



News and Events

Learning for Life
March 2009: The Economy and Families



Being a parent is already a tough job. And the current economy isn't making it any easier.

Starting Monday and running all next week, *Learning for Life*, a news series on KING 5 TV created in partnership with Thrive by Five Washington, will focus on the challenges families with young children face in the current economic climate. Parents should tune in to find out how to talk with your young children about the family's finances, ideas for free and inexpensive activities and available help and resources. The series will also look at why early learning is *always* a good investment.

Learning for Life schedule for March 16-20:

Day 1: **How the economy is affecting families with young children**

Day 2: **Talking with young children about the family's financial situation**

Day 3: **Early learning is always a good investment - even when dollars are tight**

Day 4: **Resources available to help struggling families**

Day 5: **Inexpensive activities to do with your children**

Learning for Life is a week-long series that airs daily at about 7:45 during the third week of the month on KING Morning News on KONG 6/16 TV.

Didn't see February's Learning for Life news series, which focused on School Readiness? Watch it now on Thrive's [Learning for Life](#) Web page.

Thrive Presents at National Conference of State Legislatures' National Education Seminar

Brenda Blasingame, Thrive's Director of Programs, presented "Innovations in Early Learning: Public-Private Partnerships" at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Arizona. Together with Karen Woodhouse, Deputy Director for Arizona's First Things First, the two talked about the innovations that have come out of their partnerships. They also discussed what a "partnership" looks like as well as the necessary steps that are needed for a partnership to be successful. And no conversation is complete in today's world without a discussion about the challenges their organizations face given the nation's current economic situation.

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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...](#)

National Expert on Trauma and Child Development Speaks to Legislature



Dr. Pat Levitt, director of the Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development at Vanderbilt University, presented "The Importance of Positive Care Giving: The Effect of Persistent Stress on Child Development" to the state House Ways and Means Committee on Feb. 18. During the presentation, he shared studies on the effects of trauma on young children and research that underscored the positive impact that investing in early learning has on society.

[Watch Dr. Levitt's presentation](#) on TVW.

What You Can Do

Fun Time Really Can Be Free Time

Spending fun quality time with your child does not have to mean spending a lot of money. YOU are your child's favorite toy! Here are a few fun and easy activities that you - and your child - will enjoy.

Go on an adventure!

Planning a special trip to your local library, museum or park can be so much fun. Try putting together an "adventure pack" full of all your needed supplies for your big expedition for both you and your child. You can even make a special list of things to look for or collect during your outing!

Play with your food - make edible art!

Try a new recipe or dress up an old favorite. A simple sandwich can turn into something new and fun simply by cutting it into fun shapes with a cookie cutter. Or, you could make funny salad face using all of your favorite fixings. Be sure to talk about all of the fun colors and textures...and tastes!

Rainy day rescue

Even if the weather is not cooperating there is still fun to be had. Throw on some of your favorite tunes, be silly and get the wiggles out by dancing, clapping and singing along with the music.

Partner Resources

Early Learning Community

The Foundation for Early Learning recently launched a social network specifically dedicated to the world of early learning. This online Early Learning Community can be found at www.earlylearningcommunity.org. Community members -families, educators, early learning professionals and champions of early learning - can use this site to connect, share ideas and converse.

Features of the Early Learning Community include:

- **Job Board** - View recently posted jobs right on the [ELC homepage](#) or visit www.earlylearningjobs.org
- **Events** - Discover an [event](#) in your area or post an upcoming event and easily manage RSVPs online
- **Groups** - [Join](#) or [start](#) a group based on your organization or early learning area of interest. [Organize](#) and communicate with



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?

[Click here to share your smiles!](#)

Follow us on

twitter

Get the very latest from the world of early learning including news, upcoming events, groundbreaking studies and much more!

[Check out Thrive on Twitter](#)

Guess what? Thrive is on

facebook

Show your support for Thrive and early learning by joining us on Facebook.

[Click here to Facebook us!](#)

- your group or organization online with a single click.
- **Forum** - Have ideas about early learning, or resources you would like to share with parents or professionals? Contribute your remarks or start a discussion in the [community forum](#).
 - **Invite** - [Invite friends](#) to join the ELC or "friend" members already on the site. This makes it easy to stay in contact with other parents or professionals.

[Watch](#) a brief video that highlights some of the site's features.

Thrive is very excited to be part of The Early Learning Community. Be sure to check out [Thrive's group](#) on The Early Learning Community site!

What's New

Playful Paint

Children love to create, experiment and use their imagination when they play - and they learn so much, too! Check out our [Playful Paint](#) activity sheet for a safe way to have messy fun, build creativity, and play with art. (Spanish version, [Pintura Juguetona](#), is available.)

Strollers: Looking Back to Look Forward

Social interactions - such as daily conversations and interactions with parents while a child rides in a stroller - play a major part in fostering brain and vocabulary development. [Read more and share your thoughts on Thrive's blog!](#)

The Drive to Learn

During the first six years of life the brain grows to 90% of its adult size. Help a young child love learning by taking a step back and letting her lead the way! [Read more](#)

Events and Activities

March 14

[2nd Annual White Center Providers Early Childhood Education Fair](#) - Seattle, WA

[Disaster Preparedness Workshop](#) - Vancouver, WA

March 18

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

March 19

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

[Stevenson Play & Learn](#) - Stevenson, WA

March 20

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

March 21

[Connections Conference](#) - Mount Vernon, WA

[Family Fair, Spring into action!](#) - Pullman, WA

March 25

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

March 26

[Autism Career Planning](#) - Portland, OR
[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA
[Language to Literacy Luncheon](#) - Seattle, WA
[Play and Learn at the Whitson Elementary School](#) - White Salmon, WA

March 27

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

March 30

[ADHD, and Mental Illness in Children](#) - Portland, OR

April 1

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

April 2

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

April 3

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

April 4

[Southwest Washington Family Child Care Association](#) - Vancouver, WA

April 8

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

April 9

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

April 10

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

April 15

[Musical Storytelling](#) - Seattle, WA

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



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