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DEL 2011-14 Strategic Plan:

[www.del.wa.gov/publications/
communications/docs/
StrategicPlan2011-14.pdf](http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/communications/docs/StrategicPlan2011-14.pdf)

Gov. Chris Gregoire and the Legislature created the Department of Early Learning (DEL) in 2006 to bring **greater focus and better coordination to the Washington's efforts supporting the critical first years of a child's life**. Our work is done with public and private partners around the state, and is based on the state's 10-year Early Learning Plan (www.del.wa.gov/plan)

Our mission: Coordinate and integrate the many early care and education programs and initiatives around the state, creating one statewide early learning system that supports healthy development for every child.

Our vision: Our state offers world-class, developmentally and culturally appropriate early learning opportunities for all of Washington's youngest learners, so each child enters kindergarten with a solid foundation for success in school and life.

Key DEL programs and services to help ensure school readiness:

- We **license and monitor about 7,300 family home child care facilities and child care centers** to help ensure they are safe, healthy learning environments for the estimated 174,000 children in licensed care. www.del.wa.gov/care.about
- We oversee the **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)**, which in the 2011-12 school year is offering classroom learning, health and nutrition services, and family support services to 8,391 3- and 4-year-old children around the state. www.del.wa.gov/care/find-hs-eceap
- We oversee the **Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (ESIT)**, which, at any given time, serves about 5,000 children ages birth to 3 with disabilities or developmental delays. Eligible infants and toddlers and their families are entitled to individual, high-quality early intervention services in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. www.del.wa.gov/esit
- We oversee the **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)**, a voluntary program to help licensed child care providers improve the quality of care, and help families understand quality and how to find it. www.del.wa.gov/care/qris
- In partnership with Thrive by Five Washington, we offer **home visiting services**, matching families with trained professionals or paraprofessionals to: provide information and support related to children's healthy development, strengthen the parent-child relationship, and promote early learning. www.del.wa.gov/development/visiting and www.thrivebyfivewa.org/hvsa.html
- In partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and with private sector support, we help ensure smooth transitions into kindergarten through the **Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)**, which looks at where a child is in his or her development cognitively, socially and emotionally, physically and linguistically, and welcomes parents and early learning providers into the

process. During the 2011-12 school year, about 11,000 incoming kindergartners and their families are benefitting from WaKIDS. www.k12.wa.us/wakids

- We oversee the **state professional development system**, helping those who care for and teach young children connect with the information and research they need to offer higher-quality care for and interactions with children. www.del.wa.gov/requirements/professional
- We oversee the **Medicaid Treatment Child Care** program, which offers intensive therapeutic child care and supports to children who are exposed to substantial environmental, familial, and biological risk factors that can impact their social development, behavior and overall mental health. www.del.wa.gov/development/child/mtcc.aspx
- We convene the **Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)**, a statutorily created council whose members provide input and recommendations on DEL’s work. www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac
- Throughout our work, we **offer parents information and support as their child’s first and most important teacher**. From our online **Child Care Check** tool to home visiting, ECEAP and ESIT, offering information and resources to parents is at the forefront of our work.

Pre-DEL Creation: Early Learning Programs in Washington	Post-DEL Creation: Early Learning Programs & Activities at DEL
• ECEAP (at Department of Community Trade and Economic Development, now Commerce)	• ECEAP
• Child care licensing (at Department of Social and Health Services, or DSHS)	• Child care licensing
• Child care subsidy policy (at DSHS)	• Subsidy policy
• Reading Readiness Initiative (At Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction—funding cut in FY 2009)	• Kindergarten readiness assessment (WaKIDS)
• Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (at DSHS)	• Parent support and information
• Medicaid Treatment Child Care program (at DSHS)	• Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
• Head Start State Collaboration Office (Governor’s office, then DSHS)	• Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) and Early Learning Plan
	• Thrive by Five Washington partnership
	• Child Care Check
	• Family home child care labor agreement
	• Longitudinal data system
	• Home visiting
	• Professional development system for early care and education professionals
	• Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)
	• Medicaid Treatment Child Care program
	• Head Start State Collaboration Office