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WASHINGTON STATE
Department of
Children, Youth, and Families

Contact us for more information
about Early Achievers:
www.wa.childcareaware.org
1-866-416-4321

Published Quarterly

Upcoming Events:

WAEYC (Washington Association for the Education of Young Children
Oct. 25—27, 2018
Lynwood Convention Center
<http://www.waeycconference.org/>

Teaching Equity South Sound Conference
Dec. 1, 2018
Pierce College—Fort Steilacoom Campus
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=qmzqlrqab&oeidk=a07efnc0v4p6646683a>

Talking with Children & Youth About Race Workshop
Dec. 7, 2018
The 2100 Building, Seattle
<https://www.culturesconnecting.com/talking-with-children-youth-about-r>



Early Achievers News

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) recently announced some important Early Achievers items, and all of them could potentially benefit providers.

Needs-Based Grants

The first item is that Needs-Based Grants for the 2018-2019 fiscal year are now open. Eligibility requirements have not changed from prior years. Early Achievers participants are eligible for this one-time grant if they are either participating in Level 2 activities or have been rated Level 2, and they are either:

- Enrolled in the Tier 1 food program, or
- Live within a school district that serves at least 20% low-income children

Providers can submit their applications either online via the new WA Compass Provider Portal or on a paper application. Paper applications will only be accepted through the end of this year. Family home child care providers need to get a signature from their Child Care Aware of Washington Early Achievers coach prior to submitting their applications. Full details can be found online at <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/early-achievers/pre-rating>.

Electronic Time & Attendance

The second item is that the electronic time and attendance milestone for subsidy providers has been extended to Nov. 1, 2018. **There are additional deadlines.** Please see the article on page 3 and read all the details on DCYF’s website here <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/electronic-attendance-system>.

Accreditation Points

The third item is that DCYF has added the National Accreditation Commission (NAC) and AdvancED accreditations to the list of recognized accrediting bodies within Early Achievers. As of Sept. 16, 2018 (cohort 6), providers with current accreditation from either of these organizations will be eligible to receive the five accreditation points in Early Achievers and an Area of Specialization. Full details can be found online at <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ea/AccreditationFAQ2018.pdf>.

Rating Queues

The last item is in response to the increase in evaluation requests. Early Achievers has revised the rating queue process to better serve providers and ensure that all providers are able to meet their timeline requirements. There will now be two available cohorts at all times. There are a limited number of cohort slots in each region and they are filling up fast! If you accept subsidy and have a rating timeline, be sure to request an on-site evaluation as soon as you are ready.

Fall 2018 Inside This Issue:	
Early Achievers News	1
UW STEAM Trunks	2
Provider Spotlight	2
Substitute Pool	2
WA Child Care Business Edge	2
Electronic Time & Attendance	3
Providers & Families Can Be Advocates	3
New Provider Mentorship	3
Upcoming Events	4



STEAM Trunks—Free Early Math Materials

The Cultivate Learning team at the UW is doing STEAM Trunks again. A STEAM Trunk is a box of early math materials for early learners, combined with professional development. Providers can receive up to four free STEAM boxes if they participate in Cultivate's study that will investigate how math instruction changes when early learning educators receive professional development in early numeracy, materials and virtual coaching. Participating in the study involves teachers video recording themselves using the materials and uploading the videos to the Coaching Companion. This year coaches and providers are encouraged to sign up together. Email ctmag@uw.edu for more information.

Substitutes Available to Help Early Achievers Participants

The Imagine Institute runs the state substitute pool to support Early Achievers providers in their quality improvement work. Eligible providers can qualify to have a substitute for certain Early Achievers activities such as ERS and CLASS preparation, meeting with coaches and working on their file of supporting materials. To be eligible, Early Achievers providers must have served a child on subsidy within the last 12 months, be working toward a Level 3 rating and be in good licensing status. For full details, visit the Imagine Institute's website here: <http://imaginewa.org/find-a-substitute/>.

Provider Spotlight— Sandy Kelley, Kitsap Child Care & Preschool

Imagine leading a big construction project while at the same time running a large child care center serving up to 50 children and managing 11 staff. Sounds like a recipe for stress, but Sandy Kelley, executive director of the Kitsap Child Care & Preschool in Bremerton,



handled it all like a pro and got the project done in a way that invited the whole community to be a part of it. Now, their newly completed playground is the perfect place for hundreds of young children to learn and grow for years to come.

