



**ThrivebyFive™**  
WASHINGTON



## What's New

### Week of the Young Child 2009

Every day is about young children at Thrive by Five Washington, but next week is extra special. It's National Week of the Young Child! One of the best ways to help children grow is to talk with them as much as possible and share books with them. Public libraries can help. This week, and throughout the year, visit your local library and get your family a FREE library card. Young children can even get their own library card! Make sure to check out all of the free activities libraries have to offer to support children's learning.



The [Week of the Young Child](#) is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 100,000 members and a network of more than 300 local, state and regional Affiliates.

### Thrive Welcomes New Director of Early Learning Initiatives

Thrive is pleased to announce that Molly Boyajian will be joining us as our new Director of Early Learning Initiatives. She will be working on a host of public policy and systems development issues including working with DEL and others on creating a statewide early learning plan.

Molly comes to us from the League of Education Voters where she has worked as a policy analyst on both early learning and higher education issues. Molly has a law degree from Seattle University and is well versed in legislative process and public policy.

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Get the very latest from the world of early learning including news, upcoming events, groundbreaking studies and much more!

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## National Report Shows States Made Progress in Providing Quality Early Learning in 2007-08

### Economy Threatens Washington's Progress



The annual survey of state-funded preschool programs shows impressive expansion in enrollment and spending. However, the recession may reverse the trend, curtailing early education opportunities for children in lower and middle-income families, according to the [National Institute for Early Education Research \(NIEER\)](#), which released the survey results for 2008 this week.

This reversal of fortune is obvious in state support. While 38 states fund preschools, the report said nine of those states likely will cut that spending this year. That list doesn't include Washington state where lawmakers are debating early learning cuts.

These cutbacks come at a bad time, as more families fall into poverty after losing their jobs, health care benefits and savings in this recession.

Overall, Washington state scored well on the institute's annual scorecard, meeting nine of 10 benchmarks and spending an average of \$7,046 on each pre-k student, sixth among all states. Washington, however, faltered in the critical area of access. Only six percent of the state's four-year-old children attended a state-backed preschool, a score that placed 32nd.

[Read more at Birth to Thrive Online.](#)

### Doula Graduation

On April 11th, Open Arms graduated the first group of trainees for the Outreach Doula Program of the White Center Early Learning Initiative. Outreach doulas are women who provide support to childbearing women and their families during pregnancy, through birth and up to two years after a child is born. The outreach doula training was an intensive 6 month training which included class time, observations of prenatal and postpartum visits in a health care setting, observation of childbirth preparation and breastfeeding classes, and attendance as a doula at 3 births. The WCELI [Outreach Doula Program](#) will be implemented in both the Somali community and the Latina community in White Center.

In June, [Open Arms](#) will hire four of the recent graduates as outreach doulas. The outreach doulas will begin working with women and their families in the early months of pregnancy, providing education and social support. When it is time for the babies to be born, the doulas will accompany women to the birth, staying with them and providing support as they bring their children into the world. Doulas will remain with families up to two years after the baby is born, providing culturally appropriate parenting education, coaching and social support. Near the end of the two years, families will transition to the other early learning

Guess what? Thrive is on

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Show your support for Thrive and early learning by joining us on Facebook.

[Click here to Facebook us!](#)



Send us your smiles!

Do you have a special picture of you and your child that you would like to share with Thrive to help us promote quality early learning?

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programs in the [WCELI](#) project.

The six women who attended the outreach doula training are truly remarkable women. They were committed, passionate, and willingly shared their own cultural values and practices throughout the training making it a rich learning process for everyone.

Congratulations to Burhan, Hawa, Haydee, Libin, Margarita, and Yen!

