

 <p>Washington State Department of Early Learning</p> <p>www.del.wa.gov/eceap</p>		<p>Reminders and Links</p> <p>January 2012</p> <p>eceap@del.wa.gov</p>
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Due Dates

- Billing and monthly report for December services.....January 15
- [ECEAP directors register for Directors webinar](#)January 27
- [Confidential Client Information Form \(optional\)](#)..... February 1

ECEAP Announcements

ECEAP Directors Webinar – REGISTER NOW!

- February 3, 10 a.m. to noon
- Directors or their representatives must register in advance at 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 by email. Plan to listen through your phone, by calling a long-distance number, or through your computer. If you want to speak, you cannot have your computer speakers turned on, but can use headphones or a headset.

Legislation

The Legislature conducted a 17-day special session that ended December 14. It passed a budget bill to save \$480 million of the projected \$2 billion shortfall in the 2011-13 operating budget. There were no changes to ECEAP during this special session. The regular legislative session begins January 9 and work on the budget will continue.

The Legislature will also consider a bill to support gradual implementation of a voluntary preschool program for all 3- and 4-year-olds whose families want to participate. ECEAP would be incorporated into this program. The bill also proposes a workgroup to develop plans for programs for children birth to age three. See the report of the early learning technical workgroups [recommendations for the preschool program](#).

DEL Can Help You Find Eligible Children

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

- By February 1, sign and return the new ECEAP-Head Start Confidential Client Contact Information Data Share contract that DEL will issue in early January.

By February 1, send the [Request for Confidential Client Information form](#) to DEL. DEL cannot fulfill requests that come in after February 1.

- By March 1, send DEL a signed [nondisclosure form](#) for each person who will have access to this confidential information.

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 by June 15, 2012.

NEW! Child Assessment in ECEAP

DEL is excited to announce that Teaching Strategies GOLD is the apparent successful bidder for the ECEAP Child Assessment. Please note that DEL reserves the right to select another proposal from those submitted if an executed contract is not agreed upon.

In October, DEL issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to choose and implement a statewide, observation-based, multi-domain child assessment tool to assess the development of 3- and 4-year-old children in ECEAP or its successor program. Three vendors submitted proposals. A review team of seven people from various backgrounds scored each proposal and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each.

In January 2011, DEL will collect information from current users of Teaching Strategies GOLD, by phone or email, to help guide contract negotiations. Please send names of people who would like to participate in this discussion to eceap@del.wa.gov.

DEL has not yet determined the phase-in plan for our ECEAP child assessment. We will post updates here in *ECEAP Reminders and Links* over the coming months. We anticipate training teachers and administrators on the assessment tool in the spring and fall of 2012.

Second Step Curriculum Kits and Replacement Materials

DEL still has used preschool [Second Step](#) curriculum kits and some partial kits. We also have some partial kits, so let us know if you are missing items from your existing kits such as *Impulsive Puppy* and *Slow Down Snail* puppets. Email us at eceap@del.wa.gov for whole kits or replacement parts.

Washington Raced to the Top!

Washington was recently awarded a [Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge](#) grant, which will bring up to \$60 million to our state over the next four years. The grant will help ensure all children start school ready to succeed. Thousands of children will benefit from improvements to our system to get children ready for kindergarten, from higher quality early learning environments and better prepared teachers and professionals.

The grant:

- Expands Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS).
- Funds Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) improvements.
- Funds incentives for participation in the state professional development system.

Governor Chris Gregoire visited DEL to acknowledge the collaboration that made the grant possible. She said, "The early years of a child's life are the most important. It is our responsibility to embrace, support, and nurture that understanding." DEL is excited to be a part of the challenge to make a difference!

