

Five from Thrive

August 2009



NEWS & EVENTS

Thrive Demonstration Communities Get \$8 Million Boost for Year Two

On August 11, Thrive by Five Washington and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced that Thrive's two demonstration communities, [White Center Early Learning Initiative](#) and [Ready by Five in East Yakima](#), will receive \$8 million to continue field testing the best child care and early learning approaches for children and families. These communities also serve as models for what can be done to substantially increase access to high-quality early learning opportunities for children birth to age 5.

Each demonstration community will receive \$4 million over the next year.

"The two communities are working hard to create the partnerships, programs and seamless network of supports and opportunities we all desire for young children and their families. Within the first year, they have shown amazing enthusiasm and progress, and we're excited to begin year two," said Nina Auerbach, president and CEO of Thrive.

Highlights from the past year's work:

White Center

- Broke ground and completed fundraising for the nation's 20th Educare early learning hub that will open this winter. Educare is a national model for high-quality child care.
- Started the Outreach Doula Program, a home-visiting program that supports Somali and Latino families with health, child development and early learning information before their children's birth and for up to two years after that, if needed.



East Yakima

- Created Kindergarten Transition Program with Yakima School District that brings entering kindergartners to school two weeks before school starts to get to know their teacher, classmates, routines and expectations, so that learning begins on day one of the school year.



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- Started Creative Families, a monthly program to help parents learn more about how to engage in activities with their children that promote learning.

Don't Miss Primetime Special on School Readiness

A child prepared for kindergarten has a much greater chance of succeeding in school and in life.

Learning for Life: Ready For School, Ready For Life is a primetime hour-long special that will air Sunday, Aug. 30 at 9 p.m. KING 5 TV anchors Joyce Taylor and Brad Goode will look at what it means to be "kindergarten ready," why it's important, and how we all can make a positive impact on a child's future.

The special will re-air on Northwest Cable News on Monday, Sept. 7 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Thrive also wants to thank Clear Channel Communications for its commitment to early learning and for joining in this effort by promoting the special on its stations across the state and hosting conversations on KUBE 93 (Sunday, Aug. 30 from 8-9 a.m.) and KJR-AM Sports Radio (Sunday, Aug. 30 from 10-11 p.m., a live call-in show immediately following the special).

This month's *Learning for Life* news series airs the week leading up to the special and will focus on the importance of preschool. Read below for more.

Learning for Life: Preschool August 24-28

Childhood experts agree: Attending a high-quality early learning program prepares kids for kindergarten and beyond. In addition to strengthening socialization skills - how to compromise, be respectful of others and problem-solve - preschool provides a place where a child can gain a positive sense of self, explore, play with her peers, and build confidence.



This month we examine what happens in preschool, why it's important, considerations and questions to ask when selecting a preschool for your child, and what's happening during the transition from preschool to kindergarten. Discussion of Head Start and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), as well as preschool for children with special needs, will provide important information about these programs and underscore why *all children* benefit by being ready for kindergarten.

Schedule for the week:

- Monday: Why is Preschool Important?
- Tuesday: Choosing the Right Preschool
- Wednesday: Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)/Head Start
- Thursday: Preschool for Children with Special Needs
- Friday: Making the Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten

Learning for Life is a week-long news series on KING 5 TV created in

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partnership with Thrive by Five Washington. It airs Monday through Friday on KING Morning News on KONG 6/16 TV between 7:30 and 8 a.m.

Links to all [Learning for Life segments](#) can be found on Thrive's Web site.

Joint Effort Launched to Benefit Children Birth to Age 8

Last week, Thrive by Five Washington, the state Department of Early Learning and the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction signed a joint agreement to develop an early learning system that works to benefit children between birth to age 8.



The resolution was signed at the Starting Strong Conference in SeaTac and outlines how the three entities will work together to promote school readiness in such key areas as kindergarten readiness assessment planning, child care quality, parenting information and support, and early literacy.

The Early Learning Partnership builds upon the recommendations of Washington Learns, the 18-month study of Washington's education system headed by Gov. Chris Gregoire. First signed in 2008, the resolution is updated to reflect new priorities, responsibilities and leadership among all three agencies.

Read the [Washington State Early Learning Joint Resolution](#) that guides the partnership.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Back to School

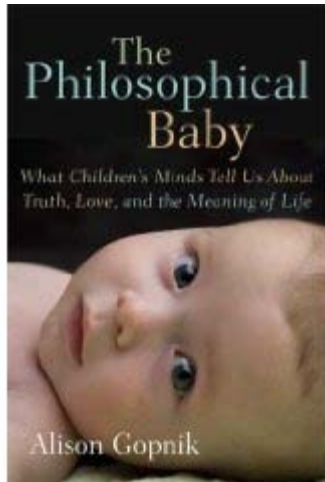
It's time to start thinking about heading back to school - for older and younger kids alike! When parents and teachers work closely together they create a strong base upon which a child can learn. Now is a great time to start thinking about ways you can become involved with activities at your child's school. Believe it or not, it's not too early to start.



Talk with your child's teacher or child care provider about ways you can support their program whether it's by continuing learning themes from your child's day at home, or volunteering at their school or program. Getting involved early will help get *you* off on the right foot in becoming a strong advocate over the course of your child's academic career.

GET IN THE KNOW

Thinking Like a Child



Have you ever stopped to think about what the world looks like through a child's eyes? *What* do they see? *How* do they interpret and feel about what they see? *Why* do they react the way they do?

[Dr. Alison Gopnik](#), an internationally recognized leader in the study of children's learning and development, explores this topic in her new book "[The Philosophical Baby: What Children's Minds Tell Us About Truth, Love and the Meaning of Life.](#)" She explores how adults often go through their days like "functional zombies" - completing necessary tasks, essentially on autopilot. Babies, on the other hand,

approach their days like little scientists, enthralled by new details and experiences they encounter throughout their day. They are able to draw accurate conclusions from data and analysis, and conduct clever experiments to get what they want-like smiling at mom to get a giggle out of her!

Gopnik claims that, like adults, babies are even capable of counterfactual thinking-the ability to imagine different outcomes that might happen in the future or might have happened in the past. She also tackles philosophical questions regarding love, truth and the meaning of life revealing that babies and children are keys not only to how the mind works but also to our understanding of the human condition and the nature of love.

For more on this book, [watch a brief interview with Dr. Gopnik here.](#)

PARTNER RESOURCES

Have Good Media Sense

Did you know that:

- 61 percent of babies under 2 years old spend time in front of a screen (and 14 percent of babies are in front of a television or computer for two or more hours a day).
- 19 percent of children 1 year or younger have a TV in the bedroom.
- Each hour of viewing baby DVDs/videos is associated with lower vocabulary development for infants.

[Common Sense Media](#) is dedicated to improving the media and entertainment lives of kids and families. One type of resource this organization provides is [advice for parents](#) that offers information on the impact the media has on children of all ages.



EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

8/24 - 8/28 - Learning for Life News Series on Preschool - Live interviews and news stories run Monday through Friday on KING Morning News on KONG 6/16 TV between 7:30 and 8 a.m.

8/30 - "Learning for Life: Ready for School, Ready for Life" - Primetime special to air at 9 p.m. on KING 5 that will look at what it means to be "kindergarten ready," why it's important and how we can all make a positive impact on a child's future.

9/10 - [KIRO 7 Kids Classic 13th Annual Golf Tournament and Auction](#). Benefitting [Children's Home Society of Washington](#) this four-person scramble will be held at the Trilogy Golf Course at Redmond Ridge.



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