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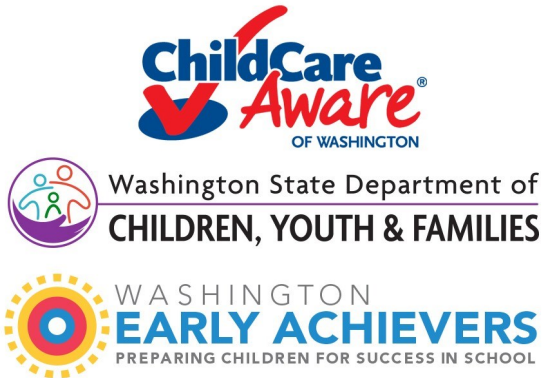
Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Contact us for more  
information about Early  
Achievers: [https://  
childcareawarewa.org](https://childcareawarewa.org)  
1-866-416-4321

Published Quarterly

Resources:

- DCYF resources for child care and early learning programs—<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/early-learning>
- Resources for child care small businesses—[https://  
childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-  
child-care-providers-do/](https://childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/)
- Questions & Answers about COVID-19 impacts on child care, licensing, subsidies and more—[https://  
www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19)
- Multiple state resources and links—[https://  
coronavirus.wa.gov/](https://coronavirus.wa.gov/)
- Resources for talking with children about racism—[https://  
childcareawarewa.org/resources-for-talking-with-children-  
about-racism/](https://childcareawarewa.org/resources-for-talking-with-children-about-racism/)



EARLY ACHIEVERS NEWS

We acknowledge these are very difficult times. Families are facing incredible stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts, as well as continuing heartbreak and the injustice of systemic racism and police brutality. Child care providers are facing daily challenges in keeping children, families and staff safe while also trying to make ends meet financially.

We see you. We are here to support you and the families you serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your coach for support, resources and assistance in meeting your program’s needs. If you need resources for talking with children about racism, we have posted a list of great, free resources here: <https://childcareawarewa.org/resources-for-talking-with-children-about-racism/>.

We are continuing to raise funds to purchase and ship the essential supplies you need. Please feel free to share the link to our fundraising page on your social media: <https://childcareawarewa.org/donate/>.

DCYF Supports:

- The Department of Children, Youth, and Families continues to post updated guidance, resources and links to recorded COVID-19 webinars on its website here: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/early-learning>.
- It also posts updated Early Achievers guidance online at <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/early-achievers>.
- Working Connections Child Care subsidy reimbursement base rates increased July 1. You can view the increased rates online here: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/subsidy>. These rates were passed in the 2020 state legislative session.
- DCYF last month distributed additional financial support to 3,670 open providers across the state via Child Care COVID-19 Grants. Grant amounts were based on licensed capacity and ranged from \$6,500 for small providers (those with less than 49 slots) to \$14,000 for large providers (those with more than 99 slots).
- Early Achievers data collection will continue to be on hold through the end of 2020.

Federal Update:

WA Sen. Patty Murray and other congressional members in the House and Senate, announced new legislation last month that could provide more funding to stabilize child care. The Child Care is Essential Act would allocate \$50 billion in direct grant funding to cover child care providers’ operating and COVID-19-related health and safety expenses. If you would like to advocate for this funding you can quickly and easily email your elected representatives here: [https://  
childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/take-action/](https://childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/take-action/).

Thank you for all you do for children and families.

Summer 2020 News to Use			
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## Food Banks at Colleges

Many providers who participate in Early Achievers benefit from higher education scholarships. During these difficult times we recognize that many people need help affording the basics like housing and food.

In Washington, people can dial 211 or visit <https://wa211.org/> for free resources nearby. Also, we've compiled a list of food banks at the colleges our scholars attend. You can find it online: English—<https://childcareawarewa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Food-Pantry-List-FINAL.pdf> Spanish—<https://childcareawarewa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Food-Pantry-List-Spanish-FINAL-1.pdf>

## Child Care Help for Families Experiencing Homelessness

This is an especially hard time to experience homelessness. Child Care Aware of Washington's Family Center helps families with young children who are experiencing homelessness find child care at no cost to them for up to one year.

Children who experience homelessness frequently live in unpredictable, chaotic circumstances, with disruptions in their environments and relationships. These experiences can impair their emotional, cognitive and behavioral development. Research shows quality child care can act as a buffer for young children against the harmful effects of toxic stress.

