



## Quality early learning is our mission. Here are ways we're delivering it.

May 14th, 2008



### news and alerts

- Many more children in east Yakima will now get the critical early learning foundation they need to help them succeed in school and thrive in life.** Last Friday, Thrive by Five Washington and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced \$5 million in initial funding for **Ready by Five**, a community partnership that will substantially increase access to high-quality early learning opportunities for children from birth to age 5 in the partnership's project area of east Yakima. ([Read press release](#)). Ready by Five will provide parents and caregivers with education and support to help develop children's potential and creativity. East Yakima is one of two [Thrive by Five communities](#). White Center, located south of Seattle, is also a Thriveby Five community. (Read the *Yakima Herald-Republic* [news article](#) and [editorial](#). [Listen](#) to the editorial board meeting.) Thrive by Fives CEO, Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas was also interviewed by Spanish-language radio station KDNA and Hispanavision TV. *Photo: Dr. Italiano-Thomas and Board Co-Chair, Bill Gates Sr. read to preschoolers in an ECEAP class at Adams Elementary in Yakima.*



- Art helps children learn and grow.** This May and June, many of the communities supported by [Born Learning™ Washington](#) will take part in the **Nurturing Children's Creativity** campaign by documenting local children's creative processes through photographs and children's artwork. The public will be invited to view the artwork of local babies, toddlers and preschoolers of participating communities and discover how fun everyday activities, like art, can help children learn and grow. More than 700 pieces of children's artwork are being professionally framed by Museum Quality Framing. [See photos of the young artists at work.](#)

*"Then there is the critical period of brain development from the time of birth up to at least the age of three or four, during which time loving physical contact is the single most important factor for the normal growth of the child. If the child is not held, hugged, cuddled, or loved, its development will be impaired and its brain will not mature properly."*

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

- For five days last month, about 100,000 people gathered in Seattle to learn and share about growing compassion in our world.** [Seeds of Compassion](#) was an unprecedented community-focused event in Seattle highlighting the vision, programs and science of early social, emotional and cognitive learning. Thrive by Five participated in several panel and workshop discussions ([watch Webcasts](#) of various events), joining in the celebration and exploration of the relationships and tools that nurture and empower children, families and communities to become compassionate members of society. Connect with the ongoing conversation and dialogue about this topic on the [Seeds of Compassion Web site](#).
- Four states working together toward large-scale, systemic change in early learning.** Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas recently led Washington state's delegation at the [Kellogg Foundation Learning Lab](#) in Oahu, Hawaii, where representatives from four states — Hawaii, Mississippi, Florida and Washington — came together to share successful strategies, programmatic approaches and project expertise to accelerate and sustain early childhood learning, care policies and systems change at all levels of government. In addition to staff from Thrive by Five, Washington was represented by Leslie Goldstein (Gov. Gregoire's Executive Policy Advisor), Jone Bosworth (Director, Department of Early Learning), Dr. Terry Bergeson (State Superintendent of Public Instruction), Laura Wells (Director, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Washington State), as well as Thrive Community directors Stephan Blanford (White Center Early Learning Initiative) and Helen Marieskind (Ready by Five, Yakima).

[more](#)

### what you can do

**Provider Appreciation Day** (celebrated last Friday on May 9th) recognizes child caregivers, teachers and other educators of young children everywhere. This day offers a special opportunity to recognize and commend the unselfish dedication, commitment and compassion that child caregivers demonstrate every day.

Thrive by Five wants to thank all early learning professionals in Washington state who care for children in centers or in homes for their hard work and commitment to nurture and educate our states youngest residents.

If you missed the official day, you can acknowledge a child caregiver throughout the year:

- Offer to volunteer in the classroom or center
- Check to see if your employer provides scholarships for toys, equipment or training that you can sponsor
- Donate art supplies from home or office
- Pay for a day off so a caregiver may attend a conference or workshop (or give them a raise/bonus)
- Send flowers, cards or a handwritten note of gratitude

### partner resources

**Learn more about your child care provider:** [Washington State Department of Early Learning](#) (DEL) [<http://www.del.wa.gov/>] now offers the "Licensed Child Care Information System," an [online tool](#) [<https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/f2ws03esaappsns/lccis/lccisSearch.aspx>] to find information, including complaints on licensed child care facilities statewide.

**Early learning and brain development research:** Talaris Institute's "[Research Corner](#)" [<http://www.talaris.org/parents.htm>] provides new and innovative research papers and articles in the field of early learning.

**Best practices in early childhood education:** The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest organization for early childhood educators, has a brand new magazine designed especially for preschool teachers. [Teaching Young Children](#) (TYC) [<http://tyc.naeyc.org/>] highlights current best practices, research, innovations and interesting ideas in the field of early childhood education for parents and preschool teachers.

### events and activities

#### May 13: P-3 Education Symposium | Seattle, WA

This conference will focus on P-3 education, current research and emerging national and local P-3 educational models. Co-sponsored by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Washington State Department of Early Learning, the New School Foundation and Thrive by Five Washington.

#### May 22: [United Way Luncheon: The Economics of Early Learning](#) | Seattle, WA

Hear from one of America's foremost experts on the economic impact of early learning, Rob Grunewald, associate economist with Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He will discuss the elements that, together, add up to a promising early childhood, especially for kids beginning life with social and economic obstacles. A special topic will be Mr. Grunewald's recent exploration of parent-home visiting programs. Co-presented by Thrive by Five Washington, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Business Partnership for Early Learning and City Club.

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