
 <p>Early Childhood Education &amp; Assistance Program Washington State Department of Early Learning</p> <p><a href="http://www.del.wa.gov/eceap">www.del.wa.gov/eceap</a></p>		<p><b>Reminders and Links</b></p> <p><b>February 2012</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:eceap@del.wa.gov">eceap@del.wa.gov</a></p>
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## Due Dates

- [Confidential Client Information Form \(optional\)](#)..... February 1
- [ECEAP Directors webinar](#)..... February 3
- Billing and monthly report for January services ..... February 15
- [Teaching Strategies GOLD survey](#) ..... February 17

## ECEAP Announcements

### DEL Can Help You Find Eligible Children **DUE TODAY!**

Annually, DEL provides ECEAP contractors with names and addresses of DSHS client families who have children who may be eligible for ECEAP. If you want to receive this family contact information:

- Sign and return the new non-expiring ECEAP-Head Start Confidential Client Contact Information Data Share contract that DEL issued in January.
- Send the [Request for Confidential Client Information form](#) to DEL by February 1.
- Send DEL a signed [nondisclosure form](#) for each person who will have access to this confidential information.

### ECEAP Directors Webinar

- February 3, 10 a.m. to noon
- Directors or their representatives must register in advance at [www2.gotomeeting.com/register/503685538](http://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/503685538).

Discussion items include the state budget and preschool legislation, the Early Learning Management System (ELMS), and the Teaching Strategies GOLD child assessment. You will receive log-in information and handouts by email at least 24 hours beforehand.

## Teaching Strategies GOLD Survey

For the 2012-13 school year, use of Teaching Strategies GOLD as the ECEAP child assessment is voluntary. All of ECEAP will use it in 2013-14. DEL is gathering important information to plan training and implementation. Between noon on February 3 and the end-of-day February 17, we request that one person for each ECEAP contractor complete the survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachingStrategiesGOLD](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TeachingStrategiesGOLD).

## **New** federal poverty limits

See the 2012 ECEAP income limits at

[www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/ECEAP\\_Income\\_Eligibility\\_Guidelines\\_2012.pdf](http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/ECEAP_Income_Eligibility_Guidelines_2012.pdf)

## ECEAP Self-Assessment

The [2012 ECEAP Self- Assessment form](#) is available. It has been updated with easier-to-use checkboxes and comment fields. Thank you to Joan at EPIC for her formatting suggestions. Remember to involve your staff and parents in your self-assessment process and email the form to [eceap@del.wa.gov](mailto:eceap@del.wa.gov) by **June 15, 2012**.

## ECEAP Performance Standards Revision

DEL is revising the ECEAP Performance Standards, to be effective for the 2013-14 school year. Our goals are to streamline the standards, make them easier to understand and align them with other state and national initiatives and current research. We will invite ECEAP contractors to participate at many points in this process. During the next six months, DEL staff will write the first draft, one section at a time. Please email your suggestions for changes to [eceap@del.wa.gov](mailto:eceap@del.wa.gov) by the following dates:

- **February 10:** Section F – Family Partnerships
- **March 2:** Section B – Eligibility, Recruitment, Prioritization, Enrollment & Attendance
- **April 6:** Section A – Administration
- **May 4:** Section C – Human Resources
- **June 1:** Section E – Early Childhood Education
- **July 6:** Section D – Health, Safety and Nutrition

Things to consider:

- What can be streamlined without affecting quality for children and families?
- What has been confusing? Any ideas for clear wording?
- What conflicts with your other requirements?
- What changes are needed to better align with your setting or community culture?

In Fall 2012, the first draft standards will be available for your review and comments.

### **Preschool Legislation**

House bill [2448](#) and Senate bill [6449](#) are similar bills that create the voluntary, universal Washington Preschool program, which would be available for all 3- and 4-year-olds by 2024-25. The bills also establish two subcommittees of the Early Learning Advisory Council, one to oversee Washington Preschool and one to continue program planning for children birth to age 3.

