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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

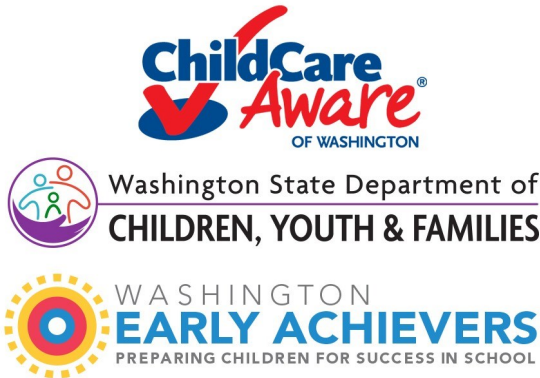
Published Quarterly

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/>
- 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/)

Events:

- Yakima Herald Town Hall featuring Child Care Aware of Washington
CEO Deeann Burtch Puffert, 6 pm April 29—[https://zoom.us/
meeting/register/tJEkdumuqD4qH9NEzV3FbQaaWn8qredVtMFo](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkdumuqD4qH9NEzV3FbQaaWn8qredVtMFo)
- Early Achievers Institute, May 13—15—[https://
cultivatelearning.uw.edu/institutes-training/](https://cultivatelearning.uw.edu/institutes-training/)



Volume 6, Issue 1

EARLY ACHIEVERS NEWS

Spring 2021

Early Achievers News

As we welcome spring our hearts are grateful for Washington’s incredible child care providers. Your creativity, dedication and devotion to young children and their families have enabled thousands of parents to continue working during the pandemic, allowing them to serve their communities and keep their paychecks coming in.

We also thank you for adapting to virtual coaching so our early learning coaches could continue to serve you during these difficult times. Did you know our coaches made 218,083 connections with providers from March 2020 to March 2021? Those vital connections helped sustain our child care system so that now, as we begin to emerge from the depths of the pandemic thanks to new vaccines, thousands of Washington’s providers are still in business. Though we are saddened that some providers had to close, we remain hopeful that staff from those programs can find opportunities with other providers so they can continue their important work with young children.

Meanwhile, work on the Early Achievers revisions continues at the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, the University of Washington’s Cultivate Learning and Child Care Aware of Washington. Together with your important feedback and input, along with input from our coaches, the revisions will make Early Achievers more provider-driven and more equity-focused. Great new tools and resources are being created for providers, and coaches are being trained on how previous Early Achievers work crosswalks to the revisions.

New Early Achievers revisions webinars will be coming soon for providers, so make sure read emails from DCYF and stay in touch with your coach for dates and times. Look for opportunities to provide input on the revisions work online at <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/early-achievers/cqi>. An early adopters program for providers who want to participate in the initial rollout of the revisions will start this spring, and full rollout is expected this summer.

In other Early Achievers news, get ready for the next Early Achievers Institute from Cultivate Learning May 13—15. The virtual event is free and open to all licensed providers and coaches. Learn more in the article on page 2.

Spring 2021 News to Use

Volume 6, Issue 1

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Yakima Herald Special Focus on Child Care

The Yakima Herald recently launched a special section devoted to child care and its impact on children's education, families and the economy in Central Washington and beyond. The project is lead by reporter Janelle Retka, who has covered education in Cambodia and Yakima. "I've come to understand the importance of early learning and young brain development for children," she says, noting the importance of child care to whole communities.

https://www.yakimaherald.com/special_projects/growth_gap/

Business of Child Care Training & Brightwheel

CCA of WA is helping providers learn how to run a successful small business through our Business of Child Care course and a partnership with Brightwheel, a child care management system. Participating providers can receive 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 the app. (Brightwheel is approved by DCYF for use by child care programs that accept child care subsidies.) Contact your coach for more information.



Holding Hope—New Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services



HOLDING HOPE
Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
Provided by Child Care Aware of Washington

Early Achievers participants are eligible for Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) services from CCA of WA. What are IECMHC services?

