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Welcome Deeann Puffert—New CEO of CCA of WA



Child Care Aware of Washington has a new chief executive officer. Deeann Puffert, formerly CEO of Child Care Resources in Seattle, brings to us nearly 35 years of experience in serving children, youth, families and child care providers. She has worked tirelessly to expand access to high-quality early learning opportunities for all children and families in Washington.

Upcoming Events:

Have a Heart for Kids Day

Tues. Jan. 28
Washington State Capitol, Olympia
<https://childrensalliance.org/HHKD2020>

Bellingham Tech. College Focus on the Children

Sat. Feb. 1
Bellingham Technical College
<https://www.btc.edu/CurrentStudents/StudentResources/focus.asp>

Connections Conference

Sat. March 21
Skagit Valley College
<https://www.skagitconnectionsconference.com/>

Carousel Early Learning Conference

Sat. April 18
Aberdeen

Registration Opens in March

Child Care Resources’ Spring Child Care Conference

Sat. April 18
Shoreline Community College
<https://conta.cc/39SEgPG>



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Contact us for more
information about Early
Achievers: [https://
childcareawarewa.org](https://childcareawarewa.org)

1-866-416-4321

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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



CHILD CARE AWARE OF WASHINGTON
EARLY ACHIEVERS NEWS



WASHINGTON
EARLY ACHIEVERS
PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Volume 4, Issue 4

Early Achievers News

Everyone at Child Care Aware of Washington congratulates and applauds all Early Achievers participants who worked with great dedication to the families they serve to meet the important Early Start Act December 31, 2019 milestone. Your efforts and commitment are helping to power Washington’s economy by allowing parents to work while their children receive the high-quality care and early education they need to be ready for kindergarten and beyond. We thank you and celebrate you!

Here’s the latest Early Achievers news:

Needs-Based Grants in 2020

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families has opened Needs-Based Grants to Early Achievers providers rated 3, 3+, 4 and 5 through June 30, 2020. Providers that are participating in and rated Level 2 are also still able to apply. The maximum grant amount is \$1,000. Please visit <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/early-achievers/pre-rating> for complete details. Questions can be directed to dcyf.needsbasedgrants@dcyf.wa.gov.

Substitutes for Early Learning Providers

Eligible family home providers have access to five full days (10 hours per day) of paid substitute coverage July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and five full days (10 hours per day) of paid substitute coverage July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

As a licensed family home child care provider, you can use up to five full days of substitute coverage for the following:

- Early Achievers activities
- Personal illness or illness of a loved one
- Professional Development
- Holiday leave
- Personal time off

Arranging substitute coverage requires that you have a child on Working Connections, Seasonal or Child Welfare subsidy currently attending, complete a facility orientation and submit a Facility Agreement. Providers can email subpool@imaginewa.org for answers to questions.

Important Information About the 2020 Census

One of the most under-counted populations in the U.S. Census is very young children. Did you know that federal money flows to states, counties and cities based upon population as counted in the census? That’s why it is important to make sure all infants, toddlers and young children are counted so each region gets the funding it needs to help make sure that all of our country’s children have what they need to grow and thrive.

Winter 2020
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It's Time to Advocate!

CCA of WA's Advocacy Action Center makes raising your voice easy. The online tool helps you email your legislators quickly and easily from your mobile device. Plus, 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/>

Focus on Child Care as an Economic Necessity

CCA of WA's new CEO Deeann Puffert recently participated in a Puget Sound Business Journal Thought Leader conversation in Seattle about the importance of child care to our economy. The event also featured former state representative Kristine Reeves (who championed child care in the state legislature and is now running for Congress in the 10th District), Amy Anderson, government affairs director at the Association of Washington Business, and Jasmine Donovan, president of Dick's Drive-In.

Look for the Child Care Thought Leader section in the Business Journal in late January.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/>



Provider Spotlight — Miranda Kirk, Rainbow School, Lakewood

For Miranda Kirk, opening her own home-based child care program is a dream come true. With a background in elementary school teaching and experience working at a child care center, she knew that for her “being around kids is the most joyful experience.” She wants to maintain the strong relationships she builds with each child and family. With her own home-based program she gets to watch the children in her care grow for however long their families need child care.

In order to help make her home-based child care a reality, Miranda, who holds a BA in child development, took businesses classes, got licensed and then joined Early Achievers just weeks after opening. “I’m just really grateful there are some quality standards out there. They identify what is best practice for kids,” she said.

One of the remarkable things about Rainbow School is that it is a vegan program. She and her life partner and teaching assistant Jacob Holloman provide breakfast, lunch and two snacks each day. The children in their care have “one-hundred percent freedom to choose what they eat,” Miranda said. If a child doesn’t like a certain food, they find a substitute food that the child does like. Plus, each week they hold “Baking Fridays” where they cook and bake together and learn about food and measuring.

Rainbow School just opened this past September, so it is not yet rated in Early Achievers, though Miranda is looking forward to being rated. She describes herself as an advocate for children and believes that Early Achievers “is putting Washington at the forefront of what’s best for children.”



Get the Facts—DCYF's Online WAC FAQ Tool

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families has an easy-to-use online tool that answers hundreds of questions asked by providers, licensors and coaches about the August 2019 WACs. The WAC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) tool is organized by standard area to help make finding answers simple. 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 find answers to your WAC questions.

CCA of WA Services for Families With Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Did you know there are more than 30,000 children under age six experiencing homelessness in our state? Sadly, there are.

Attending high-quality child care has been shown to help reduce the traumatic impact that many children experiencing homelessness face. A steady routine in an enriching early learning environment, nutritious food, a loving early educator and plenty of opportunities to play with peers all help to mitigate the effects of the family crisis. Plus, the adults in these families have time to stabilize their situations by attending appointments and other opportunities without having to worry about their children.

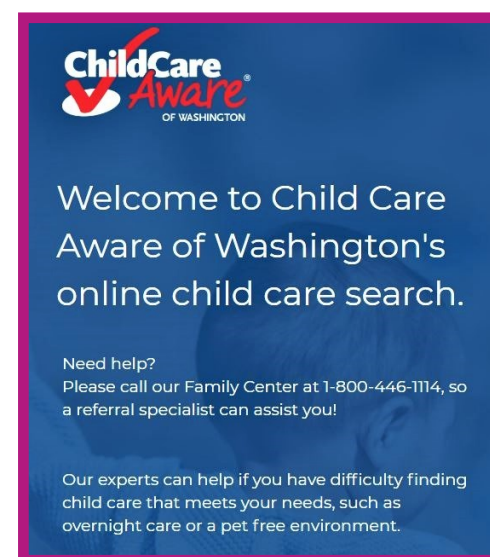


Our Family Center helps families with young children who are experiencing homelessness find child care at no cost for up to four months. Learn

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

Child Care Aware of WA's Online Child Care Search — Washington's Most Trusted Child Care Resource

We upgraded our online child care search last year, making it easy for families to search for child care from their phones. We still only include licensed and/or regulated child care programs in our database, so families have peace of



CCA of WA's improved child care search can be found online at <https://childcareawarewa.org/families>

mind that their program is regulated and operating legally. Our child care search is free to everyone—free to families who are searching for child care and free to licensed and/or regulated child care programs to be included. This means our search is unbiased and we don't promote a program simply because it has paid a hefty price for a fancy listing.

It is important to 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>

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 this child care-focused job board and eight 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>.



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)

CCA of WA on Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/CCAofWA>