

Five from Thrive

November 2008



News and Events



Thrive Launches New Web Site

[Our new Web site](#) is now live! Come visit and tell us what you think. We've redesigned the site to make it easier for parents, caregivers, early learning professionals, business and community leaders and anyone interested in early learning to learn more about the importance of early learning, get tools and resources from us and our many partners, and find out what Thrive is doing to make sure every child in Washington state gets a great start in life. We've also translated more resource information and added interactive content:

- [Share with us "Success Stories"](#): those moments you feel really good as a parent or caregiver of a young child
- [Send us photos](#) of your little one(s) for us to include throughout the site
- Access new [resources and links](#) specific to your interests and needs
- [Chat with us](#) and others about early learning issues on our new blog

And we're not done yet. Watch us grow every day, as we continue to add features such as social networking, audio and video. We look forward to hearing your feedback on what works well and how we might improve our

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site.

Note to partner organizations that already link to Thrive -- please take a moment to ensure that your links are still active as they may require updating.

New Thrive Publication: *Every Child is a Work of Art*



Every child is a work of art, and every child has the potential to become a true masterpiece. Thrive's new brochure helps make the case for early learning and provides an overview of our role in improving Washington state's early learning opportunities.

The Northwest Children's Museums are currently working with us on the brochure's first of many inserts. The first insert will provide instructions for making edible paint, talk about the power of play and offer a coupon for free admission to a children's museum in Washington state.

[Click here](#) to download a PDF version of the brochure.

The brochure will soon be available in Spanish. If your organization is interested in distributing copies at an upcoming event, please contact Molly O'Connor at 206.621.5562 or molly@thrivebyfivewa.org.

Closing the K-12 Achievement Gap with High-Quality Early Learning

Research repeatedly finds that children who start kindergarten unprepared are likely to have a difficult time catching up.

To help close this preparation gap -- and, as a result, close the achievement gap in our schools -- more and more K-12 educators throughout Washington state are doing their part to help make sure students enter kindergarten ready to be successful.

And their efforts are making a difference:

- Toni Cuello, a kindergarten teacher at Emerson Elementary School in Pasco, was nominated by Educational Service District 123 as their regional finalist for [2009's Teacher of the Year](#). At Emerson, more than 85 percent of students receive free or reduced-price lunches and nearly 90 percent are Hispanic. Understanding that many students from poverty need extra instructional time, Cuello helped plan and implement an "early-start kindergarten" program and got teachers from four schools to volunteer to start their school year early, so that they could give more time to these children and establish relationships with their families. [Note: Ready by Five offered a similar program in the East Yakima Thrive Community this past summer.]
- Among the schools that received the [2008 State Superintendent's Learning Improvement Award](#) and the designation of "School of Distinction" last month, 17 schools emphasized early learning practices as the key to their students' outstanding academic growth in reading and math. In Lake Stevens School District, the

Academic Beginnings for Children (ABC) Coalition focuses on working not only with parents but also with preschool educators and child care providers. The ABC Coalition holds classes called "Ready! For Kindergarten" for parents of 4-year-olds three times per year in English and Spanish. Other "Schools of Distinction" that did not offer official early learning, full-day kindergarten or preschool programs said they help ease the transition into kindergarten by working with families the year before kindergarten, offering skills assessment and orientation meetings.

- And, in the Longview School District, a pre-K initiative to improve early reading skills will align preschool lessons with what is taught in kindergarten classes. "It costs a lot of money to catch kids up," said Mary Carr-Wilt, principal of Broadway Special Education Pre-School and Special Services Center, "on average, it costs \$2,400 to help each student catch up if they enter kindergarten behind in reading." Students below reading "benchmarks" require at least an extra 30 minutes of instruction each day, testing and other learning tools. By contrast, the district plans to spend \$2,000 per preschool under its new outreach program. [Read more about this program.](#)

What You Can Do

Turn everyday moments into learning moments.

