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Arapahoe County provides toys for tots *Arapahoe County delivers toddler cars to Aurora child care facility*

Aurora, Colo. --- More than 50 children will have the opportunity to practice for the driver's license years before they can take the test. This week, Arapahoe County Commissioners Frank Weddig and Pat Noonan presented six toddler cars to the Cherry Grove Preschool where more than 50 percent of the students are from low-income families.

The cars were part of the toddler driving school activity at this year's Arapahoe County Fair and as part of the agreement, the cars will be donated to child care centers each year.

"While these cars will help build gross motor and balance skills for the children, they also symbolize the support of the new Investing in Quality Child Care program created by our Human Services department," said Commissioner Frank Weddig. "The quality improvement activities supported by this initiative ensure that children have the materials that they need to learn and thrive and that teachers have the needed training and in-classroom support to enhance their teaching skills."

Arapahoe County will also fund specific training and support for children's social-emotional development in addition to developmental screening and attention to children's health needs.

Staff are already imagining the new education possibilities of the toys. "We could create an area that allows the children to learn safe driving skills – lane use, following traffic signs, parking and more," said Cherry Grove Preschool owner Veronica Adames. "We are so thankful to the County for their support in early childhood education."

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To download photos click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/photos/>

Photo captions:

Group: Arapahoe County Commissioners Pat Noonan and Frank Weddig pose with teachers and kids from the Cherry Grove Preschool.

Pat& Toddler: Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan helps steer a young novice driver.