ECEAP REMINDERS & LINKS – DECEMBER 2020

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The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington's pre-kindergarten program that prepares 3- and 4-year-old children furthest from opportunity for success in school and life.

Contents (*Ctrl + click to follow the link*)

Important Dates

Dec. 14: Mobility Mentoring® pre-assessment and first goal due.
Within 90 days from class start date, enter health screenings, well-child exams and dental screenings in ELMS.

Questions?

Email questions about newsletter topics to eceap@dcyf.wa.gov or your Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Specialist. For additional information about ECEAP or the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), please visit our Contractor webpages.

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Updates

DCYF ECEAP and COVID-19

Your ongoing services and responsive supports for ECEAP children are deeply appreciated by families, communities and DCYF ECEAP. The innovative practices that you demonstrate every day are making profound differences. The following is information for ECEAP contractors.

TS GOLD® Winter Checkpoint

The winter checkpoint will not be a requirement this year.

Service Delivery Guidance

While delivering services, ECEAP contractors should follow the guidance of local health and tribal jurisdictions. Those agencies provide the most specific guidelines for the reopening phases of your respective counties. DCYF ECEAP also recommends following the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) child care guidance when providing classroom services. If School and/or Part Day sites are not providing in-person classroom services in December, please contact your assigned CQI Specialist to share your plan for service delivery, including timelines. Planning may include staggered starts, modified services and partial services.

Important Information:
- Modified services, in place of classrooms closing, are described in ECEAP Q&A, under "Continuing Operations."
- Subsidy payments (if applicable) are outlined on the DCYF COVID-19 Early Learning and Child Care webpage.

Ongoing ECEAP Staff COVID-19 Support Basecamps

The following forums provide opportunities for staff to connect about tailored supports for children and families, find professional development opportunities, access ongoing webinars on emergent topics and more:
- Recruitment Eligibility and Enrollment (REE) Staff
- Education Staff
- Family Support Staff

To join the REE staff basecamp, please email elms@dcyf.wa.gov. Contact your CQI Specialist to join the Education and Family Support basecamps. Directors are welcome to forward invitations to any appropriate ECEAP or Head Start staff. Joining the groups is *optional* and participants may remove themselves at any time.

Ongoing Communication

Resources and information are available on the DCYF COVID-19 Updates webpage and the DOH website.

DCYF ECEAP will continue to provide updates and guidance. Please don't hesitate to reach out to DCYF ECEAP staff with questions, concerns and ideas. Contact eceap@dcyf.wa.gov, your CQI Specialist or Karin Ganz at any time.

Unsung Heroes and Parent Recognition Month

DCYF will celebrate Parent Recognition Month in February 2021 by honoring extraordinary parents, caregivers, guardians and community members across Washington State through the annual Unsung Heroes campaign. Please help us in honoring 28 more unsung heroes this February by nominating someone who has shown exceptional strength, courage and empathy. Nominations are due **Jan. 11, 2021** and the form is available in both English and Spanish.

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Early Achievers Continuous Quality Improvement Webpage

Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) launched a live webpage to share the Early Achievers revision process. On the webpage you'll find placeholders for revision videos available in English, Spanish and Somali; an overview video addressing the process and big picture thinking; and three separate short videos focusing on the components of Early Achievers. Surveys will be available for coaches, providers and families to share feedback.

ELMS News

Changes to ELMS Released on Nov. 5:

- **Actual Start Dates**: We updated the hover definition for Actual Start Dates. You can view the updated language on the Bulk Updates, Enrollment page and on the Monthly Report Class page by clicking on "Actual Class Start Date" at the top of the column. The hover popup page will display "The actual start date is the date the child either began attending class in person OR started receiving nontraditional services. Do not enter an actual start date for a child who has neither attended class nor received nontraditional services."
- **USDA Food Program**: On the Class Info page, you can now enter USDA Food Program participation. To find it, click on the Locations & Classes tab, select Classes in the submenu bar, and click the Info link for class on the page. On the Info page, scroll down to the Child Nutrition Program to select which USDA Food Program the class participates in. This information will display on the Class List Report.
- **Child Application update**: The Verifications page is now Step 7 on the Child Application. This improves the workflow process for determining eligibility in ELMS as many programs are completing Child Applications with families virtually.
- **Monthly Report updates:**
  - On the Contractor, Site and Class pages, the "Submit" buttons are now located at the bottom of the page to improve workflow when completing monthly reports.
  - On the Site page, there is a new "Confirm All" button under Step 1. This allows confirmation of all staff listed on the page at one time. To unconfirm a staff person, click the "Confirmed" link.
- **Report Updates**:
  - The Site List-ECEAP report now displays the site's phone number.
  - The Developmental Screening Report has a new Child Development Notes column. This column displays the number of Education/Child Development notes entered for a child. The number is linked to the child's Child Development page in ELMS.
- **Zip Codes**: You can now sort zip codes on the Service Areas tab. To find this, click the Locations & Classes tab, select Contractors in the submenu bar, and click the Service Area tab. Under the Service Area Zip Codes, a sorting arrow is at the top of the Zip Codes column. When you click the on the arrow, the zip codes will sort in descending and ascending orders.