There are endless possibilities for how to spend time with a child, and every day you can do little things that will make a big difference in helping them to grow in healthy ways. The following online resources offer a variety of fun ideas for turning a child's everyday moments into learning opportunities:



- The Department of Early Learning's new [Just for Kids](#) page
- [Born Learning](#) -- an innovative public engagement campaign that helps parents, caregivers and communities create quality early learning opportunities for young children
- Thrive by Five Washington's [Everyday Learning Moments](#) page

Partner Resources

Getting School Ready, a project of the [Foundation for Early Learning](#), provides a free guide for parents, families, and caregivers to help children get ready for Kindergarten. The booklet is available online in seven languages. Check out the [Getting School Ready Web site](#) for even more information on how to help your early learners get ready for school.

Events and Activities

IN WASHINGTON STATE:

November 14 | 7 p.m. | Kane 100, University of Washington
[*Brains and Domains*](#) -- The Evergreen School Speaker Series features Mary Helen Immordino-Yang, Ed.D., cognitive neuroscientist and educational psychologist, and Rena Subotnik, Ph.D., director of the Center for Gifted Education Policy at the American Psychological Association. The speakers will talk about how children process emotions, how children learn and brain domains. [Click here to RSVP](#).

November 14 | 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center
[*2nd Annual Washington State Military Kids and Families Summit*](#) -- This Summit reaches out to military families, educators, community leaders and anyone who wants to learn more about understanding and supporting military kids. Featuring workshops on deployment, transition, reunion and related issues.

November 15 | 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. | KCTS 9 Studio, Seattle
[*Exceptional Caregiver Conference*](#) -- This past summer, KCTS 9 asked for nominations for outstanding home-based caregivers making a difference in the lives of children, and this event honors these exceptional caregivers with a special networking and professional development conference. RSVP at learning@KCTS9.org.

December 4-5 | 1601 Second Avenue, 6th Floor Conference Room, Seattle
[*Issues in Working with Teen Parents*](#) -- This training is for all professionals who work with adolescent parents. It offers constructive insights into teen parents, their children and the issues they all face. Sponsored by Parent Trust for Washington Children and the Parents as Teachers Washington State Office. With the generous support of King County Children and Family Commission, this training will be offered at half the normal registration price. For more information, contact Kathy Zeisel, M. Ed. at kzeisel@parenttrust.org.

December 6 | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | DEL Office, Graham Room 1st Floor, Seattle
[*Washington State Department of Early Learning's Second Quarterly Child Care Conversation*](#) -- This is the second of four statewide opportunities for the Department of Early Learning and child care providers to talk about what is working, areas for improvement, and what can be done together to make child care even stronger.

NATIONAL EVENTS:

December 5-7
[*ZERO TO THREE National Training Institute*](#) - Los Angeles, CA

December 14-18
[*NHSA \(National Head Start Association\) 25th Annual Parent Training Conference*](#) - Atlanta, GA

Let us know about an upcoming event, and we'll let others know. E-mail event information to heidi@thrivebyfivewa.org.

What's New

Check out some of our Web site's new interactive features!:

Share pictures of the children in your life experiencing fun and engaging learning activities. [Send us a photo](#) of your child (or a picture of artwork created by your child) and we'll do our best to display them in the [Everyday Learning Moments](#) section of our site.

Every day, parents and caregivers come up with amazing ideas for turning simple moments into learning experiences, helping a child through a tough transition or getting a child to do something you need them to do (like take a bath or get dressed). [Share your "Success Stories"](#) -- those moments (big or small) that you feel really good as a parent or caregiver of a young child -- and we'll post your story on our site so that others can benefit from your learning experience.

THRIVE BY FIVE is a trademark of financial literacy programs for preschoolers supported by Credit Union National Association, Inc. ("CUNA") and is not affiliated with Thrive by Five Washington. Learn more at http://www.creditunion.coop/pre_k/index.html

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