According to these bills, we would gradually transfer ECEAP slots to the new Washington Preschool program through 2024-25. The program would be built upon ECEAP standards, but will have 450 classroom hours per year and will phase in higher qualifications for teaching staff. It would be funded at a higher level to manage these requirements.

There are some untrue rumors about this bill:

- It will **not** move funding from the Working Connections Child Care subsidy.
- The new requirements will **not** apply to child care centers, family child care homes or independent preschools, unless they contract to offer the Washington Preschool program.

### **Foster Parents in ECEAP**

DEL is working closely with DSHS to encourage foster parents to enroll children in ECEAP and Head Start. Do you know a foster parent who would be willing to be interviewed about their experiences in the program? This would be part of an article in a newsletter that goes to all foster parents in the state. Please send names and contact information to [eceap@del.wa.gov](mailto:eceap@del.wa.gov).

### **Child Care Center WAC Revision**

The Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) and Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP (WSA) will host a meeting to collect input for the [new child care licensing rules](#) on February 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at WAEYC, 841 N. Central Ave #206 Kent, WA 98032. Participants will discuss how the current rules impact Head Start and ECEAP and suggested changes. Please [RSVP](#) as space is limited. Following this meeting, WSA, in partnership with the HSSCO, will prepare a draft letter to DEL outlining issues, proposed solutions and supporting research. A draft of this letter will be shared at the March WSA conference.

### **Uninsured Children**

The Department of Health and Human Services wants your suggestions to help enroll uninsured children in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). [Send](#) your ideas that cut through red tape, capitalize on technology, provide opportunities for families to sign up, focus on helping families renew their child's coverage, or suggest partnerships that help the enrollment efforts.

## Training Opportunities

*Click the hyperlinks for more information.*

### [Grow Better Kids - Preschool Series](#)

- February 16 – “Is This ADHD?": How To Tell And What To Do  
Free webinars from Dr. Patricia Nan Anderson

### [Conferences – Association for the Education of Young Children](#)

- February 4, Northwest AEYC Conference, Bellingham
- February 25, Eastern Washington, Kitsap, and Puget Sound AEYC Conferences

### [Special Education Conference](#)

- March 7-9, Shoreline  
National specialists present current research and evidence-based interventions.

[WSFCCA 2012 Spring Conference](#) presents “ooey gooey” – a silly name – a serious message about what it means to be a hands-on, play-based, child-centered program.

## Resources

*Click the hyperlinks for more information.*

[Classroom Activities](#) Lessons, activities, open explorations and learning games in math, science, language arts and more.

[Math](#) Lesson plans for preK – 2 math, including number & operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability.

[Playdough](#) Playing with playdough addresses early learning standards and promotes positive developmental outcomes for children.

[DailyTransitions](#) Realistic tips to help you reduce the amount of time children spend transitioning between activities.

[Playgrounds and Outdoor Environments](#) Ideas for transforming outdoor environments into inviting play spaces and gardens.

[Play and Playworkers](#) Play is the most important thing that children can do.

[Play and Children in Poverty](#) The American Academy of Pediatrics report on the importance of play and promoting healthy child development and maintaining a strong parent-child bond.

[Teaching Young Children](#) NAEYC magazine with resources for preschool educators.

[Obesity Prevention](#) New national standards describing evidence-based best practices in nutrition, physical activity, and screen time for early care and education programs.

[Medical Homes](#) Learn more about the national initiative to establish pediatric medical homes.

[Parental Depression](#) Strengthen your capacity for responding to parental depression.

[Incarcerated Parent](#) Meet the needs of children with an incarcerated parent.

[Early learning legislation](#) Weekly updates from the Department of Early Learning.

[Child Well-Being](#) How children are faring in the United States and [state rankings](#).

[Public Policy](#) NAEYC summary of early care and education public policy developments by state.

[Better Nutrition](#) The USDA has released the final standards for school lunch and breakfast programs.

### ***The Rights of the Child - Article 31***

- *...recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.*
- *...respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.*

From [The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - 1989](#)