

King County Child Welfare-Early Learning and Development Database

Early Learning



Most programs serve a specific geographic area. There are many areas of King County in which some programs are not available. Each program may be offered through many different agencies.

Overview of Evidence-Based Home Visiting Early Learning Programs in King County

Four national models identified as evidence-based operate in King County. They all provide families with information, skills, and linkages to other services offered in the community.

Early childhood home visiting programs connect expectant parents and parents of young children with trained staff who visit the family's home on a regular basis to:

- Teach or model parenting skills to help parents set realistic expectations for children's behavior.
- Increase parental knowledge of child development and possible developmental and health issues.
- Help parents provide a stable and nurturing environment that prepares children for success in school and life.

While all of the home visiting programs work to improve the lives of children and parents, each of the program models have different, albeit complimentary, objectives.

Early Head Start (EHS) – this comprehensive preschool program serves children birth to 3, pregnant women and families. It is delivered through home visits or in center-based care. EHS includes: early childhood education; parent-child attachment support; nutrition services; health screenings and follow-up; family support; and family involvement and leadership opportunities.

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/Early%20Head%20Start>

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) – helps transform the lives of vulnerable, low-income mothers pregnant with their first child with the goal of improving pregnancy outcomes, improving child health and development, and increasing family economic self-sufficiency. www.nursefamilypartnership.org

Parents as Teachers (PAT) – serves families with young children by increasing parent knowledge of early childhood development, providing early detection of developmental delays and health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect; and increasing children's school readiness and school success. www.parentsasteachers.org

The Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) – promotes positive parent-child verbal interaction, early literacy, increased social and emotional skills, and school readiness. Home visitors match the culture and language of families served. www.parent-child.org

	EHS	PAT	NFP	PCHP
Frequency of visits	Weekly	At least monthly At least twice/month for at-risk families	Weekly or biweekly, depending on the phase of the program	Twice a week
Length of visits	90 minutes	50-60 min. if one child; 90 min. if more than one eligible child	Approximately 1 hr to 1.5 hr	30 minutes
What happens during a visit	Home visitor presents information on child development and answers questions, often in the context of everyday routines such as meal times, when bathing, or by sharing books. Parents are encouraged and supported to later recreate and build on the activities that are introduced during the home visit.	Parent-child interaction using activity and book sharing; child observation and discussion; problem-solving and goals; parenting information sharing and handouts; resource referral; health, vision, hearing, developmental screening	The nurse home-visitor engages in a therapeutic relationship focused on promoting the client's abilities and behavior change to protect and promote her own health and the well being of her child. Nurses individualize topics to each family, across defined program domains.	Modeling verbal interaction through reading, play and conversation using a book, toy or art/craft activity, which is the curricular material for the week; modeling developmentally appropriate expectations; referrals to social service and educational supports as needed/requested.
Visit duration	Up to 3 years	3 years	Approx. 2.5 years	2 years, summer break

Overview of Evidence-Based Center-Based Early Learning Programs

Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to 5 from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development. See <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/about/head-start>

- **Head Start** serves preschool-age children and their families.
- **Early Head Start** serves infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families.

Head Start programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in:

- Language and literacy
- Cognition and general knowledge
- Physical development and health
- Social and emotional development
- Approaches to learning

Head Start programs provide comprehensive services to enrolled children and their families, which include:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Social services
- Other services determined to be necessary by family needs assessments

Head Start services are designed to be responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural and linguistic heritage.

Head Start programs build relationships with families that support:

- Family well-being and positive parent-child relationships
- Families as learners and lifelong educators
- Family engagement in transitions
- Family connections to peers and community
- Families as advocates and leaders

Head Start American Indian-Alaska Native Program Branch provides American Indian and Alaska Native children and families nationally with comprehensive health, educational, nutritional, socialization and other developmental services promoting school readiness. These services are directed primarily toward economically disadvantaged preschool children (ages 3 to 5) and infants and toddlers (birth through age 3).

ECEAP (pronounced "E-Cap") is the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Preschool Program funded by Washington State.

Step Ahead is a high quality preschool funded by the City of Seattle.

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