ECEAP REMINDERS & LINKS – OCTOBER 2020
The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington’s pre-kindergarten program that prepares 3- and 4-year-old children furthest from opportunity for success in school and life.

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Important Dates

**October 15:** If applicable, request to use ECEAP funds as federal match in ELMS September Monthly Report.

**October 30:** ECEAP Operating Budget and Staff Compensation Report due.

Questions?

Email questions about newsletter topics to eceap@dcyf.wa.gov or your Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Specialist. For additional information about ECEAP or the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), please visit our Contractor webpages.
Updates

DCYF ECEAP and COVID-19
We commit to continuing our support as you provide ECEAP services in the new school year. The following is related information for ECEAP contractors.

Service Delivery Guidance
Summer Family Support Services: DCYF ECEAP Summer Family Support Services contracts were put to use by more than 40 ECEAP contractors to supplement services for ECEAP families. The purpose of the funding was to provide services and resources between school years that mitigate financial challenges and increased isolation due to COVID-19. At the time of publication, DCYF ECEAP leadership is advocating with Washington’s Office of Financial Management to extend the contract end date beyond Sept. 30, 2020. More information will be shared when available.

School and Part Day Model Sites: In planning the best approach to service delivery, ECEAP contractors should follow the guidance of local health and tribal jurisdictions. Those agencies provide the most specific guidelines for the re-opening phases of your respective counties. DCYF ECEAP also recommends following the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) child care guidance when providing classroom services. If School and/or Part Day sites are not providing full classroom services in October, please contact your assigned CQI Specialist to share your plan for service delivery, including timelines. Planning may include staggered starts, modified services and partial services.

Important Information:
- Modified services, in place of classrooms closing, are described in ECEAP Q&A, under “Continuing Operations.”
- Subsidy payments (if applicable) are outlined on the DCYF COVID-19 Early Learning and Child Care webpage.

Recruitment, Eligibility and Enrollment (REE) Basecamp
This resource provides time to connect about enrollment and eligibility topics and takes the place of in-person REE trainings this year. Please email elms@dcyf.wa.gov to join the REE Basecamp.

- The REE Basecamp allows staff to:
  - Share ideas, strategies and resources that support in-home learning.
  - Support each other regarding shared challenges and struggles.
  - Access links to professional development opportunities.
  - Ask policy and ECEAP Performance Standard questions.

Ongoing ECEAP Staff COVID-19 Support Basecamps
DCYF ECEAP’s online Basecamp forums for education staff and family support staff are continuing into the fall. These provide opportunities for staff to connect about tailored supports for children and families, find professional development opportunities and access ongoing webinars on emergent topics. Please contact your CQI Specialist to receive an invitation to access these resources. Directors are welcome to forward invitations to any appropriate ECEAP or Head Start staff. Joining the group is optional and participants may remove themselves at any time.

Ongoing Communication
The DCYF COVID-19 inbox no longer accepts emails. Resources are still available on the DCYF COVID-19 Updates webpage. You may also visit the DOH website for more information.

DCYF ECEAP will continue to provide updates and guidance. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to DCYF ECEAP staff with questions, concerns and ideas. Contact eceap@dcyf.wa.gov, your CQI Specialist or Karin Ganz at any time.
How ECEAP Continues to Provide Essential Services During COVID-19

Read more about how ECEAP contractors’ creative responses to the needs of their communities result in tailor-made solutions and locally designed services. This approach results in ECEAP contractor staff providing innovative, high-quality and responsive education and supports while also staying safe.

New ECEAP Staff Member

We are excited to introduce Cynthia Gosling, our first Early ECEAP Infant and Toddler Specialist. Cynthia comes to us with experience in infant and toddler programs as an Early Head Start home visitor and as a birth to 3-year-old education coach. She has more than 18 years of teaching experience and 10 of these involved partnering with children and families with special needs and disabilities. Cynthia has a master’s degree in special education and a bachelor’s degree in American ethnic studies. She also has certifications and training in CLASS, ECERS, ASQ-3, ASQ-SE, GLAD, practice-based coaching, family engagement and more. Her work is driven by an unwavering commitment to equity and providing inclusive supports for families. She brings passion, knowledge and expertise to the table with every conversation. Cynthia lives with her family in Pierce County and finds immense joy in time spent with her 3-year-old granddaughter. Please join us in welcoming her to DCYF ECEAP.

