



### Early Achievers and Books: ERS Policy Update

**WHAT:** Beginning March 16, 2017, DEL will exclude the item related to Books and Pictures in each ERS tool used in the Early Achievers onsite evaluation. Data collectors will mark the item as “not applicable” and they will not collect any data on this item related to Early Achievers. This means that participants will no longer receive a score on Books and Pictures. This change in practice will not affect overall ERS scores for participants.

**WHEN:** This policy is effective March 16, 2017.

**WHO:** All Early Achievers participants that receive an on-site evaluation after March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**WHY:** The Department of Early Learning believes that it is the role of parents, in conjunction with their early learning providers, to decide which books in the early learning environment best meet the needs of their children. DEL believes that the value of having access to a wide variety of reading materials that reflect the experiences and cultures of children and their families outweighs any benefits that may stem from the use of these indicators in the rating process.

DEL recognizes that access to books plays a crucial role in early learning and development. To help families and early learning professionals provide a rich assortment of books, DEL is partnering with libraries across the state. Our goal is to provide expert tips on selecting books for an early learning environment as well as additional resources and events for children, families and early learning providers. Together, we are working to ensure that every child in Washington has the opportunity to develop a love of language and reading.