### **Latest News from Thrive Demonstration Communities**

The two Thrive Demonstration Communities are local partnerships designed to serve as a model for how a community-wide approach to early learning can improve the development of all children birth to age 5 and their readiness to enter school. The two Thrive communities are in White Center, located south of Seattle, and East Yakima. [Learn more about the Thrive Demonstration Communities.](#)

#### **WHITE CENTER**

##### **Educare Early Learning Center at Greenbridge Gets More**

**Funding:** The Educare Learning Center in White Center recently received a \$600,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation. Just last month, the Puget Sound ESD, which oversees fundraising efforts for the center, learned that it would receive \$950,000 from the FY09 HUD Economic Development Initiative budget, thanks to Sen. Patty Murray's efforts. About \$1.2 million of the \$19 million capital campaign is still needed. When finished, the center will serve 134 children from birth to five years old in full-day full-year programs that encompass high-quality child development, health and family support based on a national model. The 3,000 young children who live in White Center will benefit from the center's array of training and quality enhancement opportunities provided for parents, child care providers and informal caregivers. The Educare center broke ground in October 2008 and is expected to be completed in early 2010. [Follow the progress of the center's construction.](#)

#### **EAST YAKIMA**

##### **Ready by Five Holds Annual Stakeholders Meeting and**

**Celebrates First Year of Operation:** [Ready by Five](#), which leads the work in the Thrive Demonstration Community of East Yakima, held its Annual Stakeholders Meeting on April 7 and celebrated Ready by Five's first year of operation. More than 100 people attended, including representatives from all 42 charter Stakeholder organizations and from the principal funders, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Thrive by Five Washington and the Washington State Department of Early Learning. Chaired by Board President, Rick Linneweh, the partners heard presentations grouped as Looking Back on how Ready by Five was started and why the goal of school readiness for East Yakima children and families is so critical; Looking Around from Program Provider Partners and staff who are delivering Ready by Five's services; and Looking Forward on the planned Educare of East Yakima Early Learning Center and Ready by Five's related capital campaign.

Stakeholders unanimously voted to approve a policy on Stakeholder definition and a process for admitting new members to the Stakeholders Group. They elected the Yakima Valley Museum as a new Stakeholder.

## What You Can Do

### Literacy Starts at Home - at the Library

Helping your child get a leap on language development and literacy can be fun, easy...and free!

- Public libraries can help your child get ready for school
- Public libraries are places for children and families, and using the library is FREE!
- Librarians host storytimes and can help your children discover new books and music
- Get your family reading and get your family a library card!



## Partner Activities

### New Child Care Aware Parent Network Web Site Provides Important Information about Parenting and Child Care

Child Care Aware<sup>®</sup> Parent Network (CCAPN) is a new free membership organization specifically for parents and those who care for and about children. CCAPN is designed for 21st century parents who have very little time, but care deeply about their children. The goal of CCAPN is to provide meaningful and important information about parenting and child care so members will become well-informed child care consumers and well-connected advocates.



CCAPN recently launched its new Web site at [www.CCAParentNetwork.org](http://www.CCAParentNetwork.org). It includes interactive resources that will bring together people who share a need to know more about how to find quality child care, as well as how to share their concerns about access to safe,

affordable and nurturing child care.

CCAPN encourages members to:

- Network to share expert knowledge, skills, insights, and concerns
- Receive parenting information and e-mail newsletters
- Access "members only" online content and research reports

The Web site is the backbone for the connections that they hope to make with parents, advocates, providers, policymakers, and media - the real strength will come from the connections parents and educators have in their communities.

## Thrive Online

Earlier this month, Thrive launched its new blog and announced its new blogger. Paul Nyhan, former family reporter and Working Dad blogger for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, is now writing Thrive's new daily blog: Birth to Thrive Online.



**BirthtoThrive Online**  
by Thrive by Five Washington

Birth to Thrive Online follows trends in early learning and feature research, issues and news from around the state and country. The blog also features Thrive's work as well as the work of our partners.

[Check it out!](#)

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## Events and Activities

**April 21**

[Our Kids Our Business Luncheon: Joining Together for All Kids-](#)  
Seattle, WA

**April 24-26**

[State Family Child Care Association \(WSFCCA\) 2009 Conference -](#)  
Seattle, WA

**May 6-8**

[Infant and Early Childhood Conference](#) - Tacoma, WA

**May 14-15**

[National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs \(NAC\) Training Sessions](#) - Seattle, WA

**June 5-6**

[Conference on Early Learning](#) - Seattle, WA

Let us know about an upcoming event, and we'll let others know.  
Email event information to [webmaster@thrivebyfivewa.org](mailto:webmaster@thrivebyfivewa.org).



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