

ECEAP

Making a Difference



**Early
Childhood
Education &
Assistance
Program**

25
YEARS

Washington State Department of Early Learning

Special thanks to Heather Reed, DEL intern, for compiling these stories. They are a sample of the many stories sent to the DEL by ECEAP parents and staff. We hope you enjoy reading and learning in their words how ECEAP has been important to children and families.



The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington's pre-kindergarten program to prepare low-income three- and four-year-olds for success in school and in life. Since 1985, ECEAP has focused on the well being of the whole child by providing in-depth nutrition, health, education and family support services. ECEAP reaches the children most in need of these foundations for learning.

The design of ECEAP is aligned with the nationally researched programs that have shown exceptional returns on investment.

ECEAP is effective at increasing children's social-emotional, physical and pre-academic skills. The program strengthens families to build their capacity to support their children's success. Also, ECEAP ensures that each child receives medical and dental care so that they start school with optimal health.

DEL provides ECEAP through 40 contracts with educational service districts, school districts, community colleges, local governments and nonprofits. In 2010-11, ECEAP services were available in 37 of 39 Washington counties and served more than 8,400 children.

Learn more about ECEAP at [**www.del.wa.gov/eceap**](http://www.del.wa.gov/eceap).

Ready for Kindergarten

Today is a wonderful day. Why, you ask? My son is on the pathway to kindergarten next year. Guess what? He is prepared! Let me say it again. He is prepared!

Do you know that he can write his full name without the help of anyone? He is so excited about that. He shows me every chance he gets and even has a binder that he keeps his writing in. He can say and identify almost all of the letters in the alphabet. When we go to Safeway or ride down the street, he'll recognize letters within signs and tell me what they are. He recognizes colors, shapes and even speaks some Spanish. One of his favorite things to do is to sing me the Days of the Week song.

I feel so lucky to have a child who is excited about learning. I am a single mother with three young sons. Being a single mother can be stressful and difficult. I work very hard daily in the office and at home creating a future for my children. I would like to be able to provide my children with educational opportunities that will enrich their lives.

In my community, I rarely see children happy to go to school, let alone show you what they've accomplished for the day. My child is excited about learning! He looks forward to class each day. He wakes up at 6:30 to pre-

pare for his school day. He craves and thirsts knowledge. At the end of the day, he is overjoyed to show me how well he's done. My son loves when I read his daily report out loud. He feels proud and accomplished. His self-esteem and excitement about learning are beyond belief.

ECEAP is wonderful for families like mine. Thank you so much for being a part of opening the doors of opportunity that lead into my son's future.



ECEAP Graduate Gives Back

When Monserrat started ECEAP in September 1995, she was a shy little girl who didn't speak any English. Despite the language barrier, her mother said she loved going to school. By the end of her year in preschool, she understood and spoke English well.



Thirteen years later, as an active high school senior, Monserrat used that gift of two languages to complete her Senior Culminating Project. While acting as interpreter for her aunt at ECEAP, she mentioned her Senior Project. After consulting with staff, she offered to translate the local ECEAP Parent Handbook into Spanish.

Throughout the process, Monserrat demonstrated a conscientious attitude. She created a very professional Parent Handbook that will benefit many future ECEAP families. The staff found it rewarding to work with her and to observe how this shy preschooler grew into an accomplished young adult.



Monserrat graduated from high school and began college in September 2009.

It's Hard to Learn When Your Teeth Hurt

A child came into ECEAP this year with 12 cavities. The family knew, but had been quoted an enormous price to have her treated. They were, of course, very distraught over how to proceed. ECEAP was able to refer them to a local dentist who completed ALL of the work for FREE!

The dental visits were a wonderful experience for the child. She regularly came to ECEAP class and showed off her new "healthy" teeth. She told about all of the nice people who helped take care of her teeth. Mom was nearly in tears as she called to thank ECEAP staff for helping her find dental care for her child.



In 2010-11, 92 percent of ECEAP children had dental exams and 21 percent needed treatment. Cavities are the single most common disease of children.

Parents Learn, Too!

As a single parent, I felt challenged and overwhelmed. I was able to meet her basic physical needs, but she needed activities I was ill-equipped to provide. Since 90 percent of brain development occurs before age five, I knew I needed help. I enrolled her in ECEAP. We lived outside of the bus route, so I drove her in an old truck that got about eight miles to the gallon. I couldn't afford to drive home during class, so I helped in the classroom.

