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Upcoming Events:

University of Washington Early Achievers Institute
Oct. 18—20, 2019
Red Lion Kennewick, Columbia Center, Kennewick
<https://cultivatelearning.uw.edu/institutes-training/>

Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) Conference
Oct. 24—26, 2019
Lynwood Convention Center
<http://www.waeyc.org/?fbclid=IwAR1EGuK5nVQQ3y5oY-0AEqsH7Is8IZWIPORxGxbUcVRR06FuyI0ltARb8i0>

School's Out Washington Bridge Conference
Oct. 28—29, 2019
Hyatt Regency Lake Washington, Renton
<https://www.schoolsoutwashington.org/products/bridge-conference-2019>



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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Contact us for more
information about Early
Achievers:
<https://childcareawarewa.org>
1-866-416-4321

Published Quarterly



Early Achievers News

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) recently made some great updates to Early Achievers. Among the highlights are a new Early Achievers Level 3+ rating, delivery of Quality Improvement Awards a month sooner and allowing ECEAP providers 24 months to rate a Level 4, instead of 12 or 18 months. Visit DCYF's website for full details on all of updates at <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ea/EA-SummerUpdate.pdf>.

Another update was increasing the tiered subsidy reimbursement rates for Early Achievers participants. The new increases are:

Early Achievers Levels	Family Child Care	Center Care
2	2%	2%
3	12%	8%
4	17%	15%
5	20%	20%

Did you know Early Achievers ratings expire after three years? They do. To keep your Early Achievers rating current, make sure you submit your request for on-site evaluation before the third anniversary date of your first rating. If you need help determining when your Early Achievers rating expiration date is, or what to do if you need to request an one-time, hardship extension, please connect with your Child Care Aware of Washington Early Achievers coach or email the QRIS inbox at QRIS@dcyf.wa.gov.

The 2019-2020 Needs-Based Grants are now available! These grants help providers increase program quality by supporting the purchase of curriculum development, instructional materials, supplies, focused infant toddler improvements and equipment and environment improvements. Eligible Early Achievers participants can apply for the grants of up to \$1,000. Applications must be completed and submitted through [WACompass](#), unless a provider's primary language is Spanish or Somali. Family Child Care providers must have their CCA of WA Early Achievers coach sign their applications. Starting in January 2020, providers rated Level 3 and higher can apply for a grant. (In the past only providers rated Level 2 or participating in Level 2 activities could apply.) Rated Level 2 providers or those that are participating in Level 2 can apply now. For complete details and for Spanish and Somali applications, please visit <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/early-achievers/pre-rating>. For questions, contact needs.basedgrants@dcyf.wa.gov.

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Free Job Postings With Washington Child Care Business Jobs

Providers can post open positions for free on Child Care Aware of Washington's new job posting platform, Washington Child Care Business Jobs. Open positions are posted on its child care-focused job board and nine other sites. The free service is part of Washington Child Care Business Edge, and both are free for Early Achievers participants. Interested job seekers do not need to be Edge users to see and apply for jobs.

Both Edge and Business Jobs are powered by Child Care Aware of Washington and funded by DCYF. You can find them both here: <https://www.childcarebizedge.org>.



Our Advocacy Action Center Makes Raising Your Voice Easy

CCA of WA's online advocacy Action Center helps you email your legislators quickly and easily from your mobile device. You can sign up for Action Alerts so you will always know when your voice is needed on important child care issues. <https://childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/take-action/>

Provider Spotlight — Delia Padilla, Family Child Care, Chelan

When someone you work closely with says they have never seen so much happiness as in your child care program, you know you're doing many things right. And that's just what CCA of WA's Early Achievers coach says when she describes Delia Padilla's family child care program in Chelan.

Delia has been in the child care field for more than 30 years and she has never expelled a child. She believes in always learning the latest research and strives every day to make sure her children have high-quality care. According to her coach, so does her husband Hector who assists with the child care. Delia joined Early Achievers in 2012 and has rated a Quality Level of Excellence.

Her love and concern for the children in her care really shows. Many of the children have kept in touch with her over the years as they have grown. She's been invited to some of their high school graduations. Among her child care alumni are a teacher, a doctor and an engineer.

Delia says one of the best things about Early Achievers is the support she gets in helping the children be ready for kindergarten, and learning about new things, like STEM, to teach the children.

Another part of Early Achievers that Delia appreciates is learning how to teach children about different cultures and diversity through play. She says she tells the parents about all she has learned through Early Achievers and they appreciate it too.



Child Care Aware of Washington's Online Child Care Search Is New & Improved

Child Care Aware of Washington has improved our free, online child care search. Now parents can easily search for child care on their mobile devices. This means more parents will be searching for child care at CCA of WA, so make sure your listing with us is current. Contact your regional CCA of WA office if you want to update it. <https://childcareawarewa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Provider-Update-Contact-Information.pdf>

Also, please share our free online child care search information with families that you know are looking for care. If your program is full and you have a waitlist, it's nice to have a resource available for families who still need to find care soon. <https://childcareawarewa.org/families/> or 1-800-446-1114



Washington Child Care Business Edge to Get Great Improvements

Washington Child Care Business Edge, the free online portal to help Early Achievers providers with their small business tasks, is being upgraded later this month. This means even more great tools and resources, plus an easier-to-navigate website. And yes, all the great discounts and free printables will continue to be available.

To make sure you don't lose access, make sure to log in once the upgraded site is ready. You'll receive an email letting you know it's time. Then just log in and reset your password. When you do, you'll be entered into a contest to win some great prizes, because we know you're busy and don't have a lot of free time. In the meantime, visit Edge any time to make it easier to manage the business side of your child care small business.

<https://www.childcarebizedge.org>



30 YEARS
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trusted child care resource

Child Care Aware of Washington is celebrating our 30th anniversary as Washington's most trust child care resource. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in your child care small business. Together we are bringing high-quality child care to thousands of Washington children and families.

CCA of WA Services for Families With Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

What would you say to a parent who shared with you that they are newly homeless and must pull their child from your program? With so many families experiencing homelessness across our state, it is possible this could happen to a family you know.

Luckily, CCA of WA's Family Center can help. We help families navigate the Homeless Grace Period child care program, sponsored by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. We help find licensed child care at zero cost to families for up to four months.

Find out more so you will be ready if you ever need to help a family in crisis. <https://childcareawarewa.org/services-for-families-experiencing-homelessness/>

Get the Facts—DCYF's Online WAC FAQ Tool

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families has created a simple-to-use online tool that has answers to hundreds of questions asked by providers, licensors and coaches, in order to help Washington's child care providers understand the updated WACs that went into effect in August.

The WAC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is organized by standard area to help make finding answers simpler. The categories include Child Outcomes, Family Engagement and Partnerships, Interactions and Curriculum, Environment and more.

DCYF plans to continually update this tool with additional questions and answers. Visit <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/standards-alignment/faq> to give it a try.

Stay Connected!

Follow us on social media to stay on top of all of the latest Early Achievers news.

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

CCA of WA on Instagram at [wachildcarematters](https://www.instagram.com/wachildcarematters)

CCA of WA on Twitter: [@childcarewa](https://twitter.com/childcarewa)

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