

Just for Parents

An informational publication specifically for parents of Early Head Start, Head Start, Migrant Head Start, American Indian/Native American Head Start and ECEAP Programs in Washington State.

Strengthening Medicaid

America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, includes measures that will **significantly expand access to high-quality, affordable health coverage**. Under this bill, every state will see a significant increase in the number of people with health coverage. In addition, it will extend Medicaid coverage to all individuals who have incomes below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. Please visit www.familiesusa.org for more information.

Early Learning Services for All Children

In a June 8, 2009 letter from Gov. Gregoire to Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Schools, Gregoire asked him to develop legislation in time for next session that would include all children in the plan to fund early learning.

"I am asking you to work on a proposal about the state's role in providing early learning opportunities for all all children birth to five, their families, early learning caregivers and educators. I believe children should have early learning opportunities from birth. These opportunities ... should be available to all children and families." –Gov. Gregoire.

Getting Ready for Back to School

Before you head out to purchase back to school supplies for your children, keep in mind that some Head Start/ECEAP programs will provide your child with a backpack and other supplies needed for school. If not, your family support worker may have access to local organizations that may donate supplies for your child. If you have older school aged children, try one of these resources for free or low cost back to school supplies:

- Your school's local resource center. Most schools have a counselor available that can put you in touch with local resources for free school supplies.
- Check with your church. Many churches pool resources and ask for donations for purchasing school supplies. They give the school supplies to families that cannot afford to buy them.
- Contact your local United Way or Salvation Army. If you meet their financial guidelines, they can help you get free supplies.
- Talk to everyone you know that works in an office. Let them know that you are on the look out for free school supplies. Craigslist.org and freecycle.org are great resources for supplies.
- Collect promotional supplies given out by area businesses.
- Watch store flyers and sales circulars for school supplies being offered free after rebate. You need to pay for the item up front, and it costs a stamp to mail the rebate form in, but then you receive a check in the mail getting your purchase price back.

Parent Ambassador of the Week:



Name: Kylee Allen
Hometown:

Kylee is the mother of three children: Delaney, Zakary and Dylan. She became involved in 2005 and is currently serving as Chair of her local Policy Council.

*"It is easier to
build strong children
than to repair
broken men."*

~Frederick Douglass

WSA

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wsaheadstarteap.com

Early Learning Challenge Grants

On July 15, 2009, a new Early Learning Challenge Grant was proposed. The measure challenges states to compete for results-oriented standards reform to ensure that more disadvantaged children enter kindergarten ready for success. The Early Learning Challenge Fund offers \$1 billion a year for eight years (\$8 billion in total) to challenge the states to strengthen their early learning systems.

Free Movies for Kids this Summer

Many Regal Theatres across the country are offering free second-run movies this summer for kids on both Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 10am. Please refer to their website for details:

<http://www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/familyfilmfestivalschedule.aspx>

Additionally, many AMC movie theatres are offering second-run movies for \$1/per person on Wednesdays mornings at 10am to benefit local charities. They are also offering discounted kids movie snack packs for \$3 during those times. Please refer to their website for details:

<http://www.amctheatres.com/smc/>

Many communities also offer second-run theatres for tickets as low as \$1/per person. You can find such locations by "googling" "second run theaters," and the community you live in. For example, if you live in Seattle, you would google "second run theatres Seattle"

A second-run movie is a movie that has already shown in the main theaters and is presented at a lower ticket price.

Items of Interest to Early Learning

State Congressional Representatives will be in their home districts and available to meet constituents.

Consider meeting with them to let them know about your experiences with Head Start and to ask them about Head Start Funding.

State legislators will also be in their home districts and available to meet constituents.

Call your representatives to find the exact date and time they are available. Share with them your ECEAP success stories and ask them to maintain the current budget for ECEAP.

Remember that Head Start is a federally funded program, and ECEAP is state funded. State lawmakers cannot influence Head Start budget or regulations, so it is important to meet with Congress when you can.

You can look up your legislative members by district at this website: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rosters/MembersByDistrict.aspx> this website page includes a lot of useful information including a link to each member's website, contact information, bills they have sponsored, map of the legislative district and lots of other things. The toll free number for additional information is: 1-800-562-6000.