The director invited me to be a parent representative on the Policy Council and two months later, I was voted Chair!

I love this organization. The teachers are dedicated and enthusiastic. Children learn through play. They are encouraged to explore their physical and social environments. Children's development is addressed from all angles, with the goal of kindergarten readiness and school success.

ECEAP has family resource workers to ensure family needs are met. Parents are welcome to participate in trainings to improve our ability to co-educate children. This enables us to take better care of our families. I am so fortunate to be part of this organization. Our quality of life has vastly improved and ECEAP was the catalyst.

Social-emotional Growth

One 3-year-old boy had been referred by his pediatrician for mental health services. He was aggressive at home and in the community. He arrived at school anxious and angry. He hit his mom, his brother and the teacher. For several months he did not participate in preschool activities. He did not pick up a toy, marker or food, nor talk or interact with anything or anyone.

The teachers invited him to participate but did not force him.

The ECEAP mental health consultant connected the family to a therapist who spoke their language. The family received weekly therapy and in-home support. Staff and mom partnered to discuss and evaluate how to draw him out and help him feel successful. In late winter, he began to eat in class, play with toys and participate in art projects. He started speaking to another child in his native language and was observed delighting in the interactions of others in the class.

Photos taken at the end of the year show a smiling child comfortably lying in the grass looking up at his peers. ECEAP staff and his family saw amazing social emotional development and grateful that he has one more year of ECEAP to continue progress before kindergarten.

Parent Becomes a Preschool Teacher

My three adult sons attended ECEAP. My first son started 25 years ago. He learned to ride a bicycle that year and, at age 28, uses a bike for his transportation. He's a pre-nursing student at Portland Community College.

My second son learned to get along with others in ECEAP. He was a challenging student, but developed his interest in building with toys there. He is now 25 and will graduate next year with triple bachelor's degrees in math, physics and—his favorite and his career choice—engineering from WSU.

My third son was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at age 3. He wore leg braces when he was in ECEAP. We appreciated that the teachers made him feel normal and went the extra mile removing his braces when his feet got sandy. He is now a 21-year-old college junior, majoring in Ecology.

ECEAP also benefitted me. The teachers encouraged me to become a preschool teacher. Eighteen years ago, I started as a classroom aide. I earned my Child Development Associate credential and became a teacher assistant; I am now a Head Start teacher. I am in the process of obtaining my bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Thanks so much!

Her first son, the future nurse, writes:

"My mom asked me to write about what ECEAP did for me. Here is my list:

- Improved my social skills
- Got me emotionally used to going to school.
- Fostered my imagination.
- Made me explore life choices.
- Improved my motor skills."



The future engineer writes:

- "I received my first kiss in ECEAP.
- ECEAP helped me get along with others. I learned the rule 'You don't push others on the ground and stomp on them.'



Her third son, the ecologist writes:

"I remember the imaginative play in ECEAP.

We had a little room to dress up in. Dress-up was radical. I loved dressing as a construction worker. ECEAP was great for my social skills. Artistic expression was great. I made my first collage in preschool. I later attended the Vancouver Arts and Academics magnet high school. There I made many collages, but I remember my first from ECEAP"



Parent Empowerment

My husband was laid off suddenly three years ago. We were at the bleakest point when I discovered ECEAP. ECEAP gave me hope. First, it was just hope that my very social son would have a place to have fun with his friends and get ready for kindergarten. I didn't realize it was just what I needed, too. Our unemployment benefit was running out, the job market in my husband's field was grim and I was expecting our fourth child. Even with our strong relationship, I often felt like I was just surviving each day. ECEAP was warm and friendly and there was genuine concern for what we needed.

I knew it was important to be involved in my children's education, but with three small children, I didn't see how. ECEAP made it easy. They let our children come and play during parent meetings. I joined Policy Council because they paid for my child care—it was a much-needed break. My self-worth was low and I didn't like speaking in front of people, but they accepted me with no pressure. I learned many things that helped me as a parent and gave me confidence. By the middle of the year, I was no longer just soaking up everything ECEAP had to offer, I was contributing to the program, too.

We just finished a series of parent workshops on stress management, self-esteem and building a wardrobe on

a budget. I co-facilitated it and got to see other parents realize how important they are. Five years ago, I would never have spoken in front of a group, large or small. ECEAP is important enough to put aside my dislike of speaking. At the end of the year, I spoke in a room filled with more than 80 people for 15 minutes about our project. Now that's Parent Empowerment!