Complex Needs Funding

Ongoing advocacy efforts to better support ECEAP children with complex needs led to the legislature allocating $2.2M in supplemental funding for ECEAP providers. Agency approval to distribute this funding has been hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic. More information will be available soon about the process for an equitable disbursement of funding across the state. DCYF ECEAP is working toward distributing this funding by the end of October.

New Guidance on Families Experiencing Homelessness and Alternative Attendance Plans

Based on questions and feedback from staff in programs, DCYF ECEAP compiled information specific to ECEAP Families Experiencing Homelessness. This resource covers recruitment, prioritization, enrollment and attendance of children whose families are experiencing homelessness. This document is a companion guide to multiple ECEAP Performance Standards and other requirements that address families experiencing homelessness. The content is especially helpful for Recruitment, Eligibility and Enrollment staff and Family Support staff. Referenced in this document and linked here, the Alternative Attendance Plan Request form may be used as a guide and worksheet to draft an alternative attendance plan for an ECEAP child. When complete, use it to request an Alternative Attendance Plan in ELMS. This form is not needed for all alternative attendance plans or modified services that are the result of COVID-19. Contact your CQI Specialist for more information.

Recruitment for Inclusion Specialist

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is recruiting for an Early Childhood Education Inclusion Specialist. This position will support training and professional development activities related to the implementation of Pyramid Model Practices. Applications are due Oct. 7, 2020.

Washington State Budget Projected Deficit

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a major hit to the state’s economy and extensive state budget impacts. Budget reductions are a necessary step to address the deficit. In the short term, Gov. Inslee implemented furloughs for many state employees from June through November 2020. Friday, Oct. 9, is DCYF’s designated furlough day this month. On furlough days, DCYF ECEAP staff, including ELMS support, will not be available. We will continue to update you as more information becomes available.
ELMS News

Changes to ELMS Released on Sept. 15:
- The Staff Monitoring report now displays PBC Expiration Dates.
- The Health Status by Child report now displays BMI values.
- Alternative Attendance Plans: You will now request approval for alternative attendance plans in ELMS, instead of on a paper form. To find it, click the Child Search tab, search for the child who needs an alternative attendance plan, and click the “Alternative Attendance Plan” link under the actions column. Follow the instructions on the Alternative Attendance Plan page to complete the form in ELMS.
- The Site Staff subtab has a new Coach Staff section. This section will display staff who have the coach role assigned to them at the site level. To find this information, click Locations & Classes tab, select Sites in the submenu bar, and click the Staff link. The new Coach Staff section is located at the bottom of the page.

Teaching Strategies GOLD®

Reminder: Required Training for Lead Teachers
The following online Teaching Strategies® courses meet the Lead Teacher training requirements in ECEAP Performance Standard PDTR-10. Per the standard, Lead Teachers must complete these courses within six months of hire. Unlimited access to all online professional development in Teaching Strategies® is available for ECEAP users throughout the 2020-21 school year.

Creative Curriculum® (CC®) training (20 hours total)

Note: Completion of both of these online courses is the equivalent of the two-day foundational CC® training provided in person within the past few years.
- CC® for Preschool: Foundation (10 hours)
- CC® for Preschool: Daily Resources (10 hours)

GOLD® training (15 hours total)

Note: Completion of all three of these online training modules is the equivalent of the two-day foundational GOLD® training provided in person within the past few years.
- GOLD®: Introducing MyTeachingStrategies® (2 hours)
- GOLD®: Objectives for Development and Learning (10 hours)
- Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) Certification* for “Preschool, including dual language learners and child with special needs” (3 hours)

*Note: Please don’t send course certificates of completion to DCYF ECEAP or to MERIT. Teaching Strategies® informs DCYF ECEAP when teachers have completed trainings. DCYF ECEAP enters the appropriate hours into MERIT. Due to capacity, this may take several weeks after the training is completed. Thank you for your patience.

Teaching Strategies® GOLD® 2020 Getting Started Checklists for ECEAP now available
These are optional tools for starting the year.
- Getting Started Checklist for ECEAP Teachers (also available on TSG Dashboard when teachers log in)
- Getting Started Checklist for ECEAP Administrators
New and Ongoing Resources from Teaching Strategies®

Resources are also available in the Education Staff Support During COVID-19 Basecamp.

