

DCYF Professional Development (PD) Newsletter

Welcome!

We are delighted to introduce our first edition of the PD Newsletter! We intend to make it a regular publication and use it to keep you informed on all of the great work in our communities! We appreciate you taking the time to read it. If you'd like to unsubscribe from this service, please e-mail Marlene White at: marlene.white@dcyf.wa.gov



Washington's Home Visiting Short Certificate

State certificate specializing in Home Visiting is now available! After much input to offer a certificate specializing in Home Visiting, our partners have developed the course a 3-credit course: ECED& 138 Home Visiting / Family Engagement.

The addition of the Home Visiting course allows colleges to offer a 20 credit ECE Short Certificate of Specialization in Home Visiting. Individuals may use this certificate to re-tool for the role of Home Visitor or as a stepping-stone toward earning an ECE degree.

It is offered online at several colleges throughout Washington. Check with your local community or technical college to learn where the ECE Short Certificate of Specialization in Home Visiting is offered.

Updated Student Outcomes for all ECE Certificates

Over the past-year, a team of Early Childhood Teacher Preparation council members from eight community and technical colleges convened to update the common course templates for Washington's ECE Certificates. The course templates identify common expectations of students completing the courses. Each college is expected to update their course syllabi in order to continue to use the common titles and numbers. The goal of this work is to offer relevant professional development opportunities for the current and future workforce.



Below are the areas of focus for this work:

- Development of cultural responsiveness, cultural preservation skills in every class
- Writing outcomes; enabling learners, instructors, and employers to recognize growth
- Keeping the cost of textbooks and resources down
- Cross-walking all student outcomes with both Washington State Core Competencies and NAEYC Teacher Preparation Standards



Equivalencies workgroup

DCYF is committed to providing culturally responsive pathways for early learning providers to meet the education requirements outlined in the updated aligned WAC 110-300 which goes in effect August 1, 2019.

The updated WAC includes a definition for ‘equivalency’ when referring to education requirements. This definition states:

‘an individual is allowed to meet the requirements of this chapter through a department recognized alternative credential, or demonstration of competency, that indicates similar knowledge as the named credential.’

DCYF convened a workgroup made up of early learning professionals, community members, and partners to further define this and develop a process for meeting the updated education requirements. This workgroup will make recommendations for ‘equivalents’ to DCYF that will include:

- A list of recognized certificates and credentials
- A way for recognizing existing knowledge and skills

The workgroup is meeting through January 2019. Updates and drafts from the workgroup will be posted [here on the professional development section](#) of the DCYF website.



The Coaching Companion is undergoing renovations!

Cultivate Learning has improved the Coaching Companion so that it is easier to use. The launch of the updated tool is set for January 2019!

Trainings, webinars and virtual office hours will be available throughout January 2019 to help providers with the new version.

For more information about this change, contact: cultiv8@uw.edu



Training Updates

DCYF identified training priorities based on legislative directives, community needs, and data on school readiness from WaKIDS as well as provider data from Early Achievers. These priorities include:

Early Math – Did you know only 66% of children enter kindergarten with the readiness skills in math? At DCYF, we are working with partners across the state to increase training on early math. Our focus is on:

- Mathematical practices and thinking for young children and;
- Supporting providers in their own mindset towards math.

To do this, we are learning about the needs in communities through several focus groups. Do you want to share your thoughts, too? Even if you didn't attend a focus group, you can add to our learning by completing this short questionnaire here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M8RPBXS> . You can expect this to take less than 10 minutes, and includes several lists for you to select from.

Dual Language Learners – 32% of young children (birth-8) are learning more than one language in Washington, and the increase has been double that of other states! We know there are benefits to speaking more than one language – and so many community advocates worked to pass HB1445 that directed DCYF to do the following:

- Training – We are piloting this now! Check MERIT for dates and locations in your area! This is no cost to participants and you can earn 12 STARS hours for the full series.
- Coaches – We are working with Cultivate Learning so that coaches can support providers who are completing the training.
- Outreach – We want to share about the benefits of learning two languages with families!
- You can help by sharing these resources that are also highlighted in the training:
<https://weareoneamerica.org/speak-your-language/>

To read the full text of the bill, please visit the WA State legislature site:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2017&BillNumber=1445>

Business Practices for Centers and Family Homes – In order to achieve and sustain high-quality early learning programs, it's important to expand on the growth of learners and have business leadership skills. We are beginning to develop learning opportunities focused on business management, with the goal of statewide availability in 2021. Family home and center-based providers will be able to improve their skills in:

- Budgeting
- Marketing
- Human resources
- Fundraising

CCDF Health & Safety Requirements

DCYF is now offering new Health & Safety Trainings for licensed providers to meet federal health and safety requirements. These new trainings are offered online and also through the updated Child Care Basics curriculum.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LICENSED PROVIDERS?

If you already completed Child Care Basics (or met the requirement in another way) on or before October 1, 2018, you currently meet the health and safety training requirement and do not need to complete these new Health & Safety trainings. For those who meet the requirement, a Health & Safety Guide that covers these new topics is available here:

<https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-profdev/early-learning-provider/training-library>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

- You can still complete the training! DCYF highly recommends the training. Even if you already meet the requirement - all who work with children can benefit from the supplemental information and further detail that is provided to keep children safe and improve the quality of care.
- STARS credit is not available for these trainings.
- The trainings are available at DCYFTraining.com. Click on 'Required Training' menu to select training.



Learning Opportunity: MERIT Webinar!

Join us Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 6 pm to learn how to get started in MERIT! This will be a live, interactive webinar geared towards child care providers, employers or anyone who supports early learning professionals who are new to MERIT or not familiar with MERIT. This is not mandatory just an additional resource. The following topics will be discussed:

- Where to find MERIT support materials on the DCYF website
- Registering in MERIT
- Applying for a STARS ID
- Submitting the Portable Background Check (PBC)

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2342998101676799245>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



How are we doing?

Did you find this useful? Please tell us how we did or offer suggestions by taking this short survey. It's super short, only 5 questions:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5PLMBX>
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