Complex Needs Funding

Ongoing advocacy efforts to better support ECEAP children with complex needs led to the Legislature allocating $2.2 million in supplemental funding for ECEAP providers. DCYF ECEAP finalized distribution decisions for the 26 contractor applicants and will send award notifications the first week of December. The notification email will contain information regarding award amount, funding agreement and instructions to submit for payment.

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Teaching Strategies GOLD®

Reminder: Required Training for Lead Teachers

The following online Teaching Strategies® courses meet the Lead Teacher training requirements in ECEAP Performance Standard PDTR-10. Per the standard, Lead Teachers must complete these courses within six months of hire. Unlimited access to all online professional development in Teaching Strategies® is available for ECEAP users throughout the 2020-21 school year.

Creative Curriculum® (CC®) training (20 hours total)

Note: Completion of *both* of these online courses is the equivalent of the two-day foundational CC® training provided in person within the past few years.

- CC® for Preschool: Foundation (10 hours)
- CC® for Preschool: Daily Resources (10 hours)

GOLD® training (15 hours total)

Note: Completion of *all three* of these online training modules is the equivalent of the two-day foundational GOLD® training provided in person within the past few years.

- GOLD®: Introducing MyTeachingStrategies® (2 hours)
- GOLD®: Objectives for Development and Learning (10 hours)
- Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) Certification* for "Preschool, including dual language learners and children with special needs" (3 hours)

Note: Please don't send course certificates of completion to DCYF ECEAP or to MERIT. Teaching Strategies® informs DCYF ECEAP when teachers have completed trainings. DCYF ECEAP enters the appropriate hours into MERIT. Due to capacity, this may take several weeks after the training is completed. Thank you for your patience.

Teaching Strategies® GOLD® 2020 Getting Started Checklists for ECEAP now available

These are optional tools for starting the year.

- Getting Started Checklist for ECEAP Teachers (also available on TSG Dashboard when teachers log in)
- Getting Started Checklist for ECEAP Administrators

New and Ongoing Resources from Teaching Strategies®

Resources are also available in the Education Staff Support During COVID-19 Basecamp.

- Users can check their MyTeachingStrategies® dashboard for regular updates to GOLD® and Creative Curriculum® features, resources and webinars.
- Free and Accessible ReadyRosie® Modeled Moments COVID-19 Videos.
- Blog posts: Making Distance Learning Successful; 3 Strategies to Provide Ambitious Interactions and Instruction for All; and Using GOLD® for Formative Assessment in the Time of COVID-19.
- GOLD® Enhancements (at no additional cost) include expanded access to all *Intentional Teaching Experiences®* per class type; digital access to *100 Mighty Minutes®*; family activities associated with the *Intentional Teaching Experiences®* and *Mighty Minutes®*; and an updated MyTeachingStrategies® family mobile app.
- Classroom Connect has all educator resources for you in one place.

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Teaching Strategies GOLD® and Creative Curriculum® Professional Development

Professional development (PD) resources are free for ECEAP users and accessible through teacher GOLD® accounts on the Teaching Strategies® Home Page through the 2020-21 school year. Upcoming webinars and new online resources provided by Teaching Strategies® are posted in the "Messages" section after logging in.

- Upcoming Teaching Strategies® webinars: Topics include "Getting Started with The Creative Curriculum® Cloud: A Webinar for Administrators" and "Generating Fall Outcomes Reports: A Webinar for GOLD® Administrators."
- All prior Teaching Strategies® webinars are recorded and available for later viewing in the TS Archived Webinar Library. This includes topics such as Engaging Families While Using GOLD®, Involving Families in Formative Assessment, Back-to-School Support for Teachers, Back-to-School Support for Administrators and Self-Care for Educators During the Pandemic.
- Video tutorials: Managing Family Members in MyTeachingStrategies®, Engaging in Two-Way Communication with Families and Sharing Family Activities from your Planning Calendar.

Teaching Strategies GOLD® Technical Assistance

- Call the dedicated ECEAP GOLD® phone line at 844-854-4653 for simple issues like logging in and general teacher questions.
- For more significant technical issues, submit a case form to the Teaching Strategies® Support Portal.
- Email del.wa@teachingstrategies.com with GOLD® issues or requests for additional portfolios. Include details such as ELMS child IDs, teacher names and class names. You may include elms@dcyf.wa.gov as an email recipient for additional support.

DCYF Training Opportunities and Events

Directors Bi-Monthly Check-Ins
Ongoing Director check-ins are scheduled for Dec. 4, 16 and 30 from 9 - 10 a.m. Contact your CQI Specialist if you need a meeting invitation.

Recruitment, Eligibility and Enrollment Staff Monthly Check-ins
November through January – Zoom Check ins for recruitment, eligibility and enrollment staff are held on the first Thursday of the month from 9 - 10 a.m. Share resources and ideas, find solutions to challenges and discuss policy and Performance Standards questions. Join here.

