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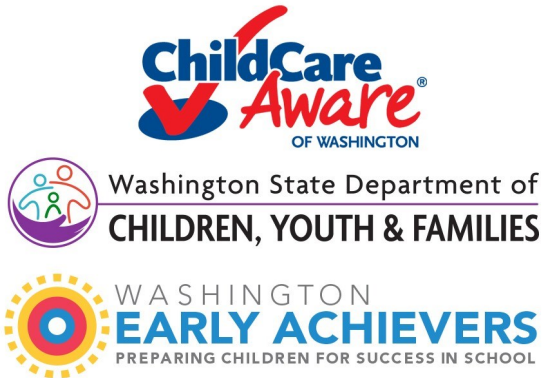
Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Contact us for more
information about Early
Achievers: [https://
childcareawarewa.org](https://childcareawarewa.org)
1-866-416-4321

Published Quarterly

COVID-19 Resources:

- Resources for child care small businesses—[https://
childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-
child-care-providers-do/](https://childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/)
- Questions & Answers about COVID-19 impacts on child
care, licensing, subsidies and more—[https://
www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19)
- Multiple state resources and links—[https://
coronavirus.wa.gov/](https://coronavirus.wa.gov/)



EARLY ACHIEVERS NEWS

Early Achievers News

At Child Care Aware of Washington, we know our state’s licensed child care providers’ top concern is the health and safety of the children in their care. We also know that it seems like most of the focus of the world these days is on the COVID-19 outbreak. As we all navigate these challenging times, we recognize your important role in caring for families whose adults must work away from home, and in supporting our overall economy. We will continue to support you and the critical work you do.

We have a list of resources that can benefit child care small businesses during this time on our website at [https://
childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/](https://childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/). We also are providing some practical resources, including free posters on COVID-19 and hygiene on Washington Child Care Business Edge at [https://
www.childcarebizedge.org/utility-pages/log-in/?redirectUrl=/successful-program-management/nutrition-health-safety/
health/health-concerns/coronavirus-19-covid-19/](https://www.childcarebizedge.org/utility-pages/log-in/?redirectUrl=/successful-program-management/nutrition-health-safety/health/health-concerns/coronavirus-19-covid-19/). You must be registered for, and signed in on, Edge to view/use these supports. Edge is free to Early Achievers providers.

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families has created a new Frequently Asked Questions page on its website so providers can review COVID-19-related questions and answers, including questions about impacts to Working Connections Child Care Subsidy. You can find the list of questions and answers online here: [https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/
coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19).

If you are having difficulties keeping essential supplies on hand to meet health and safety standards, make sure you respond to our provider needs survey we emailed to providers last month. The survey is how we know what providers need. We are fundraising to raise money to purchase supplies from an out-of-area supplier and have them shipped to providers across the state. We are already making some shipments. If you did not receive our survey, please email us at ChildCareAware@wa.childcareaware.org. If you would like to help us raise funds for these essential supplies for child care providers, please share this link <https://childcareawarewa.org/donate/>.

Thank you for all you do for children and families.

Spring 2020 News to Use

Volume 5, Issue 1

Early Achievers News	1	Early Achievers Level 3+	3
New DOH Resources	2	Preventing Child Care Injuries	3
Provider Spotlight	2	Marketing Your Program	3
DCYF’s Online Professional Development Web Page	2	Edge is Easier Than Ever	3
Updated Early Achievers Operating Guidelines	2	COVID-19 Resources	4



Health Department Has New Resources for Child Care Providers

The Washington State Department of Health has a new website for child care and early learning providers. It's full of great, free resources to help providers follow best practices in early nutrition, physical activity and screen use. Free STARS trainings, activity cards, videos and more are also available. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/HealthyEatingActiveLiving/NourishedandActiveinEarlyLearning>

DCYF Professional Development Webpage

If you have been looking for a comprehensive resource for Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families training, education and professional development information, DCYF's "Child Care & Early Learning Professional Development" webpage will help. It connects to multiple pages of professional development information, links to recorded staff qualifications webinars and includes helpful checklists for various provider roles. <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-profdev>



Provider Spotlight — Nathalia Medina, 123 Bambino & Family Home Provider, Yakima

Running your own home-based child care small business can be stressful. Being director of a brand new child care center can also be challenging. Doing both during the COVID-19 outbreak could easily be overwhelming. But Nathalia Medina is taking it all in stride, providing great care to the little ones in her new center, Bambino 123, and the young and school-aged children in her home program, helping their parents manage stress and staying on top of extra disinfecting while remaining a strong voice for children and families in her community.

