



WSA Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

*Serving ECEAP, Head Start, Migrant Head Start,
Tribal Head Start and Early Head Start Programs
and Families*



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ECEAP Shines in New Report

About the Report

This month the Department of Early Learning released a report on the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program known as ECEAP. The report looked how well our state's pre-k program did in getting our most at-risk children ready for school. The report reviewed the outcomes data of the 40 contractors providing ECEAP services to 8,053 three and four year olds in 2009-2010. The report found that the ECEAP program was hugely successful and that children made incredible progress during the school year. To view the full report put together by the Department of Early Learning go to

<http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/ECEAPOutcomesReport09-10.pdf>

Some Key Findings

The comprehensive report looked at several key areas to evaluate ECEAP programs: health outcomes, social-emotional development, learning outcomes, and family outcomes. Here's how they did:

- **Health Outcomes.** At the time of enrollment 28 percent of ECEAP children were behind on their medical exams. By the end of the year, only 4.4 percent were behind schedule. For 9.1 percent of ECEAP children, these exams revealed health issues for which they received treatment. According to the National Health Interview Survey only 56 percent of all children ages 2 to 5 had a dental visit, and previous studies show that nearly a quarter of children this age have untreated cavities. While in ECEAP, 95.3 percent of the children served received a dental visit and follow up care when needed.
- **Social-Emotional Outcomes.** Approximately 220 children who started ECEAP with extreme behavior concerns no longer had them at the end of the ECEAP year. This means that there are 220 children who would have been unable to learn and would likely have ended up in the criminal justice later in life, if it were not for ECEAP. ECEAP literally saves lives and at the same time saving taxpayers money in costly school interventions, welfare, and juvenile justice.

- **Learning Outcomes.** In the fall of 2009, only 36.3 percent of ECEAP children were at or above their developmental level in their ability to write letters and words. By spring of 2010, 80.9 percent children demonstrated these skills, an increase of 44.6%. ECEAP children did even better with early math skills. In the fall of 2009, 49.2 percent of ECEAP children were at or above their development level in their ability to use numbers and count. By spring of 2010, 88.3 percent of ECEAP children demonstrated these skills.
- **Family Outcomes.** In the fall, 55 percent of families were reading to their children more than three times a week. By spring, this had increased to 71 percent. Parents also reported that ECEAP helped them educate their children in their homes and be actively involved in their children's education.

Joel Ryan, Executive Director of WSA said the following:

ECEAP does a fabulous job getting at-risk kids ready for school and for life. This new report confirms that the program really does the job it is supposed to do. Kids that went through ECEAP learned to write, identify letters in the alphabet, count, and listen to instruction—all the basic things necessary for them to be successful in kindergarten. ECEAP also made sure that all children who went through the program had access to a doctor and dentist that they would not have had access to without this incredible program. I am also so proud of the work ECEAP does with parents. The program not only helps them find emergency services like housing and food assistance, but teaches them how to be better parents to their children.

About ECEAP

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington's pre-kindergarten program serving at-risk three and four year olds and their families. ECEAP provides children with preschool education, health services, intensive family support, and parent involvement. In 2009-2010 ECEAP served 8,053 children, with more than 13,000 children eligible for ECEAP, but unable to attend because of a lack of space. More than 85 percent of the children enrolled in ECEAP were living at or below the poverty level, 6.6 percent of the children were homeless, and 2.4 percent were in foster care.

This new data on ECEAP is on top of the recently released National Institute of Early Education Research report in which ECEAP received 9 out of 10 quality points. NIEER ranks ECEAP as one of the very best state pre-k programs in the country. To see the NIEER yearbook go to <http://nieer.org/yearbook/>

About WSA

The Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP is a statewide organization composed of representatives from ECEAP, Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, and Native American Head Start. The association has been in existence since the late 1960's, and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. The organization advocates for Head Start and for ECEAP in Olympia and in Washington DC. You can visit our web site at www.wsaheadstarteceap.com.

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