



Early ECEAP

In the fall of 2020, 10 programs across the state began serving 144 at-risk infants and toddlers in high-quality, full day care that provides intensive services. This pilot program is funded for three years by the federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five.

The pilot design, including a program framework and implementation plan, was informed by the Early ECEAP design team. The design team was created in 2019 (per SB 5437) and staffed by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

The pilot is taking place in the following communities: Auburn, Centralia, Everett, Goldendale, Wenatchee, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Wenatchee, and Yakima.

Early ECEAP pilot sites: Catholic Charities Diocese of Yakima (Yakima), Centralia College (Centralia), Chelan Douglas Child Services Association (Wenatchee), Childhaven (Auburn), Community Colleges of Spokane (Spokane), Educational Service District 112 (Vancouver), Everett Community College – Early Learning Center (Everett), Mid-Columbia Children’s Council (Goldendale), Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center (Tacoma), and Wellspring (south Seattle).

What is Early ECEAP?

- *A strength-based pilot program* for low-income children ages birth to 3 with risk factors. The program is situated in high-quality center-based child care and focuses on **increasing parent engagement, health and learning outcomes, and social-emotional development** for infants and toddlers.
- ***Modeled after the proven, effective federal Early Head Start.*** Similar to how ECEAP for 3- and 4-year-olds is modeled after the federal Head Start program, Early ECEAP is modeled after the federal Early Head Start program. There is an abundance of data from Early Head Start, ECEAP, and Head Start that shows programs are helping improve outcomes for our youngest learners.
- *Center-based to meet needs of low-income working families.* All 10 pilot sites offer full-day, year-round care. Working Connections Child Care subsidies are layered with the Early ECEAP funding.
- ***Utilizes existing community assets.*** Early ECEAP is offered at high-quality, local child care programs, who are experienced Early Head Start, ECEAP, or Head Start providers – all have a strong investment in the well-being of their children and families.

"The focused coaching and training has helped our teachers apply the new methods they are learning across the center. The resources provided have been an important factor in our success as a mixed childcare/ Early Head Start model and this has increased the sense of community and support for families in our center."

Luc Jasmin III, Owner Parkview Early Learning Center, Spokane

Why Early ECEAP?

Brain science.

Development during the birth to three is a crucial window of time for great opportunity but also vulnerability.

Relationships and interactions with caring adults, experiences, and learning environment create positive or negative impacts for a baby that affect them throughout their lives.ⁱ

Risk factors like poverty, child maltreatment, caregiver mental illness, single parent, and low maternal education level have a cumulative impact. When children have 6-7 risk factors, there is a 90-100% chance of developmental delays.ⁱⁱ

“My daughter and I loved Early Head Start. She learned and grew with other students her age and great teachers, and developed a love of learning. For me as a domestic violence survivor and single homeless parent, Early Head Start gave me time to do job search and my college courses, and they gave me the support I needed to find secure housing and work.”

**Christianna Clinton,
Oak Harbor Parent**

We know what works. Early Head Start and ECEAP serve as the model for the Early ECEAP pilot.

- The federal Early Head Start (EHS) program receives bipartisan support and underwent a rigorous evaluation which concluded **the program makes a positive difference for children’s success in school, family self-sufficiency, and support of child development.**ⁱⁱⁱ
- A longitudinal study by the Office of Head Start showed EHS-participation led to **strong child and parent outcomes**, including: higher cognitive, language, and social-emotional development than non-EHS peers; strong positive parenting shown in more daily book reading, more parent-child play, and more stimulating home environments; and parent self-sufficiency such as higher rates of employment and more hours in education and job training.^{iv}
- Child Trends longitudinal study showed participation in EHS led to **decreased child maltreatment and likelihood children will be involved in the child welfare system.** Greater parent and family outcomes included stronger parental emotional responsiveness; lower levels of parenting stress; more supportive home environments; less family conflict; and improved cognitive development, engagement, and attention during play.^v
- Data shows the comprehensive ECEAP approach leads to **significant gains** over the course of a school year and even more robustly when kids have two years of access to the high-quality program. The percentage of students who scored at or above their age level in literacy and math rose by 105 and 131 percent respectively from the fall of 2018 to the spring of 2019.^{vi}

The need is high. Only 5% of eligible infants and toddlers receive Early Head Start, and children are arriving at ECEAP and Head Start classrooms are already far behind their higher income peers.

We have a serious shortage in high-quality birth to three services for high need families, and very little of what we have is center-based for working parents. **Early ECEAP is needed.**

**Many Children Need Earlier Intervention -
% 'below age expectations'
at the start of the ECEAP school year**



For more information please contact:

Joel Ryan 253.486.9077, joel@wsaheadstarteceap.com

Katy Warren, 206.291.2021, katy@wsaheadstarteceap.com

ⁱ <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/how-early-head-start-prevents-child-maltreatment>
ⁱⁱ https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/1stFive/early_childhood_development.pdf
ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/477-early-head-start-works>
^{iv} <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/policy-brief-early-head-start-at-25.pdf>
^v <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/how-early-head-start-prevents-child-maltreatment>
^{vi} <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eceap/Outcomes.pdf>