Our finances are tight, but we have another couple living with us to make ends meet. For the last year, I've worked for a school district ECEAP program as a part-time secretary. My husband is employed with an internet provider and has just moved into a new position with more growth and challenge possibilities. He will soon complete a Computer Services and Networking Technology degree.

We are a very active family with a second grader, a first grader, a preschooler, and an almost three-year-old. We participate in our children's classrooms, sports activities and more as their interests are growing.

ECEAP has empowered us to be an active part of our children's education and our community and not be bystanders to what is happening around us.

ECEAP is worth much more than the legislators that made it possible will ever realize!

ECEAP Cares for the Whole Family

ECEAP staff are very caring and supportive to not only the needs of my children but also my whole family. They made us aware of our son's speech delays and helped us set up speech therapy. The way they redirect the children when there is a problem is great. We now use that method at home.

The staff is great about reminding us about well-child check-ups and dental care. I'm glad they help teach my son about brushing his teeth after meals; it reinforces what we tell him at home. I love the meals and receiving the calendar with what they are eating. I've gotten a lot of great meal ideas from it.

My son and I have learned a lot about the seasons at school and on field trips. My son taught me new songs that we now sing to his baby sister.

Special Gifts

My child needs stability, a repeated routine, good social skills, positive ways to deal with daily conflicts, and a place to let his imagination grow and be positive. He needs a safe environment, in addition to home, to explore his interests. His ECEAP class gives him all of this.

My child has very special gifts, like all children. He is advanced in math and science, and has the potential to be whatever he wants. ECEAP brings those gifts out. If you spend even one day in there you can see all of these bright children light up. It is so touching.

The ECEAP staff is like family and they really have it together. They deserve every praise for what they do for these kids. Also, their communication with parents is extraordinary. My son's teacher is excellent at working with parents. She makes sure she understands our goals for our kids and we understand what needs to be reinforced at home.

Grandfather's Appreciation

I am the grandfather of an ECEAP student from last year. My wife and I recently stopped by the school with our granddaughter so that she could say "hello" to her former school and especially to her very first official teacher. She was very happy to see them all and to visit her old school.

The reason I'm sending you this is to give credit to the ECEAP teachers for helping our granddaughter off to the right start with her education. She is now attending kindergarten. Her new teacher said she was "blown away" by the fact that our granddaughter was so advanced in her learning, and said that she was the very first student she had encountered in 20-odd years of teaching who had her own portfolio!

I just wanted to pass this on to you and to let you know how honored we are as grandparents to have had an ECEAP teacher of such high caliber teaching our be-

Where students live

- 3 percent of ECEAP children live with a relative.
- 2.6 percent are in foster care.
- 7 percent are homeless at some point during the school year.

loved granddaughter. Our younger grandson who was too young to attend ECEAP last year, learned quite a lot from our granddaughter and is also very advanced due undoubtedly to the “trickle down” teaching he learned from his older sister.

My wife and I just want to thank the ECEAP program for helping her at the most crucial beginning time of her education. Thank you so much.



Mom and Daughters Grow Together

My daughter really enjoyed being in ECEAP. She learned how to cooperate and share with others. She learned to set the table and pour juice. She came home singing cute little songs. Now, my other daughter sings those same songs and my first daughter remembers them and joins in. It's really neat that my two daughters have a common "ground" they can share.

ECEAP is definitely a wonderfully positive experience for the children, as well as the parents. I enjoyed having the opportunity to volunteer in the classroom. I remember going to my daughter's class and seeing the children enjoy what they were learning -- actually learning in a way that seemed to them as if they were just having fun and they didn't even realize they were learning anything. That was the amazing part to me.

I became divorced before my daughter went to pre-school and she was rather withdrawn and shy. She was also a bit fearful of what was in her future. When she started preschool, it was like a whole new world of opportunity opened up for her. She became what I always knew was hidden somewhere within her – a terrific little girl. She is very loving, thoughtful, and understanding of others. She is very helpful and offers to do things without being asked, simply because she sees something

that needs to be done. My daughter has become an excellent student and is testing for the Challenge Program. ECEAP gave her a great head start on learning.

Our lives have changed a great deal since my daughter went to ECEAP. I have remarried, received a diploma from a two-year college, and I'm now working in a bank. Seeing the changes in my daughter and experiencing the classroom environment gave me a sense of direction about being a parent. It also gave me a strong desire to learn and grow with my children. I wanted to try new things, and get a good paying job so I could provide for my family.

