

# Five from Thrive

October 2008



## News and Events

### Meet Nina Auerbach, Thrive's New CEO

Thrive by Five Washington proudly announces that Nina Auerbach has been named the new president and CEO. Nina comes to Thrive after 18 years as founding CEO of Child Care Resources, a non-profit agency that helps parents find child care and provides resources and supports to child care providers.



Nina says our state's growing focus on early learning issues makes it an exciting time to join Thrive. "Early learning rose to a state priority about two years ago, and it needs to stay a priority, even during tough economic times. In its short time, Thrive has helped raise awareness about early learning issues and brought together people and resources to start making the critical changes our state needs in early learning. But there is much more work to do."

Nina's community work includes serving as co-chair of SOAR, a King County collaborative of more than 40 organizations working together to improve the education of children ages birth to 18. She's also co-chair of the Rotary Club of Seattle's Youth, Schools and Early Learning Committee and a member of the Washington Women's Foundation. Her background is as a family and child therapist with a Master of Social Work from Smith College (Mass.), a MBA from the University of Washington and certification in executive coaching.

For more information, please [view the full press release](#) on our Web site.

### Educare Learning Center at Greenbridge Breaks Ground

With the help of preschoolers from Learning Way School and Day Care, ground broke one week ago on the Educare Learning Center at Greenbridge. U.S. Senator Patty Murray, Thrive by Five



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Washington co-chair Bill Gates, Sr. and more than 100 elected officials, community leaders and local children were on hand to celebrate this milestone with the White Center community, one of Thrive's two early learning demonstration communities.

When it opens in December 2009, the Educare Learning Center at Greenbridge will be a state-of-the-art facility for birth-to-five early care and education. It will provide full-day early learning and family support services for families and children birth to five, according to the guidelines established by the national Educare model. The center will also house a professional development center for care providers, as well as community facilities to support all families with young children.

The Educare Learning Center at Greenbridge is located in the King County Housing Authority's new Greenbridge planned redevelopment in the White Center community south of Seattle. Puget Sound Educational Service District will operate this facility in partnership with the White Center Early Learning Initiative and Thrive by Five Washington as a nationally recognized Educare model program. The Greenbridge center becomes the 10th Educare facility in the country.

**[Whitecenternow.com](#) posted a story about the groundbreaking and several photos on their site.**

### **Department of Early Learning Launches Washington State Quality Rating and Improvement System Field Tested**

Last week, the Department of Early Learning (DEL) officially launched the state's nine-month field test of a quality rating and improvement system, called Seeds to Success. DEL's Seeds to Success system is designed to offer child care providers coaching and funding to improve the quality of care they offer families and children. The system also holds the potential to provide families with "consumer report" information about the child care programs in their communities.

More than 100 child care providers from five communities around the state will take part in the field test. Two of the communities participating in the field test are White Center and East Yakima - Thrive's early learning demonstration communities. The two Thrive Communities will use the same quality rating and improvement system model as the others, but will get additional financial and coaching resources through Thrive to see how much difference this extra support makes.

Next steps for the field test include holding public town hall meetings in each of the five communities and then selecting licensed center-based and home-based providers who apply to participate. The two Thrive Communities will hold their town hall meetings at the end of the month. More information about Seeds to Success and a schedule of all the town hall meetings is found at [www.del.wa.gov/seeds](http://www.del.wa.gov/seeds).

## **What You Can Do**

### **Advice for Families with Young Children to Handle This Financial Crisis:**

In these tough economic times, it's particularly difficult for parents with young children to manage stress and minimize the impact it has on their parenting. According to a research summary by the Council on Contemporary Families (July 2008): "Economically distressed parents are more likely to use harsher methods of disciplining their children. With unstable housing and the loss of neighborhood connections, they also are less likely to have the support of their social networks ... to engage in effective parenting."



Dr. Michele Borba, educational psychologist, *Today* show contributor and parenting book author, offers tips for parents that recognize how you act and what you say during these tough financial times can affect a child's emotional well-being - not only now but in the long-term. Read Dr. Borba's *iVillage* article [here](#).

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## Partner Resources

**Children's Alliance Conducts 2009 Public Policy Survey:** Got opinions on early learning, child safety, mental health and juvenile justice? Then get online and complete the [Children's Alliance's 2009 Public Policy Survey](#). This short survey will take 5-10 minutes and will assist the Children's Alliance in supporting the community's needs during the next legislative session. The survey closes tomorrow.

**Ask the Presidential Candidates about Pre-K:** Pre-K Now, a national public education and advocacy organization that advances high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three and four year olds, is conducting a campaign to help communicate to *both* presidential candidates that now is precisely the time to invest in and expand pre-k programs. To participate in their campaign, [visit Pre-K Now's Web site](#).

## Events and Activities

**October 22 | 6:30-8:30p.m. | Schafer Auditorium at Seattle University**

**The Economic Opportunity Institute and the Early Learning Action Alliance present: *Kid-First Politics - A Conversation with David Kirp***

This free public talk will feature a moderated discussion between David Kirp and noted political communications consultant Michael Shadow, covering the recent history of the early learning movement and the key roles advocates have played in advancing public investment in quality early education and care.

David Kirp, professor of public policy at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, former journalist, and the widely acclaimed author of *The Sandbox Investment: The Preschool Movement and Kids-First Politics*, will share wisdom and warnings from effective early childhood education advocacy work from around the country.

The discussion will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience and a public reception. Event sponsored by the Children's

Alliance and Social Venture Partners. Hosted by Seattle University's Institute of Public Service. Co-presented by City Club.

Register to attend at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/45352>. For more information, contact Hannah Lidman at [hannah@eoionline.org](mailto:hannah@eoionline.org) or 206.529.6360.

***Let us know about an upcoming event, and we'll let others know. E-mail event information to [heidi@thrivebyfivewa.org](mailto:heidi@thrivebyfivewa.org).***

## What's New

**New Thrive by Five Washington Web site Coming Soon!** We've been working hard over the past few months on a new Web site that will do a better job of getting information and resources to our key audiences: parents and caregivers, early learning professionals, and business and community leaders. On our new site, you'll be able to submit "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 more resources for parents and caregivers translated in multiple languages; find valuable research, tips and tools through more connections to Thrive's partners; AND chat with us and others about early learning issues on our new blog. Don't even get us started on what Phase 2 of the new site might mean. Look for a re-launch announcement soon!

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