



EARLY INVESTMENTS

A monthly newsletter from the Foundation for Early Learning

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7 - [Sip, Savor & Share: A Holiday Giving Celebration](#)

December 10 - [Free child safety mini-chat](#)

December 17 - [Kenmore Early Literacy Parties in Spanish](#)

January 14 - [Collaborative Leadership Institute - Application Deadline](#)

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December 2009

"WHY I GIVE..." by Daniel Lieberman

A MESSAGE FROM A FOUNDATION FOR EARLY LEARNING SUPPORTER

Becoming a father has made me think about a lot of things that never crossed my mind before. I never thought I would make up a song called "Put Your Jammies On" and my daughter would learn to sing it nightly with gusto. I also never gave much thought to how important early childhood education is in shaping who we become.



Every day I'm amazed and amused by my three-year-old daughter, Paloma. She's learning so much and growing so fast. And I know the same will be true of my son (we're expecting in January). It reminds me that as grown-ups, we owe every child the opportunity to fully develop their own spirit and talents...

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Foundation Board of Directors

DEPARTING MEMBERS AND NEW LEADERSHIP

Foundation for Early Learning thanks University of Washington Center on Infant Mental Health and Development Founder Kathryn Barnard and Linda Linneweh, of Yakima, for having served on our board of directors.

We are pleased to welcome our newest board members: Jennifer Arterburn, of Davis Wright Tremaine; Dr. Dimitri Christakis, Director of the Center for Child Health, Development and Health Care at Seattle Children's; Mary Ellen O'Keeffe, of North Seattle Community College;



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FREE PUBLICATIONS



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Beverly Jacobson, of B. Jacobson and Associates; and Brook West, of Callwave, Inc.

Play & Learn at a Small Rural Library

The Foundation is delighted to feature a guest article from Debra Peterson of Sedro-Woolley Public Library, a member of the [Early Learning Public Library Partnership](#). If you are interested in being featured in a future issue, contact joel@earlylearning.org.

The Sedro-Woolley Public Library serves a rural community of some 10,000 residents. We are an independent municipal facility. We have been focusing in the arena of early learning for over four years now.

One of our newest programs is our Play & Learn for children ages 4 and 5. My Children's Specialist, Kathy Brewer and I, toured several diverse Play & Learn groups in the Seattle area - including one at a branch of the Seattle Public Library, two years ago. We decided then to start a group here. Thanks to excellent training (a two-day workshop) provided by Child Care Resource & Referral, plus a start-up grant from Child Care Resource & Referral/Volunteers of America - we began one this year. Literacy and school readiness skills are a prime...



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Oral Health and Young Children

FROM OUR PARTNER WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE

Did you know? Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in America - five times more common than asthma. Children with chronic dental pain are unable to focus, are easily distracted and may have difficulty learning. Oral health is critical to overall health and early learning.

What parents can do at home:

Start early!

- Beginning at birth, children's gums should be wiped with a washcloth or piece of gauze after feeding.
- Brush baby's teeth with a soft toothbrush twice a day, as soon as you see the first tooth (usually around 6 months). Use a rice-sized amount of fluoridated toothpaste starting at age one.

First visit by first birthday

- Experts recommend that every child should start having their teeth checked by a dentist or physician by their first birthday.
- Babies should be seen earlier if problems are noticed.

Choose healthy snacks

- It's not just the types of foods eaten, but the frequency of eating.
- Avoid "grazing" snacking or sipping on sweet liquids throughout the day.
- Choose tooth-healthy snacks such as cheese, fruits and vegetables.
- Avoid snacks that are high in carbohydrates and will stick to your teeth such as fruit leathers, cheesy crackers, and cookies.

To learn more about Washington Dental Service, please visit www.deltadentalwa.com.

Early Learning Plan

LEADERS DELIVER DRAFT EARLY LEARNING PLAN TO GOVERNOR

OLYMPIA - Early learning leaders today released a draft long-term plan for building a statewide early learning system that ensures school readiness and success for all children in Washington from birth through third grade.

In response to a request from Gov. Christine Gregoire, leaders from the Department of Early Learning (DEL), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and Thrive by Five Washington (Thrive) also have delivered to her recommendations for how to begin implementation in 2010. Both the draft plan and the recommendations can be found online...

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Vote for Early Learning on Facebook

NOMINATE THE FOUNDATION FOR A CHASE GRANT

Support early learning by voting for the Foundation on Facebook. The winning organization will receive a \$25,000 grant or more from [Chase Community Giving](#).



Vote for the Foundation today on www.Facebook.com

Work Plan Workshop

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES NETWORKED AND PLANNED

On Friday, October 30, Foundation for Early Learning hosted a technical assistance workshop for grantees, library and community partners. Karen Porterfield from Seattle



University delivered a workshop titled "How to Write a Work Plan That Gets Results".



Participants learned how to develop strategic and action plans, communications plans, and how to engage in successful grassroots fundraising. The workshop was well received. One participant shared her delight in learning with her peers. She said, "continue to open the training to all members that Foundation for Early Learning supports. It is nice to have a variety of attendees learn more about the work being done across the State."

Foundation for Early Learning will host a second technical assistance workshop in the spring. Look for details at www.earlylearning.org after January 1.

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

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