Family Goals

We have had wonderful parent meetings with lots of learning and lots of fun. I have made new friends. I feel like I can talk to my family support worker about my concerns. I have learned a lot about nutrition, shopping for food and family finance.

My child has good health. Her teeth have been fixed and I know she is healthy. I have learned about how to cook healthy, exercise and drink water. I now have met my goal of finding a job and am living in my own apartment.

Emotional Intelligence

I think ECEAP has helped my children identify and understand a lot of their emotions. They are learning how to control or change their behavior when they get angry or sad.



Learning About School

When her 3-year-old started ECEAP, a mother wondered if he should just wait until kindergarten to start school, because his behaviors didn't fit in the classroom. ECEAP staff recognized that his behavior was not typical for 3-year-olds and encouraged her to keep him in the program.

He had difficulty separating from his mother. He had difficulty with other children. He could not focus on any activity. Outside, he ran, but did not do other large motor activities. Staff had to watch him carefully, to ensure he didn't run from the room.

By the end of that first year, he could more easily separate from Mom and follow the classroom routine. When other children did a project, he wanted to also. He began to volunteer for helping tasks. He played outdoors with other children. His fine motor skills began to develop. He began to understand how stories develop and we frequently saw his smile and heard his giggles.

By the end of his second year at ECEAP, his mom said he wanted to come to school everyday. When we did an art project, he would say "I want to make one of those." Often, he made two! One day we found his pockets stuffed with play dough. He liked it so much and there

Undiagnosed Hearing Loss

When ECEAP screened children's hearing, they discovered that my daughter had been born hearing impaired. She had compensated by whatever means, so that no one ever suspected she had a problem. After being referred to her doctor for further testing, she was fitted for hearing aids and immediately placed in speech therapy. Today, she is a healthy, vibrant third grader. She has been a Brownie in Girl Scouts and is currently playing soccer.



Screenings

As a result of screenings at ECEAP in 2010-11:

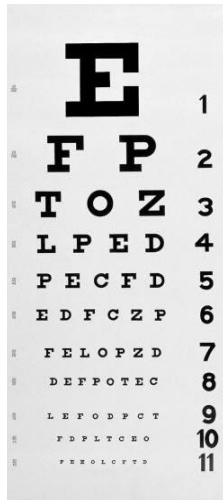
- 124 children received follow-up treatment for hearing loss.
- 320 received eyeglasses or other vision treatment.
- 239 were referred and qualified for special education services.

Vision Treatment

Staff observed that a little girl was struggling to see. The issue was apparent during the ECEAP vision screening process and when she looking at books or drew pictures. The Family Service Specialist discussed this with the mother during home visits and the teachers talked about it at parent-teacher conferences. The mother said the child was diagnosed with a vision problem as a toddler, but she thought it would improve as the child got older.

The Family Service Specialist worked with mom to support the child in wearing her glasses. Next, she worked with mom to obtain the child's vision report, so teachers could understand important information such as the child's visual range.

Upon receiving more information, the Family Service Specialist noted that the optometrist recommended a vision specialist and that the child had been referred to a vision clinic as a toddler. The Specialist obtained a release from the mother, so she could



work with the optometrist on a new referral to this clinic. Since mom was also concerned about how to get there, the Specialist helped her solve this problem.

ECEAP staff also worked with the mother on a referral to the local school district for specialized services. Once this was evaluated, the district picked up the child two days a week for these services. The child is now transitioning to kindergarten with an active Individualized Education Program (IEP) and accurate information from a vision specialist.



wasn't any at home. We made sure that he had some to take home and that he didn't have to stuff it into his pockets to get it. We also made sure that his mother had the recipe and materials to make it at home.

His social skills also improved immensely. By mid year of his second year he knew how to walk in the class line and could wait for his turn on the tricycles. He followed directions well. He listened and repeated stories. He could recognize his name and could print it. He was really ready for kindergarten. ECEAP staff and his mother were both glad that they persisted, and that they weren't still trying to work out his behavior issues in kindergarten.

Social and Academic Growth

My son has been attending ECEAP for the last two years. He has excelled beyond anything that I ever would have imagined! He can spell his own name which, I didn't believe would happen before he started first grade. You should hear how proud he is when he spells it backwards!

When my son first started ECEAP, he lacked interaction with children his own age. Now, he comes home and tells me all about his friends. He has a social life which would not have been possible if I had not enrolled him. I honestly believed at the end of his first year of ECEAP that he was ready to start kindergarten. He had learned to count, he could identify numbers, and was learning the days of the week. Now, I am glad that he returned for a second year.

