



EARLY INVESTMENTS

A monthly newsletter from the Foundation for Early Learning

January 2010

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NPR Highlights Early Lessons

DOWNLOAD AND LISTEN

In support of early learning and the value of early experiences, NPR and American RadioWorks recently featured lessons-learned in early learning.

[Listen to the broadcast](#) and read about the Perry Preschool Project at: www.publicradio.org.

Subscription Confirmation

LOOK FOR AN UPCOMING NOTICE

We value you as our partner and hope you enjoy our free early learning publications and newsletters.

*****Please look for a message from the Foundation next week titled "RESPONSE NEEDED" asking you to update your newsletter and alert email address.**

In order to continue receiving messages, you will be required to confirm your contact information.

Thank you!

Foundation for Early Learning

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 12 - [Understanding Difficult Behaviors in Children STARS Training](#)

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

January 16 - [Keeping Kids Safe \(and parents sane!\)](#)

[VIEW MORE...](#)

OVER 1,000 MEMBERS AND COUNTING...

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Join Me at the Library

Foundation for Early Learning is delighted to feature a guest blog post from Jonalyn Woolf-Ivory from Sno-Isle Regional Libraries, a member of the Early Learning Public Library Partnership. If you are interested in being featured in a future issue, contact joel@earlylearning.org.

My 2-1/2-year old grandson Ari loves going to the library, especially library story times.



I'm a member of:
**Early Learning
Community**

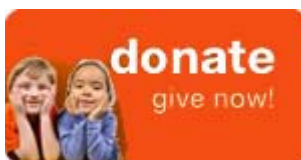
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FREE PUBLICATIONS



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For my daughter and I, the trips to the library are building a literacy foundation for him that will carry him through his lifetime. For him, it's an adventure, singing some songs, making new friends, and reading a book.

For Ari, and other preschoolers, learning begins long before kindergarten. It begins at home, reading a book before bedtime. This begins at the park, giving names to objects and building a vocabulary. It begins at the library, connecting the words, the images, and rhythm of language through books. As parents and caregivers, we are our children's first teachers, even in the simplest shared activities...



[READ MORE](#)

Share Your Story: Washington's Budget

TELL US HOW THE STATE'S BUDGET CUTS ARE IMPACTING YOU

[Early Learning Action Alliance](#), an advocacy group dedicated to legislative issues for children birth-five, is collecting stories about how the state's budget cuts are impacting families.

[Click here to share your story](#)

We need your help in protecting early learning funding in Washington. At the end of the form we ask that you give us permission to share your story with elected officials, our partners, and others in the hopes of protecting early learning funding.

Reserve Your Seat

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Foundation for Early Learning's
[10th Anniversary Luncheon](#)
[Building a Foundation: 10 Years and Counting](#)

Friday, March 5, 2010
Noon - 1:30 pm
The Westin Hotel in Seattle
Tickets - \$125

This exciting event will feature a panel discussion with early learning experts. Reserve your seat today at www.earlylearning.org.

Q & A with Sarah Borgida

FAQ'S ANSWERED BY PROGRAM OFFICER SARAH BORGIDA

Each year at the Foundation, we grant over \$300,000 to support the



learning of children birth through age five. As Program Officer, I work closely with grantees during the application process. Below are questions about our grants and services that I often hear.



**- Sarah Borgida, Program Officer
Foundation for Early Learning**

What does "early learning" mean?

That is a great question and one we field often! Early learning is the essential learning children experience in the first five years of life. Many people think of early learning as exclusively academic - learning colors, shapes, numbers, and letters, for example. These skills are vital components of early learning, but there is so much more. Early learning includes the development of social-emotional skills, like forming relationships with parents and caregivers, peers, and playmates; sharing; communicating; and learning to participate in group games and activities. It also includes health (yes, health!) - both physical and mental health.

Why does "early learning" matter?

I'll answer your question with a question - did you know that 90% of a child's brain is fully developed by the time he or she is five years old? And did you know that this development is difficult to alter later in life?

For example, if a child doesn't learn empathy in the early years of life, it is harder for him or her to pick up this practice later. The first five years set the course for the rest of a person's life.

What does the Foundation do?

Our grants, sponsorships, publications and online services are all designed to bring people together around early learning. Our goal is to build a vibrant system for early learning in Washington State. Over the last ten years we've provided grants worth over \$6.5 million to groups across Washington State...

[READ MORE](#)

2010 Legislative Session

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA RELEASED

Foundation for Early Learning and the ELPLP have signed on to support the [Early Learning Action Alliance's legislative agenda](#). It includes advocating for:

- Protecting current state and federal investments in early learning programs.
- Making voluntary, universal Pre-K for 3- and 4-year olds part of our state's definition of Basic Education.
- Changes to the current administration of child care subsidies that would lessen disruption in care.

- New state revenue to fulfill the state's goals - and the needs of children from birth to five - for high quality early learning.

Get involved by contacting [Erin Okuno](#) at the Foundation for Early Learning and by [contacting your legislator](#) to let them know how you feel.

New Online Grant Applications

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FOUNDATION'S GRANTMAKING

This month Foundation for Early Learning launched a new grantmaking section of www.earlylearning.org where community coalitions and Washington State-based organizations can apply for grants and event sponsorships.



Visitors to www.earlylearning.org/grantmaking can review grantmaking guidelines, address frequently asked questions, and upload application documents, all within the site. Paper versions of the coalition grant and sponsorship applications will still be accepted.

To learn more about the Foundation's funding guidelines, [click here](#).

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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