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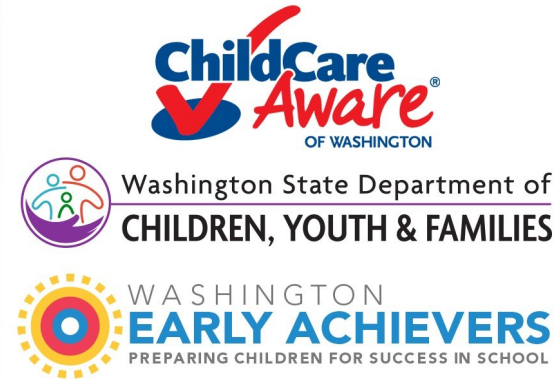
Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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

Published Quarterly

Resources:

- Resources for Supporting Providers, Families and Children After the violence in Washington, D.C.— [https://
childcareawarewa.org/2021/01/11/resources-for-child-care-
providers-and-families-supporting-each-other-after-the-attack-
on-our-capitol/](https://childcareawarewa.org/2021/01/11/resources-for-child-care-providers-and-families-supporting-each-other-after-the-attack-on-our-capitol/)
- 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/>
- 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

Volume 5, Issue 4

Winter 2021

Early Achievers News

Happy New Year! As we begin this new year full of opportunity and hope, we want to acknowledge that these are challenging times. After 10 months of navigating the uncertainty and stress caused by the pandemic, we know child care providers should be celebrated for all they have done to keep so many families out of poverty. Your hard work and creativity allowed thousands of working parents to keep their paychecks coming in- You have provided young children with fun ways to learn, even while practicing physical distancing, wearing face masks and, for many of you, helping school -age children learn remotely. **Simply put, you are amazing and we thank you!**

You have probably heard about some great revisions coming soon for Early Achievers. The revisions, in development now, will give participants more flexibility and choices about your site’s quality recognition and your continuous quality improvement goals. Coaching from Child Care Aware of Washington will continue to be available, and you can even share input on the revisions with your coach. Provider input and racial equity are driving many of the revisions, and providers will continue to have opportunities to give feedback moving forward.

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) has a new Early Achievers web page for the revisions work where providers and families can find links for providing input. [https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-
learning-providers/early-achievers/cqi](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/early-achievers/cqi) This is the best resource for everything regarding the revisions, including provider webinar information where you can get the latest updates.

The revised Early Achievers framework will allow for video-based virtual data collection. Coaches will be available to assist providers with videos when needed. In the updated system, the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) will continue to be useful tools for coaches to use to guide developmentally appropriate practice and continuous quality improvement, but they will not be used as part of quality recognition and rating. Both provide a strong foundation for quality early learning practices that help young children gain the early skills they need for future learning.

An early adopters phase for the newly revised Early Achievers will begin this spring , and full rollout is expected in July.

Winter 2021 News to Use

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COVID-19 Resources

Resources continue to be available to help small businesses, including child care small businesses, weather the ongoing economic impacts of the pandemic.

Resources include grants, federal and state loan programs, increasing internet access, help with utility payments and more. Visit <https://childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/> to find out what is available to help your program stay open.

Washington Child Care Business Edge Is Better Than Ever

Child care providers have never had a lot of free time. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, they have had even less. That is why providers need an edge when it comes to managing their small business tasks. Washington Child Care Business Edge is a free online resource that helps Early Achievers providers streamline these tasks and save time.

It's full of easy-to-use budgeting tools, links to important information, free templates, printables and more. Plus, Edge still provides great discounts on things like cleaning and office supplies. You can request an individualized tour via email to ChildCareAware@wa.childcareaware.org.
<https://www.childcarebizedge.org>



2021 Washington State Legislative Session

There's a lot at stake in this year's state legislative session. The two-year budget will be set, and because revenues are down due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, legislators are looking for ways to reduce spending.

Child Care Aware of Washington is ready, as always, to advocate on behalf of all licensed child care providers in Washington, as well as for Family, Friends and Neighbor caregivers who often play an important role in child care plans.

Child care providers and parents have a vital role to play in advocacy too. In fact, providers and parents are the people legislators most want to hear from. We have made it easy for you to let your elected representatives in Olympia know how important child care is to families, employers, communities and our overall economy. Visit us online at <https://childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/> to learn more about raising your voice in support of strengthening Washington's child care system, and link to our Advocacy Action Center where you can email your representatives in minutes.



Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Trang Le from ReStart WA with a young child at the arrival of the new masks.

Millions of Child-Size Face Masks for Children in WA

Child Care Aware of Washington is one of the recipients of an amazing donation of more than one million child-size face masks for Washington children. The donation comes from the Millions of Masks for Children Initiative, a growing nationwide effort to get child-size masks to millions of children.

The face masks began arriving in Washington last month and have been/are being distributed to providers in every region of WA. If you have not yet received any, please connect with your coach.

This project was envisioned by Trang Le, board observer for ReStart WA and volunteer with SmartAID, who saw the need and reached out to a leading global supplier of personal protective equipment (PPE), FLTR Pure Protection in Bellevue. Other companies generously donated time, transportation and other support, including DHL Shipping and SEKO Logistics.

School's Out Washington, Seattle Children's Hospital and other nonprofit organizations have received some of the face masks too.

If you are interested in learning more about this great endeavor, see KING 5 News coverage at <https://vimeo.com/486661136>.



Provider Spotlight—Kings Way Christian Learning Center, Vancouver

For many families, child care providers are like extended family. That's true for the families who rely on Kings Way Christian Learning Center in Vancouver, Director Lynette McHenry said. That's why witnessing the difficulties "her" families have been facing during

the pandemic has been so hard. "It's been really challenging for people."

The child care center has stayed open since the pandemic began because "being open gave people options," she said. Her program frequently surveys parents so they can better manage staffing in both the short and long-term. They also received a federal Paycheck Protection Program loan, which allowed Lynette to keep paying her staff even when they were home.

"We really need to take care of our staff," she said, adding that she held a "You're a Hero" day for them in August, and gave everyone who worked March – August an extra week of vacation. These special extras helped build staff resilience.

UW Study of Child Care Center Teachers

University of Washington researchers are studying the work, stresses and health of center-based child care teachers. As part of this work they are conducting an online survey of providers. The UW is sending invitations to center-based teachers to take the survey via the email address they have in MERIT. All center-based teachers who worked for any length of time in 2020 are encouraged to take the survey, which will take 30 – 40 minutes to complete. As an incentive, survey-takers will be entered into a raffle for prizes that include two gift cards worth \$500, 20 gift cards worth \$100 and more. The survey is available in English and Spanish. Questions? Contact ecehealthstudy@uw.edu.

Business of Child Care Training & Brightwheel

Child Care Aware of Washington is partnering with Brightwheel, a child care management service, to offer providers in our Business of Child Care course a one-year paid subscription to Brightwheel's all-in-one child care management app. The app allows providers to manage attendance, billing, enrollment, parent communication and more from one app via smartphone, tablet or computer. Brightwheel is approved by DCYF for use by child care programs that accept child care subsidies.

Our hope is that providers who participate in the Business of Child Care course and use the app experience reduced time spent on administrative tasks and increased engagement with families. Contact your coach for more information.

Child Care Help for Families Experiencing Homelessness

With cases of COVID-19 surging again, 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 highly stressful, unpredictable situations that can harm their emotional, cognitive and behavioral development. Research shows that quality child care can help mitigate these negative impacts in young children because they provide nurturing, safe early learning environments, predictable routines, good nutrition and plenty of opportunities for young friendships.

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

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>