

Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) preschool

This preschool program serves Whatcom County children ages 3 – 5 years of age from income eligible families. Services for families in this program include health assessments, nutrition education, mental health services, social service referrals, home visits, and family support services.

Early Head Start

This program serves pregnant women, children ages birth to three and their families. Services include prenatal education, health and nutrition services, family development support, and home visits focusing on child development and quality early education. This program is for income eligible families.

Frequently asked questions

How to apply:

You can apply using our online application form on the website. See “Application Form” under these services listed on our website. Or call us for more information, (360) 734-8396 (Whatcom County)

How are applications reviewed?

Applications for these programs go through a selection process that selects children and families with the highest need of our services.

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- If your child is selected for enrollment, you will receive a letter in the mail about next steps to complete the enrollment process.
 - Should your child not be selected, they will be placed on a waiting list. This will not guarantee you a slot this year, but it will leave the possibility open as vacancies occur.
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What documentation is needed?

Documentation is needed to determine age and income eligibility. Your application will not be complete until items have been received, including:

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- Verification of Child’s Age – Birth Certificate, Hospital Certificate, or Molina White Card
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- Verification of Family Income – for either the year 2016 or for the last 12 months. Examples include, but are not limited to:

 - Tax return for 2016
 - W-2 Form
 - TANF Award Letter
 - SSI Award Letter
 - Unemployment

Where to send documentation:

Verification of Age and Income can be mailed or submitted in person to:

*Early Learning and Family Services
Attn: Recruiting Staff
1111 Cornwall Ave, Suite 200
Bellingham, WA 98225*

Your application will not be complete until all items have been received.

What age does my child need to be to enroll?

Head Start and ECEAP children must be 3 or 4 years of age by August 31st of the program year. Priority is given to 4 year olds.

Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children ages birth to 3 years of age for the Early Head Start program.

What if my child has special needs?

Children with special needs are welcome and actively recruited for enrollment. If your child has special needs please provide documentation such as a letter from a physician or therapist or a copy of medical or therapy reports.

Where are Head Start/ECEAP classrooms located?

We have centers are located in the following elementary schools Alderwood, Birchwood, Blaine Primary School, Carl Cozier, Eagleridge, Fisher, Roosevelt, and Silver Beach. We also partner with three childcare centers, Bellingham Childcare & Learning Center, Generations Early Learning and Family Center, and Kid's Korner.

Is bus transportation available?

Some bus transportation is available at Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas preschool sites and limited transportation is available at the Mt. Baker and Alderwood sites. Staff will assist families to understand access to transportation options in order to participate in program activities.