- Users can check their MyTeachingStrategies® dashboard for regular updates to GOLD® and Creative Curriculum® features, resources and webinars.
- Free and Accessible Ready Rosie® Modeled Moments COVID-19 Videos
- Blog posts: Making Distance Learning Successful; 3 Strategies to Provide Ambitious Interactions and Instruction for All; Using GOLD® for Formative Assessment in the Time of COVID-19
- GOLD® Enhancements (at no additional cost) include expanded access to all Intentional Teaching Experiences® per class type; digital access to 100 Mighty Minutes®; family activities associated with the Intentional Teaching Experiences® and Mighty Minutes®; and an updated MyTeachingStrategies® family mobile app.
- Classroom Connect has all educator resources for you in one place.

Teaching Strategies GOLD® and Creative Curriculum® Professional Development

Professional development (PD) resources are free for ECEAP users and accessible through teacher GOLD® accounts on the Teaching Strategies® Home Page through the 2020-21 school year. Upcoming webinars and new online resources provided by Teaching Strategies® are posted in the “Messages” section after logging in.

- Upcoming TS® webinars: Topics include “Explore the TEACH Area” and “GOLD® Fall Checkpoint Support for Teachers.”
- All prior TS® webinars are recorded and available for later viewing in the TS Archived Webinar Library. This includes topics such as Engaging Families While Using GOLD®, Involving Families in Formative Assessment, Back-to-School Support for Teachers, Back-to-School Support for Administrators and Self-Care for Educators During the Pandemic.
- Video tutorials: Managing Family Members in MyTeachingStrategies®, Engaging in Two-Way Communication with Families and Sharing Family Activities from your Planning Calendar.

Teaching Strategies GOLD® Technical Assistance

- Call the dedicated ECEAP GOLD® phone line at 844-854-4653 for simple issues like logging in and general teacher questions.
- For more significant technical issues, submit a case form to the Teaching Strategies® Support Portal.
- Email del.wa@teachingstrategies.com with GOLD® issues or requests for additional portfolios. Include details such as ELMS child IDs, teacher names and class names. You may include elms@dcyf.wa.gov as an email recipient for additional support.

DCYF Training Opportunities and Events

Directors Annual Meeting, New Directors Meeting and Bi-Monthly Check-Ins

Our New ECEAP Directors meeting convenes Oct. 14 from 9-11 a.m. This gathering is for new directors or those newer to their role. Others who are interested are also welcome. Please contact your assigned CQI Specialist to request the meeting invitation.

The annual required in-person ECEAP Directors meeting will use a virtual format this year. Please join us on Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Meeting invitations are coming soon.

Ongoing Director check-ins are set for Oct. 7 and 21 from 9-10 a.m. Contact your CQI Specialist for a meeting invitation, if needed.
Education Staff Monthly Check-ins and Webinars
Check-ins for education staff are held through Zoom on the fourth Monday of each month beginning August 31. Check-ins focus on connecting and creating dialogue with participants. Join here.

Webinars for education staff are on the second Monday of each month starting September 14. A variety of topics are planned including curriculum, observation, screening and assessment.
Register here:
- Oct. 12, 2020, 10 a.m.
- Nov. 9, 2020, 10 a.m.
- Dec. 14, 2020, 10 a.m.
- Jan. 11, 2021, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 8, 2021, 10 a.m.
- March 8, 2021, 10 a.m.
- April 12, 2021, 10 a.m.
- May 10, 2021, 10 a.m.

Family Support Staff Check-ins
Check-ins are held through Zoom on the third Thursday of each month. The gatherings focus on connecting and creating dialogue with participants. Join the Oct. 15 check-in from 9-9:40 a.m. here.

2020-21 Mobility Mentoring® Monthly Webinars
The monthly Mobility Mentoring® webinar series resumed in September. Additional webinars may be added for direct support staff during the pandemic, as needed.

Mobility Mentoring® Webinars for Direct Support Staff
- Oct. 8, 2020, 9 a.m. Topic: Revisiting Goal Setting in Virtual Coaching
- Jan. 14, 2021, 9 a.m.
- Feb. 11, 2021, 9 a.m.
- April 8, 2021, 9 a.m.
- May 13, 2021, 9 a.m.

