

Public hearings are coming up soon on the new WACs The draft is up for review on the DEL website. It has taken us 3 years to get this far. These new WACs are kid centered, research based and in plain language. We have done our best to make things work for providers and families. Please take the time to look them over and give your input.

The Professional Development Consortium continues to work on the plan for professional development in Washington. We are now looking at core skills needed to work with children. It will help frame the types of trainings available to providers. I am continuing to push for community based training as well as college credit. You can get info on this group at the DEL wesite. Again--your input is needed.

The Early Learning Action Alliance continues to push politically. If you get on their list serve you will get continual updates of what is happening in Olympia. As you all know the budget cuts greatly affect Early Learning. Be sure to let the Governor and your legislators know that you do not want this to happen. Remember all it takes is 12 phone calls or emails to make a difference. The message can be as simple as "Please support Early Learning issues""

I have just last week been invited to serve on WaKids. It is a 20 person panel formed to take a look at a Skills Inventory for Kindergarten. I know very little about this group other than it was formed by DEL< OSPS< and Thrive by Five. It is wonderful that our message is being heard and we are recognized to have value in the process. The first meeting is January 21st so I will let you know more later.

We are still working on the Early Learning Plan (it is also available on the DEL website) this will be ongoing until Dec. This plan sets out the goals and objectives for Early Learning in the next 10 to 20 years. It has both short and long term goals. Some things cost money and some do not. The hope is to give us direction on where we need to be looking and planning for change.

I have been working very hard to promote Family Childcare in our state. I think it is beginning to pay off. People are beginning to listen. We need to continue our participation and input. Don't hesitate to respond to any and all of these groups. If you have issues you would like me to bring forward or have questions on anything don't hesitae to let me know.