Quality Matters in WA Early Learning: Early Start Act Progress

It has now been more than a year since I came to the Department of Early Learning as its new director, and I am gratified by the successes we’ve had in that time. We met the deadline to enroll all existing subsidy providers into Early Achievers head-on. Nearly all providers required to sign up did so - serving more than 37,000 children under 5, or 98 percent of those served in subsidy in FY 2016. This is an inspirational embrace by the provider community of our quest for quality. Read more: Early Start Act Report (2016)

A book about street artist Basquiat just won one of the biggest US children’s book awards, Quartz

The Girl Who Drank the Moon Radiant Child, an illustrated book about the late artist Jean-Michel Basquiat by Javaka Steptoe, won the Randolph Caldecott Medal. See the full list of winners.

Mama Yaya meets Governor Inslee and Results Washington, Ross Hunter

Amelia Cruz, the owner and operator of Mama Yaya’s Child Care in Lacey was our guest at the Results Washington meeting yesterday. Results Washington is responsible for implementing Governor Inslee’s focus on lean management and continuous improvement. We review progress on key indicators of progress in outcomes. In this specific case we were looking at indicator 1.1b – “1.1.b Increase number of early learning providers who achieve level 3 or above in Early Achievers (quality rating and improvement system) from December 2013 baseline of 253 programs to
1,471 programs by December 2018.

**DeVos and Price Hearings Leave Us With More Questions on Early Ed**, New America

Whether or not “child care” belongs in the Education Department (ED) might depend on how one is thinking about programs serving children before school entry. If defining child care as a setting that provides a safe and nurturing environment for children before they reach kindergarten age that also functions as a work support for parents, then it’s true that the nation’s largest federal child care program, the Child Care and Development Fund, is located in HHS. That agency also houses Head Start, which provides early education and care to over one million of our nation’s most vulnerable children under age five.

**What If All Children Could Attend Preschool?** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

In Europe, rich and poor kids alike are enrolling in early care and preschool programs in large numbers. These accomplishments offer us insights for our collective efforts to strengthen early education in the U.S.

**Toys targeted in series of burglaries at Yakima day care**, Yakima Herald

Opened less than four weeks ago, a Yakima child care center has been burglarized at least five times, including twice in one night.

**Having a child will bankrupt you**, Elle Magazine

Some parents, mostly low-income ones who work, can get help to defray that cost. But spending on assistance through various federal programs is at a 12-year low. Today just 15 percent of eligible children are served by federal subsidies.

**Poverty Is Pink**, The Huffington Post

Women are more likely to do unpaid work, which can affect career success. American women spend an average of four hours a day doing things like housework and child and elder care.

Women’s poverty and child poverty are linked. Children comprise the poorest single group in the United States - one in five grow up living in poverty - and the risk of poverty doubles for children who live in female-headed households.