



Building the Education Continuum: Laying the Foundation with High Quality Early Learning

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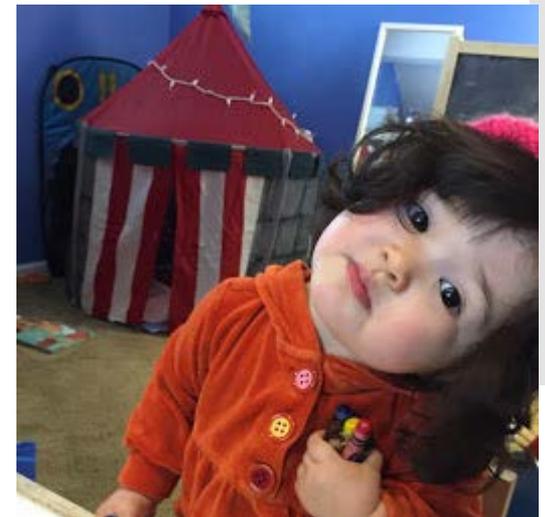
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What happens in the 2000 days before kindergarten matters

- ✓ 85% of brain development by age 5
- ✓ We can see the impacts of disparities in access to opportunity in the early years
- ✓ According to WaKIDS, only 47% demonstrate age characteristics expected of incoming kindergartners





2017 Legislative Agenda

Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed in school and in life, regardless of their race, ethnicity, geography, ability, or family economics. High-quality early learning is a strategy proven to give kids what they need to thrive. Investing in a great start for children yields returns for all of us: more successful schools, stronger families, and more self-reliant adults prepared to contribute to a robust economy.

Expand access to high-quality prekindergarten (ECEAP)

ECEAP helps kids furthest from opportunity arrive at Kindergarten ready to succeed. Grow access with new slots and make the investments in facilities and the rate-per-child necessary for a successful expansion.

Invest in the value that quality delivers in Working Connections Child Care

- Increase reimbursement rates for center based child care providers.
- Pass the collective bargaining agreement for family child care providers.
- Invest to maintain access by providing funding for all eligible families who apply.

Grow and retain a highly competent early learning professional workforce

Establish a stakeholder workgroup to develop recommendations to the legislature for addressing insufficient early learning educator compensation.

Support parents as their child's first teacher

- Sustain and expand home visiting.
- Enact Paid Family and Medical Leave.

Raise Revenue

New revenue is necessary to ensure a great start for our kids. New revenue for education should include new investments in early learning.

ECEAP Makes a Difference

- ✓ Serves WA's most vulnerable families
 - Under 110% FPL
 - Risk factors including; homelessness, involvement in child welfare, disabilities
- ✓ Nationally recognized for quality
- ✓ Long term benefits
 - Increased math and reading scores in 5th grade
 - WSIPP estimates return of \$4.75 for every \$1 invested in ECEAP

We Need to Invest in the Opportunity of ECEAP

- ✓ **Serve more kids:** Add slots to serve 2700 more children
- ✓ **Fund the cost of quality:** Increase the rate paid per slot by 12% so that programs can recruit and retain high quality staff
- ✓ **Facilities:** Invest \$26m in grants and loans for facilities to serve more children



**We Are
Growing
the Quality
of Child Care**

- ✓ *Early Achievers is built on the evidence of what gets outcomes for kids*
- ✓ *70% of licensed child care providers have joined Early Achievers*
- ✓ *The Early Start Act requires all providers receiving public funds to rate a level 3 by 2020*

We Need to
Fund the
Cost of
Quality

- ✓ Increase Working Connections
Child Care reimbursement rates
- ✓ Establish a technical workgroup
to develop recommendations for
increasing early learning provider
compensation

What You Can Do

Let lawmakers know that:

- ✓ We will not reach the outcomes we want in K12 and beyond if we wait to support kids until they are 5
- ✓ We need to invest in all stages of a child's education from early learning through higher education
- ✓ Any budget proposal that claims to fund education but short changes early learning is penny wise and pound foolish

Questions and Answers

