

**Northwest Early Learning  
NWEL Snohomish County Strategies**

**OVERARCHING VALUES**

- Develop, promote and implement policies that will advance Kids Matter strategies and outcomes.
- Respect diverse family values and lifestyles.
- Promote ethnic and culturally appropriate service provision.

VISION: All children have high quality early care and learning experiences that support optimal growth and development learning to success in school and life. All children are ready for school and all schools are ready for children.

MISSION: To support access to comprehensive early learning and family support opportunities to all children and families.

GOAL: To support local communities to offer access to comprehensive early learning and family support opportunities to promote healthy development of children in their care so that they can be ready to succeed in school and in life.

**A. All parents and caregivers have the ability to promote positive social and emotional development of young children in their care.**

Snohomish County Strategies		Outcomes
<p>1) Ensure all services for young children emphasize the importance of mental health and social and emotional development.</p> <p>2) Promote awareness and implementation of service models that supports families that are effective, culturally competent and community-based.</p> <p>3) Promote awareness and implementation of practices that provide opportunities for social connectedness for families</p> <p>4) Promote caregivers' knowledge of and ability to encourage children's mental health and social and emotional development.</p> <p>5) Promote collaboration among policymakers, providers, families and other stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop/enhance existing training of parents and pregnant women, professional and preschool providers</li> <li>• Recruit mental health professionals</li> <li>• Increase public awareness</li> <li>• Implement and use the results of DECA</li> <li>• Active collaboration of professionals and agencies</li> <li>• Access N-Cast</li> <li>• Access First Relationships</li> <li>• Obtain more funding</li> <li>• Make services universally accessible</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parent and Caregiver Changes:</b> Improved parent and caregiver understanding and practice of nurturing behaviors to promote children's optimal social-emotional development and mental health</p> <p><b>System Changes:</b> Increased availability of appropriate and coordinated <u>mental health services to foster and maintain child social/emotional health for children.</u></p> <p><b>Child Changes:</b> Increased number and percentage of children entering kindergarten with <u>developmentally appropriate</u> social-emotional skills.</p>

**B. All children have access to developmentally and culturally appropriate services and all children have access to safe, responsive, stimulating, high quality environment.**

Snohomish County Strategies		Outcomes
<p>1) Use Washington State Early Learning and Development Benchmarks as a framework to enhance the quality of child care and early learning</p> <p>2) Improve the ability to evaluate and reward high-quality programs through development of Quality Rating System (QRS) and Tiered Reimbursement for licensed child care.</p> <p>3) Promote children’s health in early care and education programs.</p> <p>4) Support high quality professional development opportunities for caregivers and early childhood educators.</p> <p>5) Develop capacity and skills within the early care and education systems to engage in family support.</p> <p>6) Expand access to high quality early learning experiences.</p> <p>7) Promote relationship-focused care and early learning experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free</li> <li>• Counseling w/childcare</li> <li>• Tip sheets</li> <li>• Use of technology</li> <li>• TV spots</li> <li>• Email to reach families</li> <li>• Pay attention to learning styles</li> <li>• No eligibility gatekeeper</li> <li>• Parent mentoring</li> <li>• Health services where the children are</li> <li>• Family-friendly work environments</li> <li>• Build cultural approaches</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parent and Caregiver Changes:</b>            Increased parent and caregiver understanding of what children need for optimal health and development (<i>physical well-being and motor, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, cognition and general knowledge, and language, com., and literacy.</i>)            Improved ability of families to <u>access and participate in</u> quality child care and preschool programs that meet families’ needs.            Increased parent and caregiver ability to access community resources and support networks.</p> <p><b>System Changes:</b>            Increased availability of high-quality child care and preschool programs (new-broader)             Increased support for families in their role as the primary nurturers of their children.             Increased public understanding of the importance of early childhood education, health, and school readiness.</p> <p><b>Child Changes:</b>            Increased number and percentage of children entering kindergarten healthy and ready for school, including learning and development in physical well-being, health, and motor development, social and emotional development, approaches toward learning, cognition and general knowledge, and language communication, and literacy.</p>

**C. All Families have access to parenting education, including information about promoting healthy growth and development.**

Snohomish County Strategies	Snohomish County Strategies	Outcomes
<p>1) Provide information to parents and facilitate connection to needed services and supports.</p> <p>2) Increase families' awareness and access to community resources to support their children's development and early learning.</p> <p>3) Increase families' knowledge of children's health, social and emotional development and early learning.</p> <p>4) Promote professional development for those providing parenting education, family support, and information and referral services.</p> <p>5) Strengthen and sustain local systems that provide parent information and support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative trainings to support families</li> <li>• Support for family empowerment (family network, support groups, trainings, classes, respite to encourage attendance)</li> <li>• Public resources to support families in problem-solving; connections to these supports</li> <li>• Brochures sent to parent about children's development (mailing, email, postings)</li> <li>• Public recognition for staff and agencies providing quality care</li> <li>• Quality assessment for childcare services, licensing and subsidies available for quality care</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parent and Caregiver Changes:</b>  <u>Improved child/parent relationships by reducing parent and caregiver stress. Increased parents' and other primary caregiver's stress-reduction skills.</u>            Increased parent and other primary caregiver knowledge and skills to support their children's health and development.  <del>Increased availability of community resources and support networks.</del>  <u>Increased ability to access parenting resources and support networks.</u>            Improved understanding and <u>skills that nurture practice of nurturing behaviors to promote</u> children's optimal <del>social-emotional</del> development and <del>mental health.</del></p> <p><b>System Changes:</b>            Increased availability of parent education resources and services.</p> <p><b>Child Changes:</b>  <del>Increased parents' ability to select and be involved with their children's quality child care and preschool programs.</del>  <u>Increased number and percentage of children entering kindergarten healthy and ready for school.</u></p>

**D. All children have access to health insurance, a medical home, and comprehensive, consistent, culturally appropriate health services.**

Snohomish County Strategies	Snohomish County Strategies	Outcomes
<p>1) Increase awareness among all who care for young children about the importance of comprehensive health care</p> <p>2) Enroll more eligible children in public health insurance programs (Medicaid, SCHIP, Basic Health, SSI)</p> <p>3) Facilitate access to a medical home for all children inclusive of all health and wellness services.</p> <p>4) Make developmental screening, assessment and referral to early intervention services accessible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a consistent message</li> <li>• Create a Parent Line</li> <li>• Develop partnerships to send out information (WIC, Child Profile)</li> <li>• Partner with 211 information line</li> <li>• Increase delivery options</li> <li>• Insurance utilization</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parent and Caregiver Changes:</b>  Increased parent and caregiver understanding of the importance of comprehensive health care (<i>including medical, dental, mental health, vision and involvement in the health system as a skilled consumer</i>).</p> <p>Increased parent and caregiver ability to recognize an emerging issue with their child's health or development and connect with appropriate services.</p> <p><b>System Changes:</b>  Increased number and percentage of children who have medical insurance.</p> <p><b>Child Changes:</b>  <u>Healthy children indicated by improved child health and wellness status.</u></p> <p>Increased number and percentage of children who receive recommended preventive care (<i>e.g., well-child, immunizations</i>)</p> <p>Increased number and percentage of children who have access to ongoing comprehensive health care (<i>including medical, dental, mental health and vision</i>)</p>