His speech development is amazing. Emotionally, socially, mentally and physically he is getting challenged on a daily basis. I have noticed he is getting exposed to a diverse population that I, by myself, would not have been able to expose him to.

The most important thing that has benefitted my son at ECEAP is the food. He was underweight when he enrolled. He would not eat anything willingly or try

anything new. He can now identify with me what foods he likes and does not like. He can even put food into categories - for example, fruit and vegetables. His favorite vegetables are green beans and corn. I could never have imagined my child telling me he had a favorite vegetable.

I think every family should have an opportunity to have their child go through ECEAP. I am one of the blessed moms that have gotten the opportunity to watch my child grow and succeed.

ECEAP children receive nutrient-dense meals and snacks at preschool daily. They sit “family-style,” pass the food, serve themselves and chat with their friends during meals.



Accessing Medical Care

A child arrived in ECEAP with no medical insurance and no connected to a physician. The family was not eligible for medical coupons. Early in the year, ECEAP staff explained Apple Health for Kids and provided mom with an application.

When ECEAP staff screened children's hearing, we learned he was not able to hear any of the tones in his left ear. Mom said his ears get plugged when he is sick, so we retested later with had the same result. About a month later, we discovered he had very poor eyesight in one of his eyes. You could see his enthusiasm for the vision testing "matching game" turn to defeat as he struggled to read the letter chart with his right eye which tested 20/60. He also showed severe strabismus.

Staff checked if the mom had heard from Apple Health. She hadn't yet applied because she couldn't find some information requested on the form. With mom's permission, staff called and learned details that helped the family's application process quickly. Staff also engaged a pediatrician who agreed to see the child before Apple Health was verified. The child was seen the next day, his first medical visit in two years. He was treated for an ear infection and impacted earwax blocking the canal. He soon received his first pair of glasses of which he is

proud. He is a bright and happy child with a very grateful mother.

Staff say situations like this make the importance of ECEAP so clear in their eyes and they are happy to have a role in it.

About 61 percent of ECEAP children were up to date on well-child exams when they enrolled in fall 2010. By the end of the year, 97 percent had medical coverage, 93 percent had a regular medical provider, and 96 percent were up-to-date on well-child exams.



A Parent's Gratitude

We thank the preschool staff and the management for providing humanitarian service and education for my child. We are an Iraqi family, and we got to America just eight months ago. We speak Arabic and did not know the English language. Now we are all in school. My wife and I are studying English as a Second Language in community college. We have twin daughters in kindergarten.

My son is in ECEAP, which caused a major change in his personality, ideas and social balance. Thanks to this program he learned his numbers and letters. He writes his name, knows colors and speaks English. I now consider this the greatest achievement of my son and a great achievement of the educational staff, which played a major role in record time too.

My son is now social and cooperative. He likes mechanical games and sports. He loves the school and his teachers so much. He likes his friends and always asks for the thing which he does not know. He likes to watch movies and loves the animal world. These qualities were not all found in the past. ECEAP was the dawn of this energy and knowledge of how to use them and we owe it to this great service.

You have our sincere thanks and high respect of all involved in ECEAP; all teaching staff and all those who contributed in the preparation and development of the program. We wish you continued success.

Help with Language

- 35 percent of ECEAP children speak a language other than English in their homes.
- Some ECEAP classrooms have children with eight or more home languages.
- It is a goal of ECEAP to honor each family's culture and language, and ensure culturally-relevant services.
- ECEAP Performance Standards require staff to support ongoing development of each child's home language, while helping each child learn English.

Life Changes for Dad

I am a strong believer and supporter of ECEAP and Head Start. It changed my life for the better. When my first child was born, I was heavily involved in a gang and selling drugs. Having been raised half my life by an abusive mother and the other half around drug-using families, I had never been taught how to be a good parent. At my daughter's birth, I found myself wanting to be a good dad but I had no idea how.

I was hesitant to get involved when my daughter was enrolled in the program, but I did. Staff saw the potential I had as a parent and embraced it. They helped me receive my GED, get my driver's license and set goals. For the first time I started to think about my future. I don't know where I would be in my life right now if it wasn't for this program.

ECEAP and Head Start are not just child care programs. They are family-oriented programs that strengthen families and help them to become better in their lives.

