

Our Vision

Our mission is to provide families with special needs children in Mesa County access to respite care services to help support a healthy family environment through...

Relaxation - Respite gives families peace of mind which in turn helps them relax and renew their humor and energy.

Enjoyment - Respite allows families to enjoy favorite pastimes and pursue new interests or activities.

Stability - Respite improves the family's ability to cope with daily responsibilities and maintain stability during crisis.

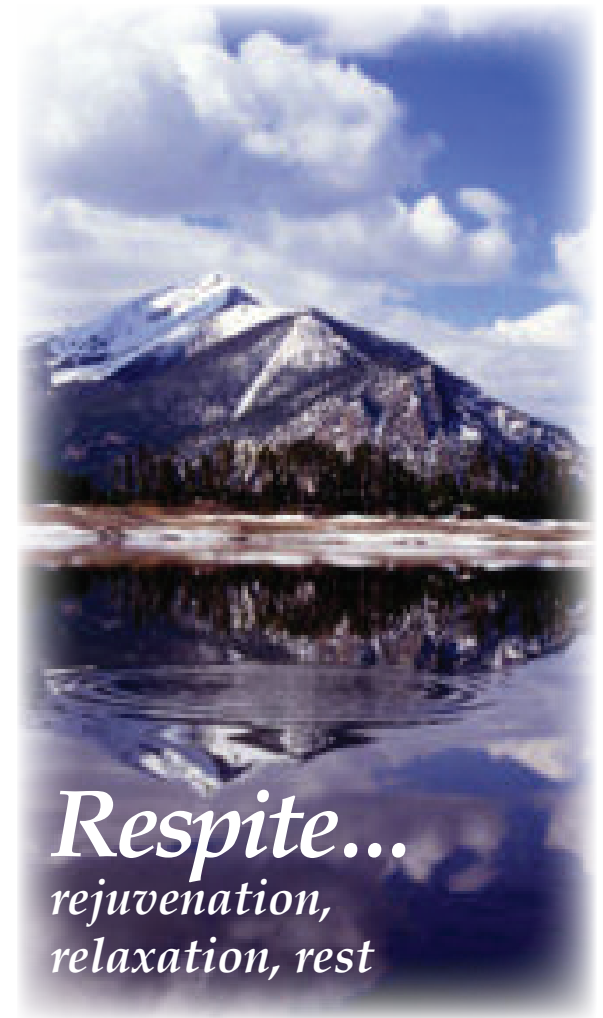
Preservation - Respite helps preserve the family unit and lessens the pressures that might lead to out-of-home placement, divorce, neglect or child abuse.

Involvement - Respite allows families to become involved in community activities and to feel less isolated.

Time off - Respite enables families to take that needed vacation, spend time together or to spend time alone.

Enrichment - Respite makes it possible for family members to establish individual identities and enrich their growth and development.

Mesa Developmental Services
950 Grand Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501



*Respite...
rejuvenation,
relaxation, rest*

*Go to a peaceful place in mind
and spirit, knowing your child is
well cared for by a trained, caring
professional of your choosing.*

Respite Care Program for Medically
Fragile and Behaviorally/Emotionally
Challenged Children in Mesa County

How The Respite Program Works

What Is The Respite Care Workforce?

The Respite Care Workforce is a group of caring people dedicated to helping families in need of support services. The Workforce includes representatives from the following Western Slope organizations:

- Mesa Developmental Services
- CSU Cooperative Extension, Child Care Resource and Referral
- Center for Independence
- Early Childhood Connections
- Mesa County Department of Human Services
- Mesa County Health Department/HCP

Funded in part by:



Accessing Services

Families who have children with special needs age birth to 21 can contact Mesa Developmental Services at 243-3702, extension 135 for information regarding community resources for respite care.



After Qualifying ...

Upon qualification, you will receive an orientation packet.

- A list of pre-trained and qualified providers to best meet your child's special needs will be made available to you. Respite providers are trained in several general care and specialty areas including CPR certification, First Aid certification and medication administration training. Select providers receive special training in caring for children with emotional/be-

havioral issues, children who are medically fragile and children with physical disabilities.

- Families will then meet with prospective respite providers to interview, select and establish a respite relationship.
- Once you have completed the funding request, it is reviewed by the allocation committee and then approved or denied. Because of limited funding, we allocate first to those families most in need.

You Choose Your Provider

It is the responsibility of the family to assess the quality and appropriateness of the respite care provider. We can provide information to help you with the hiring process and a list of providers. The Respite Care Workforce does not investigate, license, inspect or monitor the respite providers.

If you are interested in *becoming* a respite provider, please contact Darla Nelson at Mesa Developmental Services, 243-3702, extension 135