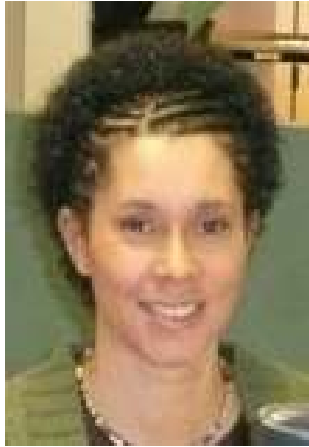


January 2010



Jeanelle Reanier
Parent Ambassador

Jeanelle, a mother of six children and new to ECEAP, quickly became an active parent and advocate!

“I have already seen amazing things, not just in my child, but in all the children in her class. ECEAP is very well structured, the staff is wonderful, and each child is treated as a unique individual. I love how the focus is on the **WHOLE CHILD**—their health, social skills, family, emotional well-being, everything that really matters! ECEAP gives our kids a true Head start”

Just For Parents Newsletter **By the WSA Parent Ambassadors**

Our Voices Are Heard!! Lets Keep it Up!!

On Tuesday January 12, 2010 Gov. Gregoire released her 2nd version of the budget which included the 1500-1600 slots (cutting all 3 year-olds) that were originally on the chopping block. This is a great start for us, BUT there is still work to do! Keep speaking out to ensure these slots are maintained!

The budget also bought back part of the Working Connections Child Care Subsidy program. The first budget proposed a cut to this program by 62% of new enrollees, that is \$88.5 million. The new budget proposes to cut \$49 million. This is better, but it is still a dramatic

ECEAP in the News!!

This month has been a busy week for the Early Learning community. A coalition group by the name of Washington Can! Went down to Olympia along with Washington Fuse, and others who wanted to speak out on behalf of Early Learning, and other programs, in jeopardy of cuts, funded by the State of Washington. We held meetings

with Governor Gregoire, Speaker Chopp, and Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown. To our surprise all major media broadcasters were there, as well as our own camera crew! The interviews were aired on KOMO 4, talk radio, and YouTube. Also, our new Parent Ambassadors this week gave amazing testimonies! Gloria Fortune, Jeanelle Reanier,

loss to parents who rely on this subsidy to allow us to find work, go to work and attend school. More than 7,000 families seeking these subsidies will be turned away if we do not speak out on the importance of keeping funding for Working Connections Child Care.

We can get the word out by emailing, writing, and visiting our lawmakers. Just tell them how these subsidies help you and your family, your success stories, and your hardships with WCCC.

To find your Legislators' contact info:

Call the Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000 **or on the web:** <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

James McBride, and April Ritter all testified for ECEAP and WCCC. We've heard very positive feedback from Lonnie, our lobbyist and other Early Learning advocates. The Legislators seemed very interested and engaged with all the testifying going on! Now that is getting the word out!

Have a Heart for Kids Day

Monday, February 15, 2010
9:00am

Speak up for kids at Have a Heart for Kids Day at the State Capitol in Olympia!!