For more information, please visit us at <https://childcareawarewa.org/services-for-families-experiencing-homelessness/> or call 1-800-446-1114.

## Eradicating Racism is Long Overdue

We at Child Care Aware of Washington are outraged at the murder of George Floyd and denounce the actions of the Minneapolis police officers. We are angry that many peaceful protests against injustice have been marred by further police brutality and we condemn the continued use of violence on people of color.

Child Care Aware of Washington stands with families of color who face the long-lingering impacts of racism and police brutality, and each and every family who opposes white supremacy in all its forms. We remain committed to ensuring that all children and families, especially those who are furthest from opportunity because of systemized racism, have access to equitable, quality child care and early learning programs that shrink the opportunity gap and lead to families thriving economically.

Racism harms all children, mostly and inequitably, children of color. As an organization, we envision a world where children do not experience police brutality against black men as the norm. Institutional racism is unacceptable, has persisted for far too long and we must act. Child Care Aware of Washington pledges to examine our organization and our work and reflect on the ways we contribute to racism and the ways in which we must change. We commit to take action, share our plan with those we serve - families, child care providers, informal caregivers and our partners - and to be held accountable for our progress.

We thank each individual, organization and system who stands with us to say "No More," examines their biases and takes action against injustice. Children need our leadership, humility, compassion, honesty, courage and urgency now and always. Eradicating racism is long overdue.

*Deeann Burtch Poffert*

Child Care Aware of Washington, CEO

## Free Stress-Busting Posters

Child Care Aware of America and Vroom (<https://www.vroom.org/>) created two new, free printable posters to help child care providers and parents deal with the added stress the COVID-19 pandemic has created. They help identify common emotions and explain the brain science behind their recommended stress-busters. You can print them from here: [https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/CCAoA%20Vroom%20Emotions%](https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/CCAoA%20Vroom%20Emotions%20Posters.pdf)



## Provider Spotlight — Rebecca Parker, At A Child's Pace, Port Angeles

"It's so peaceful and normal here." This is perhaps the highest praise a child care provider can hear these days as everyone's lives have changed so dramatically in recent months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the parents of the children

Rebecca Parker cares for in her family home child care shared this relief with her recently. At first Rebecca didn't realize how nice that was to hear because to her, she and the children were simply having a routine day. She now realizes that amidst all of the upheaval and stress, a parent recognizing a peaceful and "normal" setting was really important. In many ways it's what families need most.

Rebecca has been both a family home provider and a center director for more than 20 years. Her love of direct interaction with children and the connections with families has led her to continue her family program and keep it open throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Some of her families are essential workers, including healthcare workers and a paramedic. When Gov. Inslee issued our state's stay-home order, some of her families no longer needed care, so she opened to serve school-agers, some of whom she cared for when they were younger. Despite the challenges of caring for multiple ages in a single space, some of whom need a quiet place for distance-learning, she's glad she was able to keep working.

Her families "were really, really grateful that I stayed open," she said. "They wouldn't have been able to work in the community and fulfill their duties" if she had closed. Rebecca even took extra steps to help keep busy parents in healthcare and a first responder feeling connected to their children throughout the day by taking photos and videos for them and facilitating FaceTime chats. "They were very grateful to have that connection."

Rebecca credits staying open with helping her keep a sense of normalcy during the crisis. As a single parent with multiple generations living under her roof she's learned that a sense of humor is very helpful, as is staying flexible. "You can't really plan anything. You have to take it day by day."

## 2020 WAEYC Conference Will Be Virtual

The Washington Association for the Education of Young Children announced last month that this year's conference will be an online virtual event. A date has not yet been decided upon, but it will likely happen in the fall. Conference organizers are accepting proposals for presenters. You can submit a proposal and learn more here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-waec-call-for-proposals-tickets-108884454334>.

## Washington Child Care Business Edge Is Better Than Ever

Washington Child Care Business Edge, the free online resource to help Early Achievers providers streamline their small business tasks, is new and improved. We've recently added some budgeting tools to help you determine your best financial path forward and new templates for updating your parent handbooks. Plus, Edge still provides great discounts on things like cleaning and office supplies.

Visit Edge any time to make it easier to manage the business side of your child care small business. <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>