

# ECEAP: Not Just Another Zoom Meeting

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Early Childhood and Assistance Program (ECEAP) has been serving families in Washington State through comprehensive (education, healthy development and family support) preschool services since 1985.

During Gov. Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, ECEAP services continued for families and children. While this may not take the traditional form of preschoolers sitting in circle time in a classroom, local ECEAP staff provide critical support to families struggling during this pandemic. ECEAP providers are deeply connected to their communities and responded to a wide variety of family needs. They do this by supporting families and communities with compassion and expertise.

## Family Support Services

Even with the current social distancing requirements, ECEAP families who are enrolling in preschool for the 2020-2021 school year are receiving resources, supports and guidance from someone who wants to offer a listening ear and support you during this time. We do this by taking families' lead, offering support and problem-solving together with families who want this connection and help. These services intend to support families in decreasing stress and increasing interconnectedness to others.

### Examples of supports provided to families:

- Additional support in the social and emotional well-being of the child and family
- Cell phone and internet resources
- Emergent employment and unemployment resources
- Emergency School Meals Program
- Provide a framework for increasing family stability
- Supports that are tailored and individualized for every family
- Learning behavior management skills (used in a pre-k classroom setting) for parents to use at home
- Provide the tools, support and information families need to keep children's school readiness progressing
- Guidance about and information on the Coronavirus Tax Relief and Economic Impact Payments
- Connections to local or national parent networks



### What Parents Have to Say

*"ECEAP is so great. Thank you for loving my son and not pushing him off as a problem child like so many others [have done]. I can tell you truly love him, and I have seen a change in him and his behavior. Thank you also for caring about me and my needs and encouraging me."*

*"I am blown away by the amount of support and everything you are doing during this time. Even though my son is not in grade school yet, these are milestones in his life and I am very happy with where he's at. Again, thank you so much because this is just phenomenal."*

### We know that the COVID-19 Pandemic is Temporary.

Until children can go back to attending in-person classrooms full time, the services families receive from ECEAP family support staff can help bridge the gap and move families into increased stability faster. Families who enroll today secure their spot when children attend school in-person and receive much-needed family support until that time.

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, [ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov)).

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