Mobility Mentoring® Webinars for Leads
- Nov. 12, 2020, 9 a.m.
- March 11, 2021, 9 a.m.
- June 10, 2021, 9 a.m.

Other Training Opportunities
Free Online COVID-19 Class for Child Care Providers
The Snohomish Health District is offering this public health service to the child care community. The class provides one In-Service hour (1.0 STARS credit) at no cost for a limited time. The course covers:
- How the virus spreads and methods of control.
- Guidelines for limiting exposure in child care centers, family home child care and school-age care programs.
- Review of up-to-date guidance for engaging in regular daily child care activities while practicing physical distancing and sanitation.
- What to do if there is a case of COVID-19 associated with your child care.
- General and child care-specific COVID-19 resources.

For more information and to register, click here. Questions? Email the Snohomish Health District's Child Care Health Outreach Program or call 425-252-5415.
Circle Time Magazine
Visit Circle Time Magazine, an accessible, friendly and fun professional development web series focused on early learning in action. Receive STARS credits by completing knowledge checks at the end of each episode.

Resources
Health, Trauma and Resilience
Promoting Healthy Practices During COVID-19
This publication highlights best practices for the child care community during meal and snack time, while still following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) guidance.

This publication is available in:
- English
- Spanish
- Somali

This publication and other educational resources are on DOH’s COVID-19 site under Educational Materials. For questions or more information about this resource, please contact Chris Mornick.

Centers for Disease Control Updated Child Care Guidance
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides updated guidance for child care providers, including options for barrier protection during the COVID-19 screening process before entry.

DCYF COVID-19 Resource Guide
DCYF recently created a resource guide to help parents and caregivers navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. The guide is intended to help parents, caregivers and their families understand, manage and respond to the stress and uncertainty of an infectious disease outbreak.

Supporting Children Experiencing Trauma
This video explores the ways Head Start programs are uniquely positioned to respond to the impacts of trauma. Trauma-informed approaches are provided for early learning programs to increase the ways children and families are served. This includes understanding the prevalence of trauma, recognizing its signs and symptoms and knowing how to respond.

Equity
Anti-Racist Work in Schools: Are You in it for the Long Haul?
Schools are recognizing the importance of anti-bias and anti-racist work. Visit Teaching Tolerance website to consider their points of reflection and questions.

Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves
This book offers practical guidance to early childhood educators and parents for confronting and eliminating barriers of prejudice, misinformation and bias about specific aspects of personal and social identity.

Washington State Association (WSA) of Head Start and ECEAP Resource
Find a compiled list of articles, videos, books and more on race and racism for Parent Ambassadors.

Reimagining Strategy in the Context of the COVID-19 Crisis: A Triage Tool
Center for Community Investment shares a Triage Tool that helps define your focus and prioritize strategies and the work moving forward.
Early Math and Numeracy

*Development and Research in Math Education (DREME)*
Check out early math resources for families from Stanford University on the DREME’s [Family Math](#) website.

*New Web-Based Tool for Early Childhood Educators and Families*
From the University of Denver’s Marisco Institute, [Learning & Teaching with Learning Trajectories](#) to support math learning for birth to age 8.

**Early Childhood Education**

*Children with Disabilities*
The Office of Head Start offers several resources to support young children with disabilities in literacy development. [Emergent Literacy for Children with Disabilities](#) helps teachers build an understanding of the foundational literacy principles critical to reading and writing skills.

This webinar [Instructional Practices to Support Individualization](#) focuses on enhancing individualization strategies for children with disabilities.

The [Dual Language Learners with Disabilities: Supporting Young Children in the Classroom](#) module presents practices for supporting children with disabilities who are also dual language learners.

**Office of Head Start’s Upcoming Events**
Visit the [Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center](#) to explore and register for upcoming training and technical assistance events.

**Balancing Online and In-Person Learning for Young Children**
The University of Texas shares some [principles of early childhood learning](#) that could help shape how parents, schools and districts approach daily or weekly support for children and families.

**Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences**
Visit the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences [training modules](#). Each module takes an in-depth look at a unique topic and incorporates research evidence, real-life context and opportunities for individual reflection. Modules range from 10 to 25 minutes and are available in Spanish, Somali and Vietnamese.