Sandy says the nonprofit Kitsap Child Care & Preschool was able to finance the huge project through a City of Bremerton grant. She also enlisted the support of the local United Way, as well as the help of families and friends. "Everybody got to be a part of it," she said.

In a way this sums up the way Sandy feels about early learning. The best part of being in this field is "the sense of community that you get...it honestly takes a village...children need a village in order to grow up the best way possible."

Kitsap Child Care & Preschool has been participating in Early Achievers since the very beginning, back when it was still a pilot program. Since then it has reaped the benefits of participating and has steadily improved quality. "Early Achievers is helping different programs all reach the same goal—providing quality care for children and families," she said.

One of the things she likes best about Early Achievers is all of the resources providers get to help them learn how to make their early learning spaces the best they can be. The ECERS and ITTERS guides (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale and Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale) are very important, she said, and help guide her program and others on how to make sure early learning spaces are ideal for the children in their care. Sandy also said that the Child Care Aware of Washington Early Achievers coaches "are really great people" who genuinely care about each provider and the children they serve.



Did you know? Edge Can Help You With Your Small Business Tasks

Washington Child Care Business Edge (Edge) is an online portal that provides free one-stop shop access to a wide range of tools, resources, tips, discounts, templates, printables and more. It will help providers manage administrative tasks for their small business and save valuable time. Sign up for free at <https://www.childcarebizedge.org>.

Electronic Time & Attendance Update

The new electronic time and attendance rules for providers who accept children on state subsidies went into effect July 1. So far, most providers are either already participating or have completed the training and are ready to start using it soon. While the rules went into effect July 1, the timeline has been updated to ensure providers have more time to access the tools and resources they need to gain additional confidence and skill using the new system. **The deadline for all subsidy providers to begin using electronic time and attendance is Nov. 1, 2018.** Providers that choose to not move to electronic time and attendance will not be able to bill for subsidy children after Dec. 31, 2018. You can review all of the latest information and timeline on DCYF's website here: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/electronic-attendance-system>.

Using electronic time and attendance will cut down on time spent on paperwork and reduce billing and payment errors. Many providers and parents are reporting that using the new electronic system is easier than they expected. DCYF has a brochure available for parents in English, Spanish and Somali. You can find it online here: https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/EAS_Brochure_Families.pdf



Providers and Families Can Be Their Best Advocates

Surprising as it might sound, most elected officials want to hear from the people they represent. Hearing from their constituents is one of the best ways for representatives to know what issues are most important in their districts.

The 2019 state legislative session is expected to be very important for child care and early learning. Stories and data about the difficulties thousands of families face trying to find and afford high-quality child care are gaining mainstream news coverage across the state and the country. State agencies are beginning to take notice of the difficulties providers are facing due to reimbursement rates that are way too low. Businesses are beginning to realize they too have a stake in the child care field. And, more women and mothers are being elected to public office.

So exactly how can providers and families make themselves heard in Olympia? It can be as easy as making a phone call to the legislative hotline at **1-800-562-6000**, where you can leave a voicemail message that will be forwarded to your elected legislators. The hotline is open M-F 8:30-4:30. Or it can be as simple as emailing your representatives. Simply visit <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/> to find your representatives, visit their web pages and submit an email.

Another way to be heard these days is to write an old-fashioned hard copy note and mail it. The rise of email has made hand-written notes rare and legislators have been known to carry these notes to important meetings and hearings and share them with other representatives. You can find U.S. mail addresses on legislators' web pages.

Imagine Institute Mentoring Program

Do you know someone interested in becoming a licensed family child care provider in WA? If so, the Imagine Institute has a new program to help get new family providers licensed and ready to serve children in their communities. It's called Imagine U. It is a mentorship program that pairs experienced, licensed family child care providers with those considering becoming licensed. The peer-to-peer program is already working to increase the supply of family home child care programs in our state. Once a new provider is officially licensed and launched, both the new provider and the mentor are eligible for cash incentives. Find out more at <http://imaginewa.org/imagine-u-mentor-program/>

Stay Connected!

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CCA of WA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Child-Care-Aware-of-Washington-149636987661/>

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