

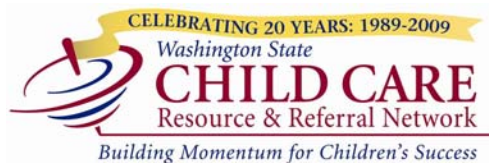
Early Learning 101

December 12, 2008

Early Learning 101



Welcome



Early Learning 101

- I. Defining Early Learning**
- II. Why Early Learning Is Important**
- III. History of Child Care**
- IV. Washington Moving Forward**
- V. Working Together**

Defining Early Learning

Early Learning is:

- Developmental timeframe, practices, programs and relationships.
- Variations occur across states, organizations, focus-area, age, etc.
- Birth – 8 children develop foundational brain structures, ability to learn.



Little Nickel Daycare

Brain Development: Why is Early Learning Important



Lagarlito's Garden Bilingual Spanish School

- Early learning experiences hard-wire the brain for future learning especially in the first few years.
- A child's brain development is impacted by their early relationships, the quality of interactions with caregivers and the education received.

Keys Factors of Early Learning

- Learning happens everywhere, everyday.
- Children need interaction and opportunities that engage all developmental areas:
 - Social - emotional
 - Cognitive
 - Physical



Lagarlito's Garden Bilingual Spanish School

School Readiness: Why is Early Learning Important

- Every year in WA about **80,000** children enter kindergarten classrooms and in many communities, more than half are not ready.
- **School readiness includes:**
 - Physical health
 - Cognitive abilities
 - Social/emotional development
 - Language & literacy development
 - Attitudes toward learning
- The achievement gap is often an opportunity gap.

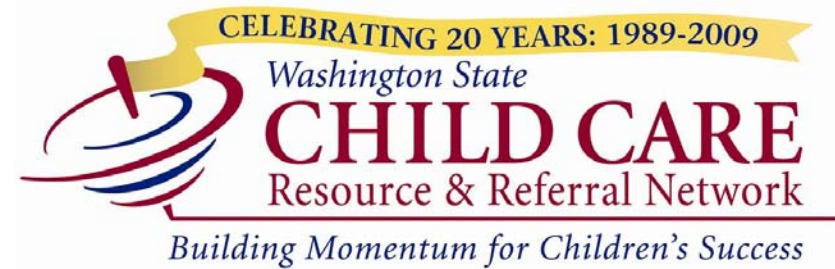


Tater Tot Daycare

Value to Business: Why is Early Learning Important

- Early learning is a great economic investment with a return of between **\$4** and **\$17** for every dollar invested in high-quality programs.
- For every child who participates in a high-quality preschool program, the public benefit is approximately **\$70,000** in avoided crime costs, increased productivity.
- A lack of available child care leads to employee absences costing U.S. businesses **\$3 billion** annually.
- Children who are successful in their early years will be better able to achieve higher education and job training as adults.

History of Childcare



DVD provided by Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network

Washington Moving Forward

1980

- Washington's early learning efforts began 20+ years ago

1989

- Child Care Resource & Referral Network established, supports 11 child care resource and referral agencies statewide

1998

- Mona Lee Locke and Melinda French Gates co-chaired Commission on Early Learning

Washington Moving Forward

2000

- Foundation for Early Learning established

2005

- State Legislature created the Washington Learns Steering Committee; co-chaired by Gov. Gregoire

2006

- Department of Early Learning, the first Cabinet-level agency of its kind in the nation created
- Thrive by Five Washington launched, a public-private partnership with DEL

Washington Moving Forward

2007

- The WA legislature allocated funding to implement full-day kindergarten prioritizing schools with high percentage of low income students
- Early Learning Action Alliance, a coalition of organizations that support children and families was formed to create a common advocacy agenda

2008

- Growing network of community coalitions statewide partnering with public, private and government organizations

Working Together

Quality early learning experiences:

- Reduce costs
- Increase success in school and life
- Maximize human potential

Success for young children means everyone, not just parents, working together to assure all children have positive and quality early learning experiences.



Maryan Abdulle Daycare Center

Working Together



Maryan Abdulle Daycare Center

- Join the growing momentum to support high-quality early learning experiences for all children.
- Help create the greatest possibilities for children.

Workshop brought to you by the Early Learning Communications Roundtable



Thank you!



Roundtable Partners

Corina McEntire	Born Learning Clark County – Educational Service District 112/Support for Early Learning & Families
Elizabeth Benedict	Child Care Resources
Ruth Schubert	Children’s Alliance
David Goehner	Educational Service District 105/Ready by Five
Joel Ballezza	Foundation for Early Learning
Shirley Skidmore	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Joan Tritchler	Puget Sound Educational Service District/White Center Early Learning Initiative
Elizabeth Mendoza	Ready by Five
Julee Durham	South Sound Born Learning/United Way of Thurston County
Molly O’Connor	Thrive by Five Washington
Erica Hallock	United Ways of Washington
Debbie Price	Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Network
Amy Blondin	Washington State Department of Early Learning