

Quality early learning is our mission; here are ways we're delivering on it.

news and alerts

April 9, 2008

- Providing a loving and learning environment in the first five years is crucial to promoting success in life, and [KING 5](#) is covering the topic in its prime-time television special, "Learning To Learn." This special takes a look at the newest science and research of early learning and shares the latest ways for parents to improve their care giving skills. Thrive by Five's President and CEO Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas talks about the mission of Thrive By Five, what makes for high-quality child care and what parents should look for when choosing a child care center. The special airs at 9 tonight (April 9).
- *Together, we can do more.* This week, leaders of the Department of Early Learning (DEL), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Thrive by Five affirmed their partnership in improving early learning opportunities for all Washington children and helping them find success in school and in life. In signing the **Early Learning Partnership** agreement, the leaders committed to work closely together on key areas such as parent communication, professional development for early learning professionals, and data collection and sharing to better coordinate services offered to Washington's children and families. Meetings will be held quarterly to assess progress in each of the priority areas.
- Children's literacy issues were the focus of Thrive by Five's March 27 **Learning Circle** for the state's 14 Reading Readiness grantees. Watch TVW's video - or order a DVD - of the morning's panel discussion with Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas (Thrive by Five), Dr. Colleen Huebner (University of Washington) and Dr. Cara Garcia (Pepperdine University) by visiting TVW's Web site at www.tvw.org and searching for Thrive by Five.
- Most parents and early learning professionals are aware of the importance of early learning, but are less aware of children's early learning needs from birth to age two, according to the findings of **Opinion Research** conducted by Thrive by Five. [Learn](#) more about the results of a poll of 600 parents and 18 focus group discussions with parents and early learning professionals.
- Thrive by Five's busy 2007 is being followed by an even busier 2008. Read our **Year in Review** for a complete overview of what we accomplished in 2007, including funding of our Nurturing Families, Culture of Literacy, School Connections and the Born Learning programs in communities across the state. You'll also find out what we are working toward in 2008. [View](#) the Year in Review PDF.
- And finally, Thrive by Five was a recent recipient of a \$95,000 grant from **The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation** to help fund [Culture of Literacy](#) - our joint effort with the Washington State Department of Early learning to support excellent and innovative early reading readiness programs.

what you can do

Three things parents can do right now to help their child's early learning.

1. **Turn every day moments into learning.** Make a trip to the grocery store a learning game by pointing out shapes and colors and letting your child pick out fruit.
2. **Use meal time as a way for your baby to explore new textures, colors and tastes.** When feeding your baby, talk about the food and how it feels, looks and tastes.
3. **Model good listening and conversation skills for your child.** Let him know that what he says is important to you by listening to him closely and responding to his questions.

partner resources

Seeds of Compassion is a 5-day gathering to engage the hearts and minds of our community by highlighting the vision, science and programs of early social, emotional, and cognitive learning. Workshops, discussions and teachings on early learning will be held in Seattle from April 11-15 and are sponsored by the Kirlin Foundation, a Thrive by Five supporter. Dr. Graciela-Italiano Thomas joins His Holiness the Dalai Lama for a panel conversation on Compassion in Giving, April 13 at 10:30 a.m. For more information about Seeds of Compassion go to www.seedsofcompassion.org.

The Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL) conducted a public awareness poll in January 2008 to learn more about the public's views on a child's earliest years and what people are willing to do to help create a state where all children are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. View [DEL's poll findings](#).

 **contact thrive**

events and activities

April 7: Thrive by Five Learning Circle on Home-Based Early Learning, Seattle

April 8: Thrive by Five participates in Seattle Public Library's Día de los Niños/De los Libros event, Seattle

April 9: Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas speaks to Seattle Rotary, Seattle

April 11-15: Seeds of Compassion, Seattle

April 14-18: International Week of the Young Child

April 29: Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas keynotes Healthy Start Fundraiser, Bellevue