

# JCCCA

## Parent Page

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JCCCA  
Jefferson County Child Care Assn.  
P.O. Box 280853  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
[www.jeffcochildcare.org](http://www.jeffcochildcare.org)

Free Child Care Referrals  
303-696-8772

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## A Parent's Job Description

I have a 7 year old and a 13 year old which can make some of my days very challenging. During these trying times, I manage to find myself reading an article titled "A Parent's Job Description" taped to my refrigerator by Dr. Noel Swanson. While the article is not intended to magically make my children behave, it does help me put my attitude into prospective.

### *"Job Description*

Long term, team players needed for challenging permanent work in an often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities! Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

### *Responsibilities*

The rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in

three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf.



Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

***Possibility for Advancement and Promotion***  
None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that

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those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

**Previous Experience**

None required. On-the-job training offered on a continually basis.

**Wages and Compensation**

Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

**Benefits**

While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth and free hugs for life if you play your cards right.”

## Biology-It’s Not Just for Big Kids

Just recently, as a core requirement for college, I had to complete a science course. I could not remember the last time I performed a science experiment, I think it was to dissect a frog or sometime like that in high school. Science, as with math, tends to be forgotten once we receive our diplomas. I have recently been reminded that science is a natural and easy way to nurture and stimulate a child’s natural curiosity.

You don’t a degree in biology to introduce your child to science. Here is a simple and easy experiment which shows in colorful detail how plants consume water. Not only will he love watching the flowers change color as they drink the dyed water, he’ll also be developing skills in observation,

critically thinking and problem solving. This experiment encourages kids to ask questions and offer opinions on how it works.

**Materials**

Short drinking glasses

Water

Food coloring

White flowers such as carnations, daisies, or dahlias

Magnifying glass

1. Fill two glasses with 2/3 cup of water each. Have your child pour half a vial of food coloring into each glass and mix. Let him choose two colors so there's a different shade in each glass.
2. Place a flower in each glass. Trim the bottom of the stem so that the flower doesn't droop over the glass.
3. Ask your child to observe the flower with a magnifying glass. Within an hour, the veins of the stem will become colored by the food dye. The longer your child leaves the flower in the dyed water, the more color the flower will absorb.
4. Let him experiment with the placement of the flowers too. What happens if he leaves one on a windowsill? In a closet? Let him see that it's okay if the result isn't what he expects.

## Teaching Meal Time Manners

Eating together as a family is an important aspect of your baby's socialization. Learning to eliminate struggles over what and how much your child eats can make mealtime more pleasant.

Dining with a child can run the gamut from a pleasant tea party to feeding time at the zoo. In any case, eating together as a family, with the television turned off and other distractions at a minimum, is an

important aspect of socialization. If you keep in mind the cardinal rule of feeding children (your job is to fix it, and his job is to eat it), dinner will automatically become more pleasant. If you eliminate struggles over what your child is going to eat, how much he is going to eat, and how fast he is going to eat it, you may even find that he eats better. Encourage your child to be independent at the table, and then help her to succeed. Make sure food is presented in a form she can handle, and don't argue about what she does with it on her plate or how she gets it into her mouth. Finger feeding makes her feel competent and practicing with a spoon and a fork is even better. Most 18-month-olds can use a spoon competently; handling a fork comes soon afterward. At about the same time, your child will probably become more adept at drinking from a cup, but still keep a supply of cups with lids and spouts on hand.

## I See You!

The best things in life really are free. And when it comes to endless hours of fun, you can't beat a cardboard box. If you have a large empty box lying around why not turn it into a tunnel for a pint-size version of full-body peek-a-boo.

To make one, first find a large box and be sure there aren't any staples poking out. Tape three of the four flaps to either the inside or outside of the box, this helps support the structure, leaving 1 that can be lifted up by the child. Decorate it if you like (we used a little colored electrical tape). Now put your child's favorite toy inside to get her attention and let her practice scooting in and out of it. For added fun: Tape a fabric curtain over one or both ends of the box so your little crawler can really make a grand entrance.