

GOAL:
Children are Healthy & Ready for School

OUTCOMES

Parent & Caregiver

- Increased parent & caregiver understanding of what children need for optimal health and development, including 1)physical well-being, health & motor development ; 2)social & emotional development; 3)approaches toward learning; 4)cognition & general knowledge; and 5) communication, language and literacy
- Improved ability of families to obtain quality child care & preschool programs that meet families' needs
- Increased parent & caregiver ability to access community resources & support networks

System

- Increased availability of high-quality child care and preschool programs (new-broader)
- Increased support for families in their role as the primary nurturers of their children
- Increased public understanding of the importance of early childhood education, health and school readiness

Child Changes

- Increased number & percentage of children entering kindergarten healthy & ready for school, including: 1)physical well-being, health & motor development; 2)social & emotional development; 3)approaches toward learning; 4)cognition & general knowledge; & 5)language, communication & literacy

STRATEGIES

1

Parents, providers, and others working with young children receive information and mentoring on quality environments including approaches to English learners.
Early Learning mentors are attached to each elementary school to support high quality ECE and support continuous improvement in all aspects of early learning in all early learning settings

2

Teachers are supported to get AA and BA degrees and incentives encourage and support providers in developing quality programs.
Funding supports teachers in higher education and increased salaries encourage ECE career choices.. Increase public awareness to support increased wages for ECE professionals and providers.

3

All children have access to preschool.
Expand ECEAP / Head Start / similar programs to meet individual needs for low income families.
Increase subsidy and scholarships for childcare and preschool.

4

PRIORITY: Public awareness is increased around the need for early learning.
Recruit business and community leaders (Skagit Leadership, service clubs, etc) to be part of Skagit Early Learning and develop a community mobilization/fundraising movement.

5

PRIORITY: Improve transition between early learning community and K-12.
Increase linkage, communication, and continuum of learning and develop effective transitions for children and families between early learning and K-12.

RESOURCES

System Building Initiatives

Participation in Northwest Early Learning Governor's Summit
Development of a county early learning coalition

Participating Systems

Health Community College
Libraries
Child Welfare School Districts
Educational Services District
Early Intervention
County Government
Head Start and ECEAP
Child Care Resource and Referral
Tribes

Governance

Part of Northwest Early Learning,
Children's Council of Skagit County with By-Laws, Board

Communication

E-mail communication
Agency newsletters
Born Learning Campaign
monthly Children's Council meetings

Parent Leadership

Parent groups in Head Start, ECEAP, parent co-ops, school district parent involvement councils, early intervention parent involvement

Guiding Principles

Parents/guardians are child's most important teacher, services available to all, family choices, individual cultures are to be respected., collaboration among current systems, build on existing resources, close linkages to K-12, smooth transitions, adequate funding, public awareness of value of el developed, strong professional development systems, best practices and current research provide guidance

Funding

ELOA grant
Safe Schools, Healthy Students grant, county funding, Department of Early Learning funding, Even Start, future private outreach