

EARLY LEARNING CONNECTIONS



Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington
a program of...

opportunity
council



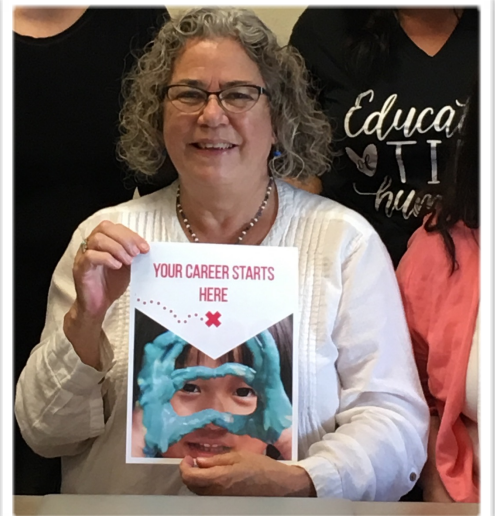
A MESSAGE FROM OUR TEAM

It's a Wrap!

As the 2017/2018 fiscal year concludes, we are pleased to report back on our work in the last year to advance quality early learning and support child care professionals in Northwest Washington.

Just a few highlights over the last 12 months include:

- **Coaching & Customer Service:** In the last year, 13 new staff members joined our dedicated team now staffed with 33 people. Together we serve more than **800** licensed child care providers, Head Start, and ECEAP programs in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and San Juan Counties. Our coaches work together with more than **462** programs that participate in Early Achievers to support quality early learning opportunities in child care settings.
- **Professional Development:** 20 state-approved trainers led **365** hours of STARS training for **1,251** child care professionals.
- **Supporting Businesses:** **17** aspiring entrepreneurs participated in Q & A sessions on how to start a child care business. Special thanks to **Pauli Owen** from Pauli's Playschool, **Madelyn Flannegan** from the State of Washington, and **Marie Keller** from the Imagine Institute for joining together with Early Achiever Coaches to explain the licensing requirements and steps to starting a high quality child care business. We appreciate your support for new businesses!
- **Teaching Strategies GOLD Pilot:** Nineteen child care providers in our region were selected from a competitive pool of applicants to participate in the State's first Teaching Strategies GOLD pilot that is specifically for licensed family child care and child care centers that are not participating in Head Start or ECEAP. Participants include **12** child care centers and **7** family child care providers who will integrate this ongoing, observation-based assessment system into their programs to help teachers and families focus on what matters most for children's success. Kudos to all programs that applied and demonstrated their commitment to promoting quality early learning.



Early Achievers Coach Bracken Marren at the May 9 Q & A Session in Bellingham

New Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

Beginning July 1, 2018, the Department of Early Learning will become the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). For the latest information on early learning, visit the DCYF website at www.dcyf.wa.gov. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the new department can be viewed here: [DCYF FAQs](#).

Summer Training Calendar

Professional development opportunities abound! Please visit www.ccanorthwest.org/calendar to register for classes. New classes and updates are added to the website as they are scheduled—check back often.

In-service Trainings

Our state-approved, professional educators can provide customized trainings at times and locations convenient to you. We offer classes that are culturally relevant, hands-on, and designed for your staff and program needs. For more information on how to schedule your In-Service Training, please contact Child Care Aware of NW WA at 1.888.444.1862 ext 449 or via email at childcare@oppco.org.

Welcome Rali, April, and Karla

OUR TEAM IS GROWING TO SERVE YOU

Ralicia (Rali) Preisinger, Early Achievers Coach, Everett

Beyond working with children of all ages, I have a strong passion supporting educators who do direct work inside the classroom or family home. My first child development experience was a humble beginning with Boys and Girls Club (Anchorage, AK) as a hall and snack monitor. From there came a wide range of positions within the ECE field, such as school-age counselor, preschool coordinator, assistant director, Early Head Start (EHS) home visitor, Parent Child Home Program Coordinator, EHS supervisor, Program Director, and eventually into coaching. There have been important people who have supported me as I earned my BA in Child Development and MA in Family Life Education-all while being a full-time working mother of two beautiful daughters. My hope is to provide that same encouragement, care and love for others so that they too can accomplish their desired professional goals-which will in turn improve child development fields.

Another passion I have is social justice and cultural competency. I have had the honor of working besides people from all walks of life-most especially immigrant and refugee families. They have enriched my mind and soul with beautiful experiences and memories. I'm excited to come on board with Opportunity Council and Early Achievers. I look forward to more opportunities to support providers and educators, encourage the strengthening of family engagement and advocate for high-quality care of children.



April Sonsteng, Early Achievers Coach, Everett

I have had a love and passion for children as long as I can remember. When I was 12 I took a babysitting basics class and in high school I took a child development class. That is where I really knew I wanted to work with children. We were very lucky and got to go to one of the local elementary schools and tutor some of the kiddos. Being able to make a small difference in a child's life really solidified where I wanted to go in my life. After high school I thought I wanted to go into the medical field and work in pediatrics, but I knew that I wanted to do more for the children. I am excited to be going back to school for my bachelor's degree and even more excited that I get to work with such great people!



Karla Nuñez Avendaño, Early Achievers Coach, Mt. Vernon

I have worked in the early childhood educational field for 25 years. First I began working as a teacher assistant, and then as a lead teacher. Years later I became a family home childcare provider, where I was able to provide in-home high-quality care for children and families while attending Skagit Valley College.

I feel honored to be an Early Achievers Coach and participate in the professionalizing of early childhood educational, where I continue to learn and support children and families.



Behavior Consultation for Infants and Toddlers



Early Achievers Can Help

Caring for infants and toddlers can be hard work. Early Achievers is here to help you when those tough situations arise. Please contact us today to schedule free onsite behavior consultation to address:

- Hitting
- Throwing or scratching
- Developmental concerns related to speech, sensory, routines
- Tantrums
- Biting
- Interactions
- Responding to infant cues
- And other behavioral concerns

Early Achievers Puede Ayudar

El cuidado de infantes y niños pequeños puede ser un trabajo difícil. Early Achievers esta aquí para ayudarlos cuando aparezcan las situaciones difíciles. Póngase en contacto con nosotros para programar una Consulta Gratuita de Conducta cuando sea necesario:

- En el caso de golpes
- Arrojar cosas o arañar
- Preocupaciones en su desarrollo relacionado al habla, sentido sensorial, rutinas
- Berrinches
- Mordedura
- Interacciones
- Responder a las señales infantiles
- Y otras preocupaciones conductuales



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