"What is going on is serious, but don't panic," she says. She wants to stay open to help those parents, including some who are essential workers, who simply cannot work from home. She says she experienced very difficult times in her life when she needed to work and there was no child care available for her children. Nathalia intends to not let that happen to the families she provides care for.

One of the ways Nathalia demonstrates her commitment to young children and families is by participating in Early Achievers and making the most out of the resources it provides. Nathalia says she is grateful for her Child Care Aware of Washington Early Achievers coach, and has benefited from the program's Needs-Based Grants that allowed her to get great early learning toys.

Another way Nathalia tries to make things better for children and families is by being a child care advocate. Every year during Washington's legislative session, Nathalia travels to Olympia to make sure her legislators understand the issues important to child care and the thousands of families that rely on it.

Updated Early Achievers Operating Guidelines

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) recently updated the Early Achievers Operating Guidelines. You can find them on DCYF's website in English, Spanish and Somali under the "Resources" tab here: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/early-achievers>.

The updates include:

- Information about the Level 3+ rating
- System updates outlined in legislation [that are already in effect]
- Updated tiered reimbursement rates



Official Definition of Early Achievers Level 3+

DCYF has released the official description for Early Achievers Level 3+.

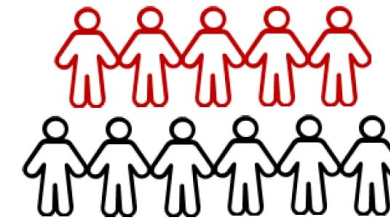
"Level 3+ programs have achieved higher scores in their environment and interaction assessments and have typically implemented higher-level practices. Examples of higher-level practices may vary by site, and may include a high-quality curriculum and individualized instruction for all children. Level 3+ providers are actively demonstrating quality in their programs through high-quality interactions with children and engaging learning environments."

Child Care Injuries Are Preventable

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries created a new flier for child care providers about preventing child care workplace injuries. The flier explains the real costs to child care programs when someone is injured at work. You can download the flier from Washington Child Care Business Edge here: <https://www.childcarebizedge.org/successful-program-management/nutrition-health-safety/safety/workplace-safety/>.

When childcare workers are off the job due to workplace injuries

Almost **1/2** the time it's due to sprains and strains



Child Care Marketing The Importance of Being Seen

Early Achievers providers can market their programs and set themselves apart from the crowd by including DCYF-approved "Proudly Participating in Early Achievers" logos on their marketing materials.

There are three different logo styles to choose from and they are available in English and Spanish on Washington Child Care Business Edge here: <https://www.childcarebizedge.org/successful-program-management/compliance-quality/early-achievers/>. There are other great marketing ideas and templates on Edge as well. You must be an Early Achievers provider and registered on Edge to get started.

Proudly Participating in Early Achievers



Washington Child Care Business Edge Is Better Than Ever

Washington Child Care Business Edge, the free online resource to help Early Achievers providers streamline their small business tasks, is new and improved. It's full of even more great tools and resources, such as free form templates and printables, plus it's easier to navigate. Edge also provides great discounts on the things providers order all the time, like cleaning and office supplies.

Visit Edge any time to make it easier to manage the business side of your child care small business. <https://www.childcarebizedge.org>



Stay Connected!

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

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

CCA of WA on Instagram at wachildcarematters

CCA of WA on Twitter: @childcarewa

CCA of WA on Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/CCAofWA>