

Washington Early Achievers

Fast Facts

Overview

The goal of Early Achievers, Washington's Quality Rating Improvement System, is to improve the quality of child care in Washington and help children develop the skills they need to be successful in school. Early Achievers connects families to quality child care and early learning programs with the help of an easy-to-understand, one-to-five rating system. Parents can find information and select the program that's right for their family. Providers receive the support, coaching, and incentives to help them improve the quality they offer.

Early Achievers for families

When children participate in high-quality early learning and child care programs they have access to: individualized attention; daily learning activities; a safe, friendly, and respectful environment; well-trained staff; parent involvement; an environment conducive to feeling good about themselves; and more. These components will help children be successful in school and beyond.

Washington's Early Achievers will create more high-quality programs, and provide parents the information they need to make the right choices for their family.

Early Achievers for providers

Washington Early Achievers empowers providers with coaching and resources to support each child's learning and development. Research shows this kind of assistance helps providers improve the quality of their programs. By participating in Early Achievers, providers—including child care centers and family home providers—are eligible technical assistance, coaching, and financial incentives. An Early Achiever rating also demonstrates a commitment to quality improvement and offers a powerful marketing tool for providers.

Next steps

Washington recently received a \$60 million Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge federal grant that will be used to implement Early Achievers statewide. Beginning in July 2012, providers will be able to participate in Early Achievers by completing a self-assessment and attending no-cost trainings. Support will be available to programs through the Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Network to assist providers to advance through the quality ratings.



More information

Washington Early Achievers:

www.del.wa.gov/care/qris/Default.aspx

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge:

www.del.wa.gov/government/racetotop

DEL on Twitter:

www.twitter.com/WA_del



Washington State Department of
Early Learning