

Washington’s ECEAP contractors prioritize enrollment for eligible children with multiple risk factors who may need specialized supports, such as children with disabilities, those who are homeless or receiving Child Protective services. ECEAP contractors also serve many children who are dual language learners. DEL supports ECEAP contractors in their ability and capacity to support all children and their individual learning needs.

Specialized Supports Training: Haring Center

To fill the anticipated need for more expertise and capacity in this area, DEL has a contract with the University of Washington’s Haring Center Research and Training in Inclusive Education to provide specialized training to Early Achievers and Preschool Coaches beginning in the 2014-15 school year. This contract is part of the state’s RTT-ELC grant.

The Haring Center in partnership with the UW’s Childcare Quality & Early Learning Center (CQEL) will provide specialized training to coaches providing high quality early educational experiences to young children with special needs. This training will prepare coaches to support preschool teaching staff across Washington as they welcome children with disabilities into their programs.. Young children, including those with identified developmental delays and disabilities, vary in their skills, needs, and abilities. In order to help all children participate fully and achieve school readiness, teachers need to use strategies that will allow them to plan for and deliver effective instruction for all children.

Specifically, training content for coaches will include:

<i>Course</i>	<i>Description</i>
Introduction to Disabilities	Overview of different disabling conditions common in early childhood, including child learning characteristics
Introduction to Inclusion	Overview of why inclusion is important, benefits of inclusion, characteristics of inclusive environments
Partnering with Families	Information on family reactions to disability and diagnosis, family experiences, family dynamics, and strategies to provide meaningful support to families
Difficult Conversations	Discussion on critical conversations with caregivers related to provider concerns about child development
Differentiated Instruction	Information on individualizing assessment, planning, and instructional strategies for children who do not respond to standard practices
Curricular Modifications & Adaptations	Information on making changes to existing activities, interactions, and materials to help promote child participation and engagement

The Haring Center trainers will partner with preschool coaches to build their capacity in the content area. Trainers will connect with coaches in person, via email, by phone, and by teleconferencing implementing all components of the Practice Based Coaching framework.

Over the next 18 months, 50 coaches across the state will receive training and consultation at the Haring Center to support individualized instruction for children with special needs. DEL Pre-K Specialists will begin to work with interested contractors on this training effort beginning in early 2015.

Specialized Training and Supports: DLL

Research shows that learning the basic language foundations in a home language can help a child transfer these skills when learning English. Given the diverse language needs of ECEAP children, DEL is creating new professional development opportunities focused on dual language learning teaching practices that promote the home language and English acquisition. As part of the RTT-ELC grant, DEL will offer materials to coaches in the early learning system (both Early Achievers coaches and Preschool Coaches) based on Dual Language Learners (DLL) best practices. Information will include:

- stages of language development,
- new research on long-term cognitive impacts of learning multiple languages,
- practical strategies to support first and second language through classroom activities and
- strategies to connect with families to support home language and English acquisition.

DEL Pre-K Specialists will be working with interested ECEAP contractors on accessing these new trainings beginning in early 2015.

Haring Center Inclusion Resources

- *Webinars:* A series to keep coaches up to date and continue to advance their knowledge of the content. Webinars will be broadcast monthly to all coaching participants.
- *Product development:* Haring Center trainers will develop a series of products for use with coaches, as well as for coaches to use with providers. These products will include disability fact sheets, tip sheets related to specific strategies, routines, and behaviors, and activity planning sheets.
- *Lending library:* The library will be filled with textbooks, videos, and other materials that coaches will use as a resource for their own learning goals, and with providers.

