

Five from Thrive

June 2009



News & Events

With Heartfelt Thanks

At board meeting earlier this month, former Washington First Lady Mona Locke stepped off the Thrive by Five Washington Board of Directors and Bill Gates, Sr. stepped down as co-chair but will remain on the board. Both Locke and Gates are both dedicated champions of early learning and served on the Thrive board since the organization's 2006 start.

Locke, along with Melinda French Gates, helped bring the importance of early learning into the public eye more than a decade ago. She has remained a committed advocate through her work with both the Foundation for Early Learning and Thrive by Five Washington. Mona and her family are moving to Washington D.C. She, along with Melinda French Gates, helped bring the importance of early learning into the public eye and has remained a committed advocate through her work with both the Foundation for Early Learning and Thrive by Five Washington. Thrive will miss her voice here in Washington, but we anticipate her doing wonderful things for early learning at the national level!

In his new book, *Showing Up for Life: Thoughts on the Gifts of a Lifetime*, Bill Gates, Sr. says that "we are in this life together and we need each other." Early learning in Washington state and Thrive have needed Bill. We are grateful for everything he has done to shape and grow early learning work in the state and his unwavering commitment to Thrive in its first two years of existence. We very much look forward to his continued involvement on the Thrive board.

Thrive's board co-chairs are now Gov. Chris Gregoire and Jackie Bezos of the Bezos Family Foundation.

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Birth to Thrive Online

National First Five Years Fund Produces Video, Runs Campaign in Washington State to Help Influence Federal Budget

Washington is part of a five-state strategy by the national First Five Years Fund to help influence the federal budget.

Communications and policy work are being done here because of the state's growing emphasis on early learning and Sen. Patty Murray's seniority in the Senate - and because she's the only former preschool teacher in the Senate. Other states in the strategy include Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

Ads have been placed in the *Seattle Times*, *Puget Sound Business Journal* and the *Spokesman Review*.

Also as part of this work, the First Five years Fund created a moving video that beautifully shows what life looks like for children who get that great start and, sadly, children who don't. [Watch the video here.](#)

Learning for Life

This month's *Learning for Life* looked at the importance of play as a critical part of quality early learning.



Play is something that comes naturally to kids. It is one of the primary ways that they can explore and learn about the world around them. Engaging in free play lays a strong foundation for learning and academic success by boosting their intellectual, social, emotional and physical development. It's also key to creating a strong parent/child bond.

This month's series not only focused on the importance of play but also examined how play changes as a child grows, play in different cultures, and how to support a child's play.

Learning for Life is a week-long news series on KING 5 TV created in partnership with Thrive by Five Washington. It airs on KING Morning News on KONG 6/16 TV between 7:30 and 8 a.m.

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

Save the Date

CityClub to host "Education Series: Examining our Investment in Early Education" on July 9. Luncheon will be held in the Third Floor of the Atrium of Rainier Square, 1333 Fifth Avenue, Seattle. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. A buffet luncheon will be provided and the program will run from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. Visit www.seattlecityclub.org to register.

Panelists to date include:

Richard N. Brandon, Ph.D.; Director, *UW Human Services Policy Center*;
Director, *WA Kids Count Project*

Representative Skip Priest, 30th Legislative District, *Washington State House of Representatives*



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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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Valisa Smith, Senior Program Officer, Education,

This program will be moderated by **David Okimoto**, Senior Vice President, Community Services of the *United Way of King County*.

What You Can Do

Starting Strong Conference

Do you work with or on behalf of children from birth to age 8?

Then register now for this year's "**Starting Strong: Connecting Schools and Early Learning Providers**" conference, which will be held Aug. 10 and 11 at the Doubletree Seattle Airport Complex

The conference will focus on informing practice in four key components necessary for P-3 early care and education efforts: leadership, instructional practice, community coalitions and collaboration and family partnerships. Attendees will hear from national experts from P-3 partnerships in Washington. They will also participate in facilitated work group sessions focused on helping teams plan how they will implement what they will learn.

Scheduled speakers include:

- **Ruby Takanishi**, President of the Foundation for Child Development
- **Megan W. Stuhlman**, Research scientist at the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching & Learning, University of Virginia
- **Erin Jones**, Director of the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning, OSPI

The conference is being supported by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State Department of Early Learning, Foundation for Early Learning, Thrive by Five Washington and Washington State University.

Access more conference information or register here. [Access more conference information or register here.](#)

Get in the Know

Recognizing Early Developmental Delay with Assistance from the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

The Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) promotes parents talking with their doctor about developmental concerns for their child during the critical birth to three years. Parents may directly contact the ITEIP if they have a concern about their birth to three year olds' development. When they connect with a Family Resources Coordinator (FRC), the FRC can assist the family in receiving a free developmental screening and go on for an evaluation, if needed. Referral to an FRC starts the process in determining if a child is eligible for ITEIP services. **Families do not need a doctor's referral to get started receiving early intervention services.**

Parents may have gut instances that the development of their child is delayed and express concerns to their physician. Not all doctors are well

trained to spot developmental delays and often recommend taking a "wait and see" approach, while others may not know where to make a referral if they do suspect a delay. Parents are often devastated when they have raised their concerns and nothing is done-there is no referral to early intervention and a delay is discovered later on-when precious time has been lost and services could have been provided earlier.

The [ITEIP Web site](#) provides more information on the program. Parents may also call the WithinReach Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588 or [find a connection to a Family Resources Coordinator here](#).

Partner Resources

PlayBright

The PlayBright Learning System is a new educational program that combines recent early brain and child development research [early brain and child development research](#) and benchmarks with brain-boosting activities and games. This innovative approach makes it easy and fun to build healthy development, early learning skills, and a strong foundation for success in young children.



The [PlayBright Learning System](#), created by the non-profit Children's Home Society of Washington, provides comprehensive resources to nurture the whole child from birth to age 5 thrive.

- Easy-to-use PlayBright Guidebooks [PlayBright Guidebooks](#) include simple explanations of developmental stages, research-based play activities, [educational toy recommendations](#), strategies to support learning, and more! Guidebooks focus on one year of a child's life from birth to five, [the most important years in brain development](#).
- [The Keys to Learning Book](#) gives an in-depth, yet easy-to-understand look at PlayBright's [research foundations](#).
- PlayBright [tranings for early childhood educators, caregivers and parents](#) detail the Five Keys to Learning research framework and provide hands-on practice to help you get the most from the PlayBright Learning System.

[Learn more about PlayBright here](#).

All PlayBright proceeds are returned to Children's Home Society of Washington to further the agency's work with tens of thousands of families in Washington state.

Events and Activities

July 1

[Toddler Storytime](#) - Bremerton, WA

July 3

[Free First Friday at Children's Museum of Tacoma](#) - Tacoma, WA

[Summer Stories for Babies and Toddlers](#) - Gig Harbor, WA

July 9

[Summer Learning Day](#) - Nationwide

[Education Series: Examining Our Investment in Early Education](#) - Seattle, WA

July 12-17

[Nurturing Pathways, Inc. Training Program](#) - Seattle, WA

July 25

[Stories and Art for Kids](#) - Kingston, WA

July 27-28

[Exploring Humanitarian Law: A Workshop for Educators](#) - Seattle, WA



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