in early childhood activities and education throughout the Denver metropolitan area.



Markets program services via written, electronic and face to face communications. Participate in CAEYC. Markets initiatives to encourage child care facilities to participate in nutrition assistance programs (e.g., CACFP) and to link families with high-quality child care programs. Participates in policy development and implementation to promote and support high-quality child care and industry best practices. Assists in curriculum development based upon physical activity, nutrition and obesity prevention for children ages 2–6 years. Coordinates with Nutrition Division RD responsible for schools and school-age children.

Acts as a preceptor to dietetic interns within TCHD assignments and possibly for selected community college students. May communicate current nutrition information to media under the direction of the Nutrition Division Director regarding programs, services, current legislation, and food safety. Collaborates with Environmental Health Division to oversee policy implementation of best practices for food safety and sanitation in early childhood nutrition programs in order to protect the health and safety of children and staff at child care facilities. Visits and assesses early childhood programs within the Tri-County area on a regularly scheduled basis to assess for sound nutrition and physical activity practices. Performs other community nutrition classes and health fairs as assigned. Develops programs and conducts nutrition education for children and for their parents as part of the Child Care Program. Performs other duties as assigned and required. Participates in all exercises and drills on emergency preparedness as required.

Education:

Requires a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in foods and nutrition, dietetics, or a related field including coursework that meets the American Dietetic Association (ADA) Standards of Education of Performance for dietetic registration. Master's Degree desired. Three years experience as a registered dietitian, to include research, program development, and supervisory responsibilities. Early childhood experience can be substituted for a Master's Degree.

Special Qualifications:

- Must be a registered dietitian through Commission on Dietetic Registration.
- Must meet professional standards required by the ADA and practice in accordance with the ADA Code of Ethics.
- Must be in possession of a valid driver's license and dependable transportation.
- Bilingual (English/Spanish) skills preferred.
- Master's Degree desired.



Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Principles, techniques, practices, and procedures related to human nutrition in health and disease and its application in a public health program. Principles, techniques, practices, and procedures related to early childhood nutrition and health. Practical implementation of educational and presentation methods for diverse population groups. Research methods, grant writing, needs assessments, curriculum, program development and evaluation techniques. Inter-related professional services and resources in the Tri-County Health Department and community for the implementation of programs. Supervisory techniques and methods. Communicate effectively both verbally and in writing to provide instruction and information to individuals and groups. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with other Tri-County Health Department employees, representatives of other agencies and organizations, and members of the community. Supervise and mentor professional and support staff in a productive and positive manner.

Salary: DOQ

Office Location: Belleview

Close Date: Open until filled.