

## QUESTIONS?

CONTACT:  
CHAR RUPP  
QRIS MANAGER  
CHAR.RUPP@DEL.WA.GOV  
360.725.4691



# “Seeds to Success” Connections

ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2008

*We at the Department of Early Learning (DEL) believe the seeds to life-long success are planted in a child's earliest years!*


*The Washington State apple is the symbol for “Seeds to Success”—our state's voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).*


*Children who grow up safe, healthy and filled with a love of learning are better prepared to succeed in school and life.*

## Quality Learning Standards:

### What is Curriculum and Learning Environment?

There are four Quality Learning Standards in the Seeds to Success Quality Rating and Improvement System.

 Curriculum and Learning Environment

 Professional Development and Training

 Family Relationships and Community Partnerships

 Management Practices

During the next few months, we will be sharing information about each of the standards and the quality indicators within each standard area. Each of the indicators should help you to develop your portrait of a quality learning experience for your child and/or facility. This month's focus is on one of the universal elements of quality: Curriculum and Learning Environment.

The quality indicators for this Standard Area are:

\* Environment – All the factors that influence the child care setting. Some factors include caregiver and child interactions, the physical space, and the learning materials.

\* Daily Curriculum and Activities – How educators design and provide early learning experiences for children.

\* Documentation – The collection of samples of a child's work and/or written information about how a child develops over time.

\* Interactions – How an educator builds nurturing and responsive relationships with children.

\* Behavior Guidance – How educators guide children to develop the ability to control and express themselves in healthy ways.

\* Language and Literacy – How an educator provides language rich experiences for children and the connection between spoken and written language through exploration of songs, books and interactive games.

Early childhood research shows that success in the early years is promoted when children experience environments where they have the opportunity to be active participants in learning. Dr. Edward F. Zigler reminds us that, “Play is children's work.”

### New Site Coordinators

As DEL launches the field test year, we welcome the new QRIS Site Coordinators for each of the Field Test Communities:

**Clark County**  
Jodi Wall

**Kitsap County**  
Diane Johnson

**Spokane County**  
Myah Houghten

**Thrive By Five Demonstration Sites:**

**White Center**  
Caroline Shelton

**Yakima County**  
Cynthia Juarez

**Thrive By Five Washington**  
Rachel Kim

### Seeds to Success Web Page

Take a look at the exciting changes on the updated DEL Web site:  
<http://www.del.wa.gov/seeds>

**Questions or comments?**  
E-mail: [QRIS@del.wa.gov](mailto:QRIS@del.wa.gov)