

Early Learning Communications Roundtable

Please feel free to contact anyone on this list to help identify local contacts for stories.

Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail	What Organization Does
Corina McEntire	Born Learning Clark County – Educational Service District 112 and Support for Early Learning & Families	(360) 750-7500 x 398	corina.mcentire@esd112.org	<p>Born Learning is a national public engagement campaign that helps parents, grandparents and caregivers explore ways to turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities.</p> <p>Support for Early Learning and Families (SELF) is a diverse coalition of community organizations and public agencies working to improve outcomes for Clark County's youngest children.</p>
Elizabeth Benedict	Child Care Resources	(206) 329-1011 x 233	benedict@childcare.org	<p>Child Care Resources (CCR) brings an 18 year history of developing and providing innovative programs that deliver results by working independently and in concert with <u>all</u> of the pieces of the child care equation. From families, to providers to public entities to like-minded partners, CCR helps build quality child care and early learning for all children. Specific programs include: specialized assistance for families in challenging situations and customized training, technical assistance, supplies and mentorship for all types of child care providers.</p>
Ruth Schubert	Children's Alliance	(206) 324-0340 x 18	ruth@childrensalliance.org	<p>The Children's Alliance is a statewide, nonpartisan child advocacy organization. We protect kids by changing laws. We serve kids by making sure programs and policies work. We put kids first by securing resources. We advocate for kids by holding lawmakers accountable.</p>
Joel Ballezza	Foundation for Early Learning	(206) 525-4801 x25	joel@earlylearning.org	<p>The Foundation for Early Learning is dedicated to advancing early learning across Washington state through community coalition building, strategic grant making, resources sharing, technical assistance and organizational partnerships focused on issues affecting our youngest children.</p>
Shirley Skidmore (until 1/09) Mary Seaton – Early Learning Director	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	(360) 725-6014 (360) 725-4463	Shirley.Skidmore@k12.wa.us Mary.Seaton@k12.wa.us	<p>The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is the primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 education in Washington. The agency works closely with school districts and other early learning partners on numerous issues that affect children in the elementary grades. Current prominent initiatives include partnering on the kindergarten readiness project, and overseeing</p>

				the full-day kindergarten and K-3 demonstration projects authorized by the Legislature, as well as a providing special support to the Bremerton School District as it implements its all-day kindergarten program (known as the “Lighthouse” project).
Elizabeth Mendoza	Ready by Five	(509) 853-1107	elizabethm@readybyfive.org	Ready by Five is an early learning program designed to strengthen learning opportunities in East Yakima for families and their children from birth to age five, so that they will enter kindergarten ready for success at school. By surrounding children with high quality early learning environments that develop their potential and creativity, children will enter kindergarten ready for success at school. Ready by Five is one of two Thrive by Five Washington communities that serve as models for early learning statewide.
Molly O’Connor	Thrive by Five Washington	(206) 621-5562	molly@thrivebyfivewa.org	Thrive by Five Washington is a public-private partnership that champions positive early learning opportunities for every child, from birth to age 5, so that they are ready to succeed in school and thrive in life. Thrive’s main areas of work include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thrive Communities in White Center and East Yakima to serve as models for a community-wide approach to early learning • Exemplary Practices to put effective early learning research into action to increase the quality of early learning and school readiness • Statewide Architecture to guide public policy and quality systems development • Statewide Awareness and Education to increase public support for changing early learning policies, increase resources to support early learning education and assist parents in accessing high-quality early learning resources
Julee Durham	South Sound Born Learning and United Way of Thurston County	(360) 943-2773 x 14	jdurham@unitedway-thurston.org	Born Learning is a national public engagement campaign that helps parents, grandparents and caregivers explore ways to turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities. United Way of Thurston County locally hosts the Success By Six Initiative which promotes quality early learning activities and policy, with a goal that every child enters school prepared to succeed. UWTC also convenes the Thurston Early Childhood Coalition.
Erica Hallock	United Ways of Washington	(509) 991-2390	ericah@unitedwayspokane.org	United Ways of Washington is an association made up of the 27 local United Ways in the state of Washington with its Board of Directors made up of the executive directors of the 27 local United Ways. Its primary mission is to assist and benefit United Way

				member organizations on matters of regional and statewide significance and to help United Way member organizations accomplish their mission of helping people care for one another in their communities.
Debbie Price	Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network	(253) 383.1735 ext. 24	debbie@childcarenet.org	The Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network supports families and caregivers, shapes policy and builds communities that promote the learning and development of children and youth throughout Washington state through a strong statewide network of 11 local child care resource and referral programs.
Amy Blondin	Washington State Department of Early Learning	(360) 725-4919	amy.blondin@del.wa.gov	The Washington State Department of Early Learning is a cabinet-level agency that oversees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child care licensing statewide • the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), a preschool program for financially stressed families • The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC), a subsidy program that provides money to child care businesses and relatives who care for children while parents work
Joan Tritchler	Puget Sound Educational Service District and White Center Early Learning Initiative	(425) 917-7600	jtritchler@psed.org	The White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI) is a partnership of community members and public and private organizations working to create sustainable, integrated and accessible child development and family support services that reflect the diverse cultures, strengths, and needs of White Center families. WCELI is one of two Thrive by Five Washington communities that serve as models for early learning statewide.