



Healthy Child Care Washington Goals

- ★ Increase the resources available to train child care providers and offer them technical assistance, information and referrals.
- ★ Enhance child care providers' use of practices that promote the social, emotional, physical, health and cognitive development of children.
- ★ Expand the use of skills and standards for child care health consultants.
- ★ Improve communication between child care providers and parents about child care quality and their children's development and behavior.



Healthy Child Care Washington

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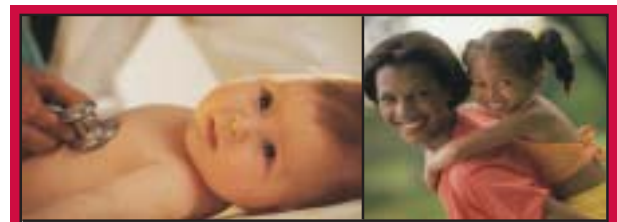


Working Together to Implement Healthy Child Care Washington

Department of Health
Maternal and Child Health Bureau
All Local Health Jurisdictions in Washington State
Department of Social and Health Services,
Division of Child Care & Early Learning
Washington State Child Care
Resource & Referral Network and all
local child care resource and referral programs
PacRim Real Time Systems, Inc.
Office of the Superintendent
of Public Instruction
Promoting First Relationships
Department of Family and Child Nursing
University of Washington
Washington Chapter -
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Healthy Child Care Washington



Ensuring children are healthy, nurtured . . .

The impetus for action

Quality care during the earliest years is essential for children to thrive and reach their full potential. When in a safe, nurturing, and interactive setting, children feel confident to fully explore and learn from their environment. Children who are stimulated and cared for in sensitive ways are more likely to flourish in school and continue to succeed throughout their lives.



With this in mind, the Washington State Department of Health spearheads an effort to promote and enhance healthy development in child care and early learning programs, called Healthy Child Care Washington (HCCW). The campaign creates a partnership of families, child care providers, and health professionals that is focused on developing

comprehensive and coordinated services that nurture children.

Building a statewide system

Working with key partners at the national, state and local levels, HCCW serves as a catalyst for improving the lives of children in Washington State. In recent years, HCCW has developed a



statewide system linking parents and child care providers to a host of services. The intent is to unite the efforts of child care providers, parents, educators, policymakers, advocates, researchers, pediatricians, social service agencies, and health professionals to maximize the resources focused on creating healthy and nurturing environments for children.



Training for Child Care Providers

HCCW reinforces the concept that trained early childhood professionals can use their child care settings to promote the healthy development of children. Through focused trainings at the community-level, caregivers and educators learn to recognize and respond to the social, emotional, physical, health and cognitive needs of children in their care.



As a result of these specialized training sessions, hundreds of child care providers across the state have increased their skills and knowledge and adapted their child care settings and activities to create more comprehensive, sensitive, safe and age-appropriate care.

Ongoing Consultations

Working through the Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) and child care resource and referral programs (R&Rs) in each area of the state, Healthy Child Care Washington offers consultations to child care providers on topics such as:

- brain development
- communicable diseases
- nutrition and feeding
- environmental safety
- social/emotional issues
- oral health
- sleep patterns and positions
- speech, hearing and vision



Following the initial consultation, health care professionals then follow-up with child care providers to reinforce the concepts which were discussed and to ensure identified improvements were made in the child care setting.



When appropriate, HCCW links children and their families with mental health specialists, nutrition programs, health insurance, and other community resources which are available for families with children. The goal is to ensure that children have access to all the services available to promote their health and well-being.

. . . and ready to learn