

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) was created in 2006 to help ensure high-quality early learning opportunities so that:

- Children enter school healthy, capable and confident.
- Washington families are able to support healthy child development.
- Early learning professionals have the skills and resources to offer high-quality programs.

Our work is done with public and private partners around the state, based on the state's 10-year Early Learning Plan ([www.del.wa.gov/plan](http://www.del.wa.gov/plan)).

### **DEL programs and services**

At DEL, our work includes:

- Improving program quality through **Early Achievers, Washington's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS)**. Early Achievers helps licensed child care providers and publicly funded preschool programs improve the quality of care, and helps families understand quality and how to find it. Early Achievers is the framework for quality for all our early learning programs. [www.del.wa.gov/care/qr](http://www.del.wa.gov/care/qr)
- **Licensing and monitoring about 6,000 family home child care facilities and child care centers** to help ensure they are safe, healthy learning environments for the estimated 161,000 children in licensed care. We also set policy for child care subsidies to foster positive development of children and support families working toward self-sufficiency. [www.del.wa.gov/care.about](http://www.del.wa.gov/care.about)
- Expanding the **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)**, which offers classroom learning, health and nutrition services, and family support services to about 10,000 3- and 4-year-old children. [www.del.wa.gov/care/find-hs-eceap](http://www.del.wa.gov/care/find-hs-eceap)
- Overseeing the **Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (ESIT)**, which, at any given time, serves about 5,600 children ages birth to 3 with disabilities or developmental delays. [www.del.wa.gov/esit](http://www.del.wa.gov/esit)
- In partnership with Thrive by Five Washington, offering **home visiting services**, matching families with trained professionals or paraprofessionals to: provide information and support related to children's healthy development, strengthen the parent-child relationship, and promote early learning. [www.del.wa.gov/development/visiting](http://www.del.wa.gov/development/visiting) and [www.thrivebyfivewa.org/hvsa.html](http://www.thrivebyfivewa.org/hvsa.html)
- In partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, offering **Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)**, which looks at where a child is in his or her development, and welcomes parents and early learning

providers into the process. During the 2013-14 school year, about 38,000 incoming kindergartners and their families are benefitting from WaKIDS. [www.k12.wa.us/wakids](http://www.k12.wa.us/wakids)

- Overseeing the **Medicaid Treatment Child Care** program, which offers intensive therapeutic child care and supports to children who are exposed to substantial environmental, familial, and biological risk factors that can impact their social development, behavior and overall mental health. [www.del.wa.gov/development/child/mtcc.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/development/child/mtcc.aspx)
- Convening the **Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)**, a statutorily created council whose members provide input and recommendations on DEL's work. [www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac](http://www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac)
- Supporting Washington families through **Strengthening Families Washington** to strengthen family bonds, understand childhood development, cope with the challenge of parenting, and develop positive discipline skills. [www.del.wa.gov/development/strengthening](http://www.del.wa.gov/development/strengthening)
- Supporting early learning professionals with **training and scholarships** to offer higher quality care for and interactions with children. [www.del.wa.gov/requirements/professional](http://www.del.wa.gov/requirements/professional)

**Our mission:** DEL offers voluntary, comprehensive, high-quality early learning programs and services to families and early learning professionals.

**Our vision:** All children in Washington start kindergarten healthy, capable, and confident in their ability to learn and succeed.

**Our focus:**

- High quality in all early learning settings
- Expanding preschool and infant/toddler programs
- Partnering with families and communities

# Kids' Potential, Our Purpose!

