

Updates from the Head Start State Collaboration Office

July 2011



PURPOSE: The purpose of this newsletter is to provide updates on Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) projects and to share other relevant information and opportunities to participate in state level activities and events. The HSSCO in the Department of Early Learning works to develop and support state and local systems and partnerships that benefit low-income children and families.

Lead Screening

As a resource for Head Start programs up for federal review, attached you will find a letter issued by State Health Officer Maxine Hayes in 2008 clarifying that universal blood lead testing is not recommended for all Washington children. Programs may find this helpful in communicating Washington Department of Health's strategy with regard to blood lead screening. A copy of the letter is attached to the newsletter distribution email.

If you would like to be sent an electronic copy of this letter please contact Kaelyn Bristol at Kaelyn.bristol@del.wa.gov.

I am Moving, I am Learning (IMIL) Training

- August 9-11, Anchorage, Alaska

Washington Head Start grantees are invited to attend the upcoming IMIL training. At the training, participants will learn scientifically based strategies on incorporating physical activity and healthy nutrition in the classroom. The IMIL approach is designed to reverse the trend of childhood obesity in Head Start children. Programs are encouraged to send up to five participants (preferably the Program Director, Health Manager, Nutrition Coordinator and members of the teaching and/or family service staff).

If you have any questions please contact Angela Brown at abrown@pal-tech.com.

Starting Strong Institute

- August 11-12, Spokane

Registration is still open for the third annual Starting Strong Institute. Hear from national experts and talk with peers about aligning preschool through third grade programs and practices. Teams of early learning providers and elementary school staff are encouraged to attend and will receive a registration discount.

For more information check out the conference's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/startingstrong) page or visit the website at www.esd101.net/startingstrong.

Student Loan Forgiveness

All Washington Head Start Programs have been added to the list of Title I low-income schools that qualify teachers for loan cancellation. At this time, only Perkins loans are eligible for cancellation. For a

Federal Perkins Loan cancellation form or for further loan cancellation assistance, contact the school that made the loan.

Dental Home Initiative Meeting for Health Coordinators

- September 12, Yakima
- September 19, Seattle

As a part of the Washington Head Start Dental Home Initiative, Head Start, Early Head Start and ECEAP health coordinators are invited to a joint meeting with Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) coordinators. This meeting will be an opportunity to network and learn together about ways to increase the number of Head Start, Early Head Start and ECEAP children who have access to and use dental homes in your communities. Support for travel expenses is available. More information, including registration, will be provided as we get closer to the date.

Early Learning and Development Guidelines

The HSSCO continues to provide coordination for the redesign of the Washington Early Learning and Development Guidelines (formerly known as Benchmarks). The draft redesigned Guidelines will be released for comment in late August/early September so stay tuned for opportunities to share your input and to assist in collecting the advice of the families and staff you work with. For more information about the redesign process, see the DEL website: <http://www.del.wa.gov/development/benchmarks/>.

Innovative Theater for Very Young Audiences

Friends of Puppet and Object Theatre is a group of performing artists that make shows for very young audiences. Their shows are carefully crafted to encourage the inquiry and development of young minds. They have performed their work for audiences ages birth to 5 around the globe for more than 20 years and are committed to securing funding so that their performances are available at no cost. One of their artists has recently moved to Seattle and is interested in bringing her show to Head Start and ECEAP programs around the state. The artist, Mary Margaret, is in the process of gathering funding and gauging interest. If you are interested in this no-cost opportunity visit the show's website at www.armarm.squarespace.com or contact her directly at marymargaret.moore@gmail.com.

Parent Help 123

Have you checked out www.parenthelp123.org? This website helps Washington families apply for health and food programs online, and locate resources in their communities. The website also has health information for pregnant women, parents of new babies, and families with children. It's a great resource; if you haven't checked it out recently, take a look.

Tooth Tutor

The Department of Health in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction recently released the 2011 edition of the Tooth Tutor. This publication is designed to help schools and teachers instruct young people about the importance of dental care and its role in learning. Tooth Tutor's goal is to help educators feel comfortable teaching students and families how to maintain good oral health — and, as a result, good general health.

For a copy of the publication visit: <http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/tooth-tutor>.

Parent-Child Early Literacy Activities

Washington Learning Systems is making available, at no cost, parent-child early literacy activities in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Somali, Burmese and Russian. These materials include home and community activities for adults and young children (birth to 5) that encourage early language and

literacy development. They are appropriate for children with disabilities as well as children who are developing typically. The materials may be copied and distributed as long as they are not sold.

Download materials at: www.walearning.com/resources/

Research to Real World

The foundation for Early Learning and the UW's Center for Children and Family Well-Being convened a "Research to Real World" meeting which looked into the aspect of Effortful Control. Effortful Control is an individual's ability to act purposefully including controlling thoughts, emotions, and behaviors.

Effortful Control has been shown to predict academic, social, and emotional success in both typical and at-risk children. The group discussed what stakeholders (parents, providers, advocates, philanthropists, etc.) can do to promote effortful control in the children around them.

Check out the meeting's policy brief at:

www.earlylearning.org/Members/Erin/Research%20to%20Real%20World%20Brief%20Effortful%20Control%205-10-11.pdf

Other News

For more information about what's happening in DEL, check out the DEL newsletter at:

www.del.wa.gov/publications/communications/

Contact Information

If you have suggestions for future newsletter topics or feedback/questions regarding any of the HSSCO's activities, please send those thoughts along to Kaelyn Bristol at (360) 725-3517 or

Kaelyn.bristol@del.wa.gov - we would love to hear from you.