Family Support Staff Check-ins
Zoom check-ins for Family Support Staff are held on the third Thursday of each month. Share ideas and resources, support one another regarding shared challenges and identify emergent topics in the ever-changing world of family support. Join the Dec. 17 check-in from 9 - 9:40 a.m. here.

Education Staff Monthly Check-ins and Webinars
Zoom check-ins for education staff are held on the fourth Monday of each month. Connect with peers and share struggles, strategies and resources. Join here.

Webinars for education staff are on the second Monday of each month. A variety of topics are planned including curriculum, observation, screening and assessment. Register here:

- Dec. 14, 10 a.m.
- Jan. 11, 2021, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 8, 2021, 10 a.m.
- March 8, 2021, 10 a.m.
- April 12, 2021, 10 a.m.
- May 10, 2021, 10 a.m.

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2020-21 Mobility Mentoring® Monthly Webinars

The monthly Mobility Mentoring® webinar series resumed in September. Additional webinars may be added for direct support staff during the pandemic, as needed. Note: There is no Mobility Mentoring® Webinar in December.

Mobility Mentoring® Webinars for Direct Support Staff
- Jan. 14, 2021, 9 a.m.
- Feb. 11, 2021, 9 a.m.
- April 8, 2021, 9 a.m.
- May 13, 2021, 9 a.m.

Mobility Mentoring® Webinars for Leads
- March 11, 2021, 9 a.m.
- June 10, 2021, 9 a.m.

Other Training Opportunities

Save the Date: Washington Early and Expanded Learning Inclusion Institute

Dec. 1-5: This is a five-day virtual conference designed to meet the needs of Washington State early and expanded learning providers. Institute flyers are available in English, Somali and Spanish.

Early Achievers Monthly Coach Webinars

Dec. 14, 3 - 4:30 p.m.: University of Washington (UW) Cultivate Learning is providing monthly community of practice webinars for Early Achievers coaches. Join the webinar here.

Sapsik'ʷałá (Teacher) Education Program

The Sapsik'ʷałá (Teacher) Education Program is seeking highly qualified, passionate American Indian/Alaska Native applicants for their next cohort. Classes begin in June 2021 at their beautiful campus on Kalapuya Ilihi near Eugene, Oregon. The application deadline is **Jan, 15, 2021**.

Join a Zoom recruitment session on Dec 15, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. for information, application assistance or to have questions answered. Read more on the Sapsik'ʷałá (Teacher) Education Program webpage or use sapsikwala@uoregon.edu or 541-346-2454 to contact the program.

Early Achievers Coach Framework Training

Save the Date: Feb. 18-19: UW Cultivate Learning is providing this training via Zoom to Early Achievers coaches. The training is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first day and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second day. STARS credit will be given to participants who attend both days. Registration available soon.

Haring Center Individualization Internships for Coaches

This two-day Online Individualization Internship offered by the UW's Haring Center is a unique training opportunity for Early Achievers coaches. The Internship focuses on individualization and inclusion of children with different learning and behavioral needs into early learning and care settings.

Coaches who participate will deepen their knowledge in several areas related to individualizing instruction, supporting social-emotional learning, and addressing challenging behavior for young children with disabilities and those who learn and behave differently. For more information and to register, click here. Email pcyeung@uw.edu for questions.

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Internships will be held on the following dates:
- Dec. 8 and 9
- Dec. 15 and 16

Circle Time Magazine

Visit Circle Time Magazine, an accessible, friendly and fun professional development web series focused on early learning in action. Receive STARS credits by completing knowledge checks at the end of each episode.

Resources

Equity

Educators for Antiracism

This national organization includes educators and leaders from early childhood through higher education. Visit their website to access professional development, research, articles, blogs, books and other resources regarding antiracism education.

Health

Funding: No Kid Hungry Releases Grant Opportunity to Increase Food Security

Community organizations, early child care centers, healthcare providers and others working to ensure vulnerable young children have access to healthy food are encouraged to apply**.** Grants are between $15,000-$25,000 and applications are due on **Dec. 18**. Join a Zoom session on Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. PST for responses to any questions you may have. Please click here for more information about how funds can be used and to apply.

Promoting Healthy Practices During COVID-19

This publication highlights best practices for the child care community during meal and snack time, while still following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DOH guidance. This resource is available in English, Spanish and Somali. Other educational resources are on DOH's COVID-19 site under Educational Materials. For questions or more information about this resource, please contact Chris Mornick.

Early Math and Numeracy

Free Virtual Early Math Learning Events

Learn more about upcoming early math and STEM webinars available through state and national organizations.

Erikson Institute Early Math Collaborative

The Early Math Collaborative offers articles, free webinars, research and other resources for educators and leaders.

Supporting Early Math Learning for Infants and Toddlers

Head Start's Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) offers valuable resources and strategies to support early math skill-building for the youngest of children including tips for engaging families in their infant's or toddler's math learning.

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