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Tacoma, WA 98402

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Upcoming Events:

Have a Heart for Kids Day (presented by Children's Alliance)

Feb. 7, 2019
State Capitol and 110 11th Avenue Southeast, Olympia
<https://www.childrensalliance.org/news-events/events/have-heart-kids-day-2019>

As a Teacher Grows

March 23, 2019
Mount Tahoma High School, Tacoma
<https://www.facebook.com/events/634405226995764/>

2019 Connections Conference

March 23, 2019
Swinomish Lodge, Anacortes
<https://www.skagitconnectionsconference.com/>

2019 Carousel Early Learning Conference

April 13, 2019
Grays Harbor College, Aberdeen
<https://www.evansi.us/carousel-early-learning-conference-1620-edward-smith-drive-aberdeen-washington-98520/267202369>

Spring 2019 Child Care Conference

April 27, 2019
Shoreline Community College
<https://www.facebook.com/events/271437523536872/>



Contact us for more information about Early Achievers:
<https://childcareawarewa.org>
1-866-416-4321

Published Quarterly

Early Achievers News

Welcome to the New Year! 2019 promises to be a very exciting and busy year as Washington's child care system reaches key milestones. As Early Achievers participants, your role in our child care system is vital. We honor your wisdom, your caring and your commitment.

The first key milestone our state will reach is the **implementation of new, aligned child care regulations (WACs) in August**. The new WACs have been developed over the last couple of years after a comprehensive process that included many provider and parent voices. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is hosting several learning opportunities between now and August for providers, licensors and Child Care Aware of Washington Early Achievers coaches. Visit DCYF's Standards Alignment web page for complete details. <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/standards-alignment/events>

Another key milestone is the **Dec. 31, 2019 Early Start Act date when Early Achievers providers must be rated Level 3 or above**. Many providers have already met this milestone – Congratulations!! For those working toward it, thank you for continuing to make progress. Your CCA of WA coach will continue to support you as your work toward your data collection. Please make sure to stay on track with your Early Achievers activities and appointments so you don't lose momentum.

In order to help make sure all Early Achievers providers who want to be rated before Dec. 31, 2019 are able to be, DCYF recently announced a new Cohort Moving Policy. Eligible participants may request a change in cohorts due to exceptional circumstances. The list of what is an exceptional circumstance includes leadership changes, high staff turnover, low enrollment, extended illness, natural disasters and more. To read the policy and see the complete list of exceptional circumstances, visit DCYF online at <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/ea/ea-CohortMovingPolicy.pdf>.

As always your Child Care Aware of Washington coach is available to help you with your Early Achievers goals, so don't hesitate to reach out during this busy time.

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New CCA of WA Website

Have you seen our new website yet? You can find it at <https://childcareawarewa.org/>. We designed it from the ground up to work great on mobile devices.

Whether you are a parent searching for child care, a provider looking for a particular resource, or an early childhood stakeholder looking for child care data, our new website makes it easier to get what you need fast.

We would love to hear what you think about it. Please email us at ChildCareAware@wa.childcareaware.org.

Provider Spotlight—Tricia McCorkle, owner & director, Children’s University Child Care Center, Lakewood



Tricia McCorkle is an incredibly dedicated and busy person. She is a mom of three, a foster mom, the owner and director of a busy child care center that is open seven days per week and is an ECE student. She juggles all of this with a remarkable sense of calm that is evident to those around her.

Tricia has been in the child care field for eight years, and purchased the building for Children’s University about two years ago. The program is

participating in Early Achievers and is benefitting from the great coaching they receive. Tricia describes Early Achievers as kind of like “a support system for building us up for what we want to be.”

Social-emotional skills development in young children is one of her favorite areas of focus. One of the classrooms in her center recently featured an “emotions wall” where children could go if they were feeling strong emotions and the children’s teachers would help them label and better understand what they were feeling.

The best part about her job is “helping the children and watching them grow,” she said.

Tricia has big dreams and hopes to someday be a child care licensor. She’s well on her way, having earned her CDA from Clover Park Technical College. She is currently working on her Associates Degree at Pierce College and intends to earn a Bachelor’s Degree after that.



Save the Date for the 2019 Elevate Early Learning Conference

The 2019 Elevate Early Learning Conference is set for Oct. 1-2 in Tacoma at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center. We hope to see you at this premiere child care and early learning leadership event.

Follow us on Facebook to get all of the latest Elevate news. <https://www.facebook.com/ElevateEarlyLearning/>

Child Care Aware of Washington Scholarships Update

CCA of WA Scholarships can now offer scholarships to more child care and early learning professionals. Here is the current list of roles we can support:

- Lead & Assistant Teachers
- Directors & Assistant Directors
- Home Visitors
- Early Achievers Coaches
- Program Supervisors
- ECEAP Family Support Staff
- Infant/Toddler Mental Health Consultants

Additionally, CCA of WA Scholarships can now support people who are within 30 credits of their associates degree, if they have acceptance or conditional acceptance into a qualifying BA(S) program.

Other CCA of WA Scholarships changes include a reduction in the number of hours scholars are required to work from 20 hours per week to 10, and the ability of scholars to move from one Early Achievers program to another within the terms of their scholarship contracts. Please note that scholars who move from one program to another will lose their scholarship contract completion incentive.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer more scholarships to more dedicated early childhood professionals,” said Meka Riggins, senior program manager, scholarships and professional development at CCA of WA. “Supporting these amazing scholars who work so hard both at school and in their child care programs is a real honor for all of us on the scholarships team.”

For more information, visit <https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/>.

Early Achievers Needs-Based Grants

Early Achievers Needs-Based Grants from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families are designed to help Early Achievers participants purchase items that can help them rate a Level 3. The kinds of items Needs-Based Grant recipients can purchase include curriculum development, instructional materials, supplies and equipment.

The amount of the one-time grants are as follows:

- Up to \$750 for family home child care providers
- Up to \$1,000 for child care centers

To be eligible, Early Achievers providers must:

- Be participating in Level 2 requirements, or
- Be rated Level 2

AND they must also be either:

- Enrolled in the Tier 1 food program, or
- Live in a school district that serves at least 20% low income children based on OSPI data

Get the complete details and an application online here: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning/providers/early-achievers/pre-rating>



Substitutes Available to Help Early Achievers Participants

The Imagine Institute runs the state substitute pool to support Early Achievers providers in their quality improvement work. Eligible providers can qualify to have a substitute for certain Early Achievers activities such as ERS and CLASS preparation, meeting with coaches and working on the file of supporting materials. To be eligible, Early Achievers participants must have served a child on subsidy within the last 12 months, be working toward a Level 3 rating and be in good licensing status. For full details, visit the Imagine Institute’s recently updated website here: <http://imaginewa.org/find-a-substitute/>.

Stay Connected!

Follow us on social media to stay on top of all of the latest Early Achievers news and information.

CCA of WA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Child-Care-Aware-of-Washington-149636987661/>

CCA of WA on Instagram at [wachildcarematters](https://www.instagram.com/wachildcarematters)

CCA of WA on Twitter: [@childcarewa](https://twitter.com/childcarewa)

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