



News and Events

New *Learning for Life* News Series to Put Spotlight on Early Learning Issues: Thrive and BELO Corporation Work Together to Raise Early Learning Issues

Tune in your DVR/TiVo for KONG 6/16 every day next week from 7:30 to 8 a.m.!

Starting Monday, the early learning issues you want to know more about are coming to you.



Learning for Life is a new week-long series of news features that will air third week of every month and tackle a variety of topics that will not only appeal to parents, grandparents and those who work with young children but also the general public.

Kicking off the new series is a look at [school readiness](#), including what it means to be "school ready," what parents can do to help their child be ready for kindergarten, and why we all benefit when children start school with the full set of skills that will help them be successful.

Learning for Life was created as part of a new partnership between Thrive, with support from the [Ginger & Barry Ackerley Foundation](#), and BELO Seattle, which owns KONG 6/16, KING 5 TV and Northwest Cable News.

Miss a news segment? You can watch it online, as well as learn about other early learning issues and participate in conversations at [Learning for Life](#) on the KING5.com Web site.

Bremerton Schools Chief to Lead State Department of Early Learning

Earlier this week, Gov. Chris Gregoire named Dr. Bette Hyde as the new director of the Washington State Department of Early Learning. Hyde has spent the past seven years as superintendent of the Bremerton School District where she worked to improve kindergarten readiness by connecting the district to early learning programs and creating partnerships with the early learning community.

"The children and families of our state are incredibly fortunate to have Bette coming onboard to lead the Department of Early Learning," Gregoire said. "With her years of classroom experience and firm belief that all children have the potential to succeed, she will bring passion and strong

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We want to hear from you!

Check out Thrive's blog and let us know your thoughts on the wide variety of early learning topics discussed there.



[Join the conversation...](#)

leadership to one of our state's most important investments."

Hyde began her career as a special education teacher, and has worked as a school psychologist, principal and assistant superintendent in the Seattle, Vashon Island and Highline school districts. She has also worked as deputy superintendent for the Puget Sound Educational Service District and served on the governor's Washington Learns advisory committee.

"This is, for me, the opportunity of a lifetime," Hyde said. "With DEL, Thrive by Five Washington and many other early learning partners working together, our state clearly values and prioritizes our children. I look forward to helping Washington lead the nation in ensuring all children reach their full potential."

Read [press release](#). Read Seattle Post-Intelligencer [news article](#).

Building Momentum in Olympia for Early Learning

Early learning is always a good investment, even when dollars are scarce. And thanks to the leadership of Thrive board members Rep. Ruth Kagi and Sen. Claudia Kauffman, legislators in Olympia recently heard why early learning is important, about all of the work happening in our state to make sure all children get the best start in life possible, and why early learning programs and policies need the state's continued support.



Left: Nina Auerbach, Thrive, and Karen Tvedt, DEL
Right: Pat Kuhl and Andy Meltzoff, I-LABS

On Jan. 29, Thrive President and CEO Nina Auerbach and Karen Tvedt, interim director of the Department of Early Learning, jointly presented to the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee; Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee; and the House Education Appropriations Committee. They talked about what each organization is doing and the many areas where we work in partnership with each other as well as others in the early learning community.

Amazing baby brain researchers, Pat Kuhl and Andy Meltzoff, co-directors of the [Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences \(I-LABS\)](#) at the University of Washington, also presented at each hearing and showed legislators what is happening in the brains of babies and toddlers and why birth to age 5 is an opportunity not to be missed.

Want to keep track of what's happening in Olympia on early learning issues? [Sign up for regular updates](#) from the Children's Alliance.



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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What You Can Do

Advocate for Washington's Children in Olympia

Be a voice for kids when they need it most! Organized by [Children's Alliance](#), Have a Heart for Kids Day on Friday, Feb. 27 will include training for new advocates, workshops about the issues you care about, a rally on the Capitol steps featuring Gov. Chris Gregoire, and opportunities to meet with your legislators.

Bring your family, your friends and your co-workers. Kids are welcome! [Register here](#) to participate, or [help send an advocate](#) to the event by donating \$20.

Partner Resources

Reach Out & Read Washington State Launches New Web Site

Reach Out and Read (ROR) Washington makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric primary care, so that children grow up with books and a love of reading. ROR is a national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud in pediatric exam rooms across the nation. Check out [Reach Out & Read Washington's new Web site](#) to find ROR programs statewide or download helpful early childhood literacy materials.

Events and Activities

February 27: [2009 Have a Heart for Kids Day](#) - Olympia, WA

February 28: KCTS 9 - [A Place of Our Own Workshop: Play & Creativity](#) - Seattle, WA

March 6: [Foundation for Early Learning's 2009 Leadership Luncheon](#) - Seattle, WA

March 13-14: [Washington State Refugee and Immigrant Conference](#) - Seattle, WA

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

What's New

Traditions are Important

Family traditions enhance children's emotional well-being by helping to create feelings of security, continuity and identity. [Read more and share your thoughts on Thrive's blog!](#)

Infants Learn Earlier than Thought

Scans of young brains by UW researchers show infants are far more aware of their surroundings than they may appear to be. [Learn more](#) in this article featuring Thrive's own Danielle Z. Kassow, Ph.D.