

### 1. What is Early Achievers?

Early Achievers is building a statewide system of high quality early learning by bringing families, early learning professionals, and resources together to support each child's learning and development. Early Achievers is improving the quality of child care and early learning in Washington to ensure that:

- Children have access to high-quality early learning experiences that help them develop the skills they need for success in school and beyond.
- Families can find high-quality child care and early learning programs that fit their needs by providing information about facility quality.
- Early learning professionals have access to the resources and supports they need to provide quality care that promotes each child's learning and development.

### 2. How will Early Achievers help my child?

Early Achievers is unique because it was built with the specific goal of improving results for kids. The Department of Early Learning works with our partners at the University of Washington to ensure that our quality standards are based on the latest research regarding how children learn and which indicators have the greatest impact on lifelong learning and success. Research shows that children who receive high-quality care in the first five years have:

- Better math and reading skills
- Fewer behavior problems
- Higher scores on tests measuring cognitive and academic achievement
- A greater likelihood of graduating from high school

### 3. What do the Early Achievers Quality Rating levels mean?

Early Achievers uses an easy-to-understand rating system to help families understand their child care provider's progress in quality improvement. At Levels 1 and 2, early learning professionals are participating in quality improvement through training and activities. Facilities that are rated Levels 3–5 have achieved a quality level of excellence through an on-site evaluation.

### 4. Is there a cost associated with participating?

No. Participation is free for providers so there is no additional cost to families.

### 5. How are Head Start and ECEAP programs affected by Early Achievers?

Early Achievers has worked with Head Start and ECEAP programs to recognize and build upon their existing quality standards, streamline participation and reduce duplication of efforts. Washington's Early Start Act of 2015 requires all ECEAP programs to participate in Early Achievers.

### 6. How do I find out if my provider is participating in Early Achievers?

Ask your provider if they are participating in Early Achievers or visit the Department of Early Learning's Child Care Check online at <https://del.wa.gov/check>.