



## Wilanne Ollila-Perry

**ELAC Representation:** Regional Advisor – North West Early Learning Coalition

**Occupation:** Department Manager, Early Learning and Family Services/Opportunity Council

**City/Region:** Office in Bellingham and Everett /NW Region Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties

### Getting to know YOU:

#### **What drew you to early learning?**

It all began with the birth of my oldest child who was born when I was 21 years old. I wanted to know everything about what was happening with his development while researching to stay ahead of his curiosity and desire to learn. That desire extended to other young children in my family, my neighborhood, and my community. I firmly believe that every day we have the ability and knowledge to support a child's caregivers in understanding the significance of their interactions with young children.

#### **How do you hope to influence a stronger early learning system for Washington?**

My passion for decades has been developing an "alliance" among licensed child care professionals, Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, Early Support for Infants and Toddlers, CACFP-Child Care Nutrition, Family Friends and Neighbors Play/Learn, Private – licensed exempt preschools, School Districts /Elementary buildings, WA/Kids, Educational Service Districts, and child abuse and neglect prevention programs. The North West Region is committed to developing a system to this end, as is many areas of early learning. I hope to influence a spirit of connectedness among and a supportive link between early learning programs.

#### **What was your first job?**

As a 12 year old – "babysitting" (of course) and a yearly summer lake resort job, cleaning cabins, raking the beach, working in the store and cooking burgers on a grill in North East WA.

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**As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

A famous fashion designer, live in Paris and win an Academy Award for movie costume design! Really.

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

Building forts and exploring the woods, and swimming all day long at my grandparents summer cabin in Idaho.



(Wilanne starting kindergarten)