

Provider Supports Subcommittee

Agency Updates

Date: March 18, 2026

Professional Development Opportunities

Free Early Literacy Conference

Mark your calendars for a free conference on Saturday, March 21, 9am-4:30 pm. The Sno-Isle Libraries Early Literacy Conference is designed to inspire and grow a strong foundation of early literacy in Snohomish and Island counties. The day will include:

- Professional development focused on supporting early literacy.
- Interactive workshops for early childhood educators, parents and caregivers, community partners, and early learning leaders.
- REJUVENATE keynote co-sponsored by PNW-WAEYC.
- STARS credits.
- Free breakfast and lunch.

More info here: <https://silwa.patronpoint.com/email/view/696fd16e93a29280112649>

Parent Education and Support for Challenging Behavior

This 10-week virtual series is for parents and caregivers of children ages 3–12 in the Pacific Northwest with a suspected or diagnosed delay or disability. Using the Project ECHO “All Teach, All Learn” model, participants connect with other families while learning evidence-based strategies to understand and respond to challenging behaviors in a confidential, supportive space. Sessions run Thursdays, February 26–April 30, from 12:30–1:45 PM and include access to a multidisciplinary team of experts, computer-based translation, and live Spanish language support.

- More info here (English/Spanish): <https://ihdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/flyer-positive-parenting-english-spanish.pdf>
- Visit UW Lend to learn more: <https://ihdd.org/2026/01/20/uw-lend-positive-parent-strategies-project-echo/>

DCYF Early Learning Division

March Early Care and Education (ECE) Newsletter

To read March's ECE newsletter, please read here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADEL/bulletins/40b601a>

Share your experience with facility development

DCYF invites you to share your experience with opening or expanding early learning facilities, including the challenges, barriers, and innovative solutions you encountered throughout the process. Please [complete this form](#) to help us better understand facility needs across the state. As DCYF works to implement the Access and Living Wage Plan (which can be found [HERE](#)), DCYF is conducting an Early Care and Education Facilities Exploration project to inform and support future facilities expansion efforts.

Education Verification

We are aware that the processing period for education verification applications is currently longer than usual. We recognize the impact these delays may have and apologize for the inconvenience. Work is underway to streamline the verification process. During this period, processing timelines may continue to vary. If this delay affects your ability to receive a new license or complete the onboarding process, please contact your licensor to request an expedited review. We will share updates as improvements are implemented and additional information becomes available.

Child Care Subsidy Program

The DCYF Child Care Subsidy Contact Center processing time frames and wait times have rebounded from the back-to-school rush. The first part of January saw an increase in call volume creating a little longer wait times but have also rebounded by mid-January.

Average Call Wait Times by Month, and average wait time in minutes and seconds

9/1/2025	49:05
10/1/2025	21:49
11/1/2025	11:11
12/1/2025	10:41

Average Application Processing Days by Month (and Days to final determination)

Aug-25:	30
Sep-25:	25



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Oct-25:18

Nov-25:14

Cost of Quality Child Care and Market Rate Study Survey Update

DCYF's Cost of Quality Child Care and Market Rate Study survey concluded on December 15, 2025. DCYF contacted several more providers in low response counties afterward, and several completed the survey.

An unprecedented number of "bot" survey responses came in after DCYF posted the survey to social media. These required a manual, industry best practice process to remove to ensure data integrity and that only real providers receive \$50 gift cards offered in appreciation for taking the survey.

As a result of the need to eliminate "bot" responses, gift cards promised after the survey closed were delayed. Western Washington University (WWU) began distributing these on February 6, 2026. If you or a provider you know completed the survey but have not received a gift card, please contact Matt Judge, Federal Initiatives and Collaboration Administrator, at matt.judge@dcyf.wa.gov.

Survey Demographic Data

- 2,573 total responses of 6,556 licensed providers received (39% response rate)
 - 1,340 family child care
 - 13 outdoor nature-based
 - 1216 center
 - 4 school-age only centers
- Each subsidy region had at least double digit response from both center and family home providers
- Language Distribution
 - 316 responses to Spanish survey (12%)
 - 1 response to Somali survey
 - All other survey responses were in English

Next steps

- WWU is now drafting the study report
- In March DCYF will begin review of the draft report
- June 1, 2026, DCYF will present the final report to the Legislature

Rule Making Update

Proposed Rules (March 3, 2026)

Child Welfare Division-Child Protective Services (CPS) response to reports of alleged abuse or neglect. [Read full update here.](#)

Approved for distribution by Marlene White, Community Engagement Manager

Additional Updates

Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) submits report on insurance for child housing service providers to Legislature.

Additional information on the OIC webpage, here: [OIC submits report on insurance for child housing service providers to Legislature | Office of the Insurance Commissioner](#)