Our goal at Families First is to prevent child abuse and neglect before it happens. To achieve this it is crucial that parents are able to receive the support they need to ensure their children reach their full developmental potential and receive consistent, high-quality parenting. At Families First, we make sure information and resources are easily accessible.

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) collected information from a parent survey and parent focus groups that revealed the following:

Parents are reluctant to ask for help and concerned about being judged.

Parents want more opportunities to help them build informal networks of support.

Parents trust libraries and health care providers and would like to see more information in these places on child development and community resources.

Parents recognize that family stability is dependent on economic opportunity and high quality child care.

Parents still need accurate information on child development. For example, one common misunderstanding is that parents believe that their young children misbehave just to upset them.

Programs and campaigns need to be developed at the community level so they are relevant to parents living there.

Families First is dedicated to providing services to address these needs in a nonjudgmental environment. We supply families with skills and resources that allow them to better protect and care for their children. Our Circle of Parents groups provide an informal network of support. Our Parents as Teachers program includes home visits and supports child development. Our Support Line is available to answer any questions or concerns a parent may have and provide them with information, resources and referrals. We also provide a variety of classes throughout the Denver metro area.

The table below details the number of children served by Colorado's child and family services during the 2016 federal fiscal year according to CDHS. Unfortunately, we still have a lot of work to do but we will continue improving children's lives so that eventually every child will grow up feeling safe and valued in a nurturing family environment.

Upcoming Food and Fun Events:

**Infinitus PIE - October 16th**
5807 W 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge
Infinitus Pie's Mission is "Inspiring through mouthwatering PIE coupled with a passionate dedication to community, education and humor."

Have GREAT pizza for a GREAT cause with Families First in October!

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