Preschool Food Code Revision

The Department of Health (DOH) is holding informal public workshops to gather further comments on the draft of food safety regulations for preschools. The meetings will be at the following locations:

- January 11 – [Kittitas Valley Events Center](#), The Heritage Center, 512 North Poplar Street, Ellensburg, WA from 1 to 3 p.m.
- January 19 – [Dept. of Health - Point Plaza East](#), Rooms 152/153, 310 Israel Road NE, Tumwater, WA from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- January 24 – [Snohomish Health District](#), 1st Floor Auditorium, 3020 Rucker Avenue, Everett, WA from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- January 27 – [Spokane Regional Health District](#), Auditorium, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, WA from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Those who want to comment on the rule but can't attend one of these meetings can send comments to DOH via [email](#) or regular mail: Joe Graham, Dept. of Health, P.O. Box 47825, Olympia, WA 98504-7825

DOH will consider the comments and rewrite the draft regulations, then hold a formal public hearing at the State Board of Health meeting in June 2012.

Fall 2011 Enrollment Facts

ECEAP enrollment is at an all-time high this fall. In November 2011, 8,495 children received ECEAP services, compared with 8,102 in November 2010.

- There were 2,900 children on the wait list at the end of October 2011.
- Eleven percent of ECEAP children are 3-year-olds, down from 27 percent in 2007 to 2009.
- Sixty-four percent of ECEAP children are in families at or below 80 percent of the federal poverty level.

Training Opportunities

Click the hyperlinks for more information.

Family Support Studies

Edmonds Community College has winter quarter family support courses. For more information, contact instructor Helen Nissani at helen.nissani@edcc.edu. Classes start January 3, 2012:

- FSS 210: Leadership. Tuesdays 2:50 to 5:30 p.m. Learn about five models of leadership, your strengths as a leader for families in your community, and how to identify and support parent/natural leaders in your program.
- FSS 185: Parent Development: Working with Parents in Groups. This online course will help you learn how to design effective, culturally appropriate parenting education experiences. This class is helpful to those designing parenting programs as well as practitioners providing individual parenting support.
- Parent Mentor Certificate: Parent Mentors can start this program any quarter. Gain the skills required to become a parent mentor, a family support worker, or a family advocate for any family. Develop your talent to help your community and your career.

Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning (CSHEL)

- January 20, 9 to 2 p.m., at PSESD in Renton, or remotely

CSHEL is composed of health, safety, nutrition and mental health professionals in early learning. This is a great opportunity for people to come together to network and share information. Each meeting includes time set aside for Head Start and ECEAP-specific topics.

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

Specialists from around the country will present current research and evidence-based interventions.

[WAEYC Online Training](#)

Free online inclusion training:

- A guide to Assessment in Early Childhood: Infancy to Age Eight
 - “Just Like My Peers” – Models for Including Children with Disabilities in English
- STARS hours and OSPI clock hours are available. There is a \$2 per STARS hour processing fee.

Resources

Click the hyperlinks for more information.

[“Bad Guy” Play](#) Explore teachers’ roles during pretend play about “bad guys.”

[Great, short videos](#) Footage of real children demonstrating Illinois’ early learning benchmarks. These could be useful for staff training or parent discussions.

[Inclusion](#) Tip sheets on inclusive care and education, including developmentally appropriate practice, universal design, behavior, assessment basics and more.

[Tip sheets](#) More than 120 short tip sheets on a variety of early learning topics.

[Parenting Resources](#) The Technical Assistance Center on Social-Emotional Intervention has brief handouts on many topics supporting “Making Life Easier” for parents and children, as well as other child development topics.

[KidsHealth in the Classroom](#) Preschool lesson plans on health.

[Water fluoridation](#) Answers to questions about water fluoridation.

[Flu Facts](#) Update your knowledge on influenza and flu shots.

[Parent, Family, and Community Engagement](#) Learn how parent, family, and community engagement meets early childhood care and education goals such as school readiness, family well-being, and high-quality programs.

[Washington’s Children 2012](#) A two-page summary of the status of Washington’s children from Kids Count.

“It’s relationships, not programs that change children. A great program simply creates the environment for healthy relationships to form between adults and children. Young people thrive when adults care about them on a one-to-one level, and when they also have a sense of belonging to a caring community.” ~Bill Milliken