



EARLY INVESTMENTS

A monthly newsletter from the Foundation for Early Learning

IN THIS ISSUE

[2007 Early Learning Successes](#)

[GSR Site Launched](#)

[Community Cafés](#)

[Communications Workshop](#)

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EARLY LEARNING EVENTS

Sept 7 - [All Pro Dad Dad's Day](#)

Sept 12-13 - [2nd Annual Tribal Care & Education Conference & Summit](#)

Sept 20 - [Early Learning Resource Fair](#)

Sept 26 - [Child Care & Early Learning: A Legislative Reception & Panel Discussion](#)

[...Read More](#)

FOUNDATION FOR EARLY LEARNING RESOURCES

[EarlyLearning.org](#)
[GettingSchoolReady.org](#)

August 2008

2007 Funding Successes

Success through coalitions

After totaling up the Foundation for Early Learning's impact for 2007-2008, we are excited to report that we have made major strides in helping to prepare children for kindergarten through strategic investments in coalitions across Washington State.

In 2007 the Foundation provided over \$237,000 in grants to community coalitions and partner organizations. Through our Labels for Education partnership with Cambell's Soup Company and Costco, we awarded resource grants valued at over \$25,000 to WA-based child care providers. We are also proud to have served over 6,000 people in 2007 through our workshops, sponsorships, and monthly community coalition network calls.


In addition to our technical assistance and grant resources, the Foundation distributed over 79,000 Getting School Ready!® booklets in seven languages to families and organizations across the state and nation.

The Foundation owes these successes in early learning to our donors, partners, community coalitions, and to the families that make the difference!

Getting School Ready! Site Launched

Building on the popularity of the Getting School Ready!® booklets, the Foundation for Early Learning is pleased to present the new [Getting School Ready](#) website.





The website contains the same great information as the Getting School Ready booklets; including helpful resources that support adults in preparing their early learners for kindergarten. This online resource also includes book lists developed by childrens' librarians, links to help find neighborhood libraries, and downloadable early learning resources - all to help prepare children for school.

Check out this free resource by visiting www.GettingSchoolReady.org.

Connecting Communities Through New Cafés Program

Community Cafés is a new approach to supporting dialog around early learning being put into practice by Strengthening Families Washington.

These innovative parent-hosted gatherings involve neighborhood residents coming together for a series of guided conversations (photo of parent leadership team featured). The aim of Community Cafes is to build community wisdom and to strengthen the voice of community members to impact policy and enhance community connections and practices in order to improve the lives of children and their families.



Community partners have included early learning and child care settings, schools, faith-based organizations, service programs and social service systems. The Cafes have been used in Hispanic, Vietnamese, African American, and Native American communities, and with teens, homeless, and parents of children with disabilities, all with great success.

For more information on Community Cafés, or to schedule a presentation in your area contact Robin Higa at robinhiga3017@comcast.net or phone 360-956-3830.

For information on Strengthening Families Washington, visit www.strengtheningfamilies.wa.gov

October Communications Workshop

The Foundation for Early Learning will be holding a communication workshop in October. This full-day program will include strategic messaging and communication planning sessions for early learning community coalitions. Coalitions members will encouraged to participate in teams of two to draft their coalitions communications plan.

Several workshop spots will be available for non-coalition members. Additional details regarding the date, location and agenda will be sent in the coming weeks. If you are interested in attending, please contact vaughnetta@earlylearning.org

Early Investments is a monthly newsletter from the Foundation for Early Learning. To request an event or announcement to be included in an upcoming issue, please contact Joel Ballezza, Communications Manager, at joel@earlylearning.org.

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