IECMHC supports the social and emotional well-being of children and adult caregivers, nurtures responsive relationships and can help with the early identification of social, emotional, behavioral and developmental challenges. Sometimes called social and emotional health, IECMHC partners mental health professionals with early childhood professionals to:

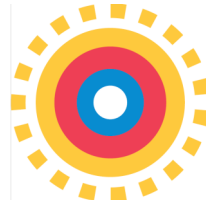
- Strengthen and support the efforts of families, child care providers and early childhood systems to promote the optimal social and emotional development of children, and
- Prevent, identify and reduce the impact of mental health challenges for children and families.

Contact your Early Achievers Coach for a referral to the consultant in your region.

Spring Early Achievers Institute—May 13-15

The University of Washington's Cultivate Learning will host a virtual Early Achievers Institute May 13-15. The theme this year is Nurturing the Nurturer, Cultivating Educator Wellness and Resilience.

This free event is open to all licensed providers and coaches. Session topics include mindfulness, music and meditation, how to de-clutter your physical space and vision-boarding. To register, visit <https://cultivatelearning.uw.edu/institutes-training/>.



Child Care Help for Families Experiencing Homelessness

Experiencing homeless during a pandemic is incredibly traumatic. CCA of WA's Family Center helps families with young children who are experiencing homelessness find child care at no cost 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.

Provider Spotlight—Julie Jaramillo, Julie's Loving Care, Mount Vernon

When Julie Jaramillo first began work to open her own home-based child care small business, she decided that children in her program would be happy to arrive and happy when they left. For the parents of children she would one day care for, she decided that "none of them are going to go to work crying" like she did when her youngest son attended child care. She says his tears when she dropped him off at child care are what inspired her to take the leap and open her own business.



Now, over 20 years later, she credits the love of what she does and the love she has for the children and families she cares for with helping to keep her going during the very difficult years she spent in treatment for lung cancer. She was first diagnosed in 2009 and soon the cancer spread to both lungs and her brain. At one point she had 40 brain tumors. She recalls almost having to quit, but instead chose to stay open so she could care for the little ones she loved and not "just sit in my room" feeling sad and scared, she said.

When the cancer came back in 2014, she made the same choice, and stayed open because she knew the parents of the children she cared for relied on her to make ends meet in their own lives. Caring for young children, she said, kept her busy so she didn't dwell on the battle she was facing.

Ultimately, it was a battle she won. She's been cancer-free for two years, and although she is still on chemotherapy, she says she feels well. She credits the incredible support of her family, her assistant, the parents in her program and her faith with seeing her through.

This past year being immune-suppressed during the pandemic has been especially challenging, but thanks to rigorous cleaning and safety procedures she's been able to stay open. Early in the pandemic she had only one child, but after about three months most returned. When most K-12 schools opened for remote learning only, she turned her dining room into a classroom for young students so their parents could continue to work. "I'm so happy to help them," she said, "because their parents were so stressed. They didn't know what they were going to do."



Child Care Provider Appreciation Day 2021

Child Care Provider Appreciation Day is May 7. Child care providers should be recognized, appreciated and celebrated like never before this year. We are looking forward to celebrating with you and would love to share special photos on this special day. Tag us on

Facebook @ChildCareAwareofWashington, or on Twitter @childcarewa, or email photos to marcia@childcareawarewa.org and we'll share the good vibes.

Washington Child Care Business Edge

Child care providers don't have time or money to waste. Washington Child Care Business Edge helps providers save both. It is a free online resource full of easy-to-use budgeting tools, links to important information, free templates, printables and more. Plus, Edge provides great discounts on things like cleaning & office supplies.

<https://www.childcarebizedge.org>



COVID-19 Resources

Resources continue to be available to help small businesses, including child care small businesses, get through these difficult times.

Resources include grants, federal and state loan programs, help with utility bills and more. Visit <https://childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/>.

Stay Connected!

Follow us 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

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