Two Years of ECEAP

A mother enrolled her son in ECEAP, concerned because he was extremely shy around other children. He didn't join in group activities at his church. Mom wondered if he was autistic. He was assigned to a classroom with two teachers who had several years of teaching experience. His first days of school were difficult, but staff worked hard to help him adjust. As the year progressed, he developed a strong attachment to the lead teacher and followed her wherever she went. He did not play with other children.

Staff discussed a special education referral, but the child had done well on his developmental screening and mom said he talked and played with his brothers at home. During the second ECEAP home visit, staff heard him speak for the first time. Later, he looked forward to those visits and spoke a few words to staff when they were at his house. He did not smile or interact with other children throughout the entire year.

The next fall, he began to bloom. Staff worried at first, because his favorite teacher had retired. The first few days, he looked like his old worried self. But as the weeks progressed, he really blossomed. Now, he joins in the songs and finger plays. The first time he yelled out "Me, me!" at circle time, everyone celebrated. Now, he

plays with other children in class and runs with them on the playground. He chats with his friends during meals.

Recently, his mother called staff to say he was planning his birthday party. In the past, he didn't want a party. This year, he told her which friends he wanted to invite. The birthday was a huge success. Two years of preschool has made all the difference for this child. Staff feel confident he will do well in kindergarten.

Thank you, ECEAP!



Inquisitive Learners

One boy became very interested in the collection of shells in the ECEAP classroom. He wanted to know where the sound comes from. We talked about the swirls of the shells and the sound getting caught in them. He noticed that the shells without swirls don't make a sound. He also noticed that the shell with a broken out hole doesn't make any sound and decided that's because "the sound is shooting out the hole."

He took a shell around the room, inviting his friends to listen and then asking, "What do you think makes that sound?" There was a lot of great conversation and sharing of ideas, but he wasn't completely satisfied. Another child finally had an idea that made him happy: "Maybe the shell remembers what it sounds like when a flower is floating away in the wind."



In Their Own Words ... ECEAP Children

What do you like about preschool?

- I like to learn ABCs and numbers.
- I like to go to lunch.
- I like it because people are nice.
- I like learning and new things.
- ... playing with my friends, dancing to songs, sewing and puzzles, going outside...

What do you learn at preschool?

- To play along with others. To help teachers and others.
- To write letters and numbers and read books so I practice and practice.
- To stay healthy, to be good, to share, not be mean and be friends with everyone at preschool.
- To play, clean-up, read books and play some more.
- About feelings.
- ... to build big, write my name, listen to the teacher, be nice to people....

What are you going to be when you grow up?

- I want to work where my dad works.
- How about a papi like my papi.
- Go to work at Costco like my dad.
- A pilot and fly a jet.
- Drive a fire truck.
- An electrical engineer. I'm going to design electricity all over the world, even in poor places.
- Be in the army.
- Go to college.
- ... A police officer, cowboy, astronaut, doctor, baker, motorcycle rider, mommy, singer, teacher, Painter, cowgirl, big kid, builder, farmer, worker at Denny's...



If There Were No ECEAP

I cannot work due to an occupational disease. If there were no ECEAP, my family would not have:

1. A socially enriching, multicultural environment vital to my child's development and first academic efforts.
2. Food for meals and encouragement to eat family-style. It is a huge help for my budget that my child receives meals.
3. My child's ability to speak to others in English and Spanish and to be with a diverse peer group.
4. A nondenominational, structured, caring school staffed with sincere people who know what they are doing and communicate it to families.
5. School supplies: backpack, paper, scissors, glue, etc. This allows us more money for rent and groceries.
6. Daily mentors who enhance my child artistically.
7. Opportunities for parents to attend events, classes, coffee talks and family nights that benefit me socially and emotionally as an adult.

This child of mine deserves the best I can offer. I rely on ECEAP for advice, encouragement, social events, and

for relieving some of the incredible stress of being a single parent in today's economy.

ECEAP has offered me referrals and a comprehensive resource list that is vital to my success as a parent. Knowing where else to go for help with food, housing, parenting classes, and paying utilities is necessary for me to provide the best that I can for my child.

ECEAP by the numbers

- 64 percent of ECEAP families are at or below annual incomes of \$17,880 for a family of four.
- 37 percent of ECEAP children have parents with less than high school education.
- 11 percent have parents with less than a seventh-grade education.
- 72 percent of ECEAP families have income from wages, but qualify because their wages are so low.

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Joyce Kilmer, DEL ECEAP administrator
Layout and design: Kara Klotz



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