

Early Learning Provider

Education and Equivalent Options

Early learning providers have multiple ways to meet their licensing education requirements. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) has worked with numerous community members to determine the equivalent pathways below.



Training

COMMUNITY-BASED TRAINING

- Trainings available online or in-person.
- Available in English, Spanish, and Somali.
- Includes on the job learning.
- Development informed by HB2556 passed in 2020.
- Available for the following early learning provider roles: assistant teachers, lead teachers, and family home licensees.



Experience

EXPERIENCE-BASED COMPETENCY

- Qualified based on prior experience and training history.
- Available for all languages.
- Easy opt-in beginning fall 2021: mark this option in MERIT and let the system do the rest!
- Available for the following early learning provider roles: assistant teachers, lead teachers, and family home licensees.



Education

COLLEGE STACKABLE CERTIFICATES AND ALTERNATIVE CREDENTIALS

- Qualification through certificates, degrees, or credentials.
- Scholarships available.
- Online or in-person.
- Offered in multiple languages depending on college and region.
- College readiness supports (various examples include: emergency funds, tutoring, peer group learning, adjunct with first-hand experience).
- Available for all early learning provider roles.



Who Helped Us Get Here?

- Child Care Aware of Washington
- Cultivate Learning
- Family Home Care Providers
- Imagine Institute
- One America
- SEIU 925
- Voices of Tomorrow
- Washington Federation of Independent Schools
- Washington Child Care Centers Association
- Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

DCYF thanks all the partners who advised, contributed, and helped make these pathways come to fruition.

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).

DCYF PUBLICATION EPS_0062 (08-2021)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES