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WashingtonESDs



Association of Educational Service Districts

ESD 105 values the importance of preparing children for success in school even before they enter kindergarten. Our early learning programs focus on providing a strong start on the language, literacy, and developmental skills of young children in order to help close the achievement gap and strengthen their readiness for school.

These initiatives include:

- Born Learning
- Early Reading First
- ECEAP
- KidScreen
- Ready by Five
- Special Education Early Intervention



Early Reading First

This alliance with the Wapato School District preschool and the Yakama Nation Head Start sites in Mt. Adams, Toppenish and Wapato offers programs that nurture the cognitive, oral, and print language skills of the pre-kindergarteners. ESD 105 staff members offer site training and technical assistance, nurture and assess children's growth, and show families how they can provide early learning skills in the home.



ECEAP

ESD 105 has initiated work for Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) classrooms to begin during 2009 through partnerships with Heritage University and Yakima Valley Community College/Easter Seals. The classrooms – two at Heritage and two at YVCC – are being designed to provide enhanced early childhood education services to 3- and 4-year-old children while also serving as sites for lab/training sites to meet a growing need for professional development opportunities. These demonstration classrooms will be available in the future to provide practicum experiences and observation opportunities for early childhood educators as they gain the background and degrees necessary to serve in the growing workforce of early learning.



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Did you know...?

- The fastest period of human brain development occur during the first few years of life.
- At 8 months, a baby has 1,000 trillion synapse connections – twice as many as adults – which provide the structural foundations for future learning.
- Studies show that loving, nurturing relationships and everyday experiences may be the highest promoters in developing strong brain architecture.
- Children who don't get early learning experiences start kindergarten behind their other classmates, and many never catch up.
- Studies show that increased investment in early learning eventually ends up requiring less money to be spent on special education and juvenile justice services.

Source: Born Learning
www.YakimaBornLearning.org

**Leading.
Delivering.
Inspiring.**

Ready by Five

ESD 105 is the intermediary agency for this partnership of Yakima community members and public and private funds to establish an early learning demonstration community in east Yakima – one of two in the state being primarily funded through Thrive By Five Washington and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The project is designed to develop new opportunities and strengthen the existing learning efforts for children from birth to age 5 so they will be prepared for school when they enter kindergarten. For more information, go to www.ReadyByFive.org.

KidScreen

ESD 105 oversees this multi-agency collaboration of health and educational organizations focused on connecting Yakima County children ages 6 years and under to a primary health care provider and dentist. The program also helps parents to become more educated about available medical resources for their children. Preliminary screenings are offered for children's hearing, vision, dental health, developmental skills, and basic health needs – all at no cost. For more information on KidScreen and to get schedules for upcoming dates, go to www.KidScreen.info.



Born Learning

Born Learning is a public engagement campaign established nationally by the United Way and The Ad Council that promotes information to help parents and child care providers turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities for children from birth to age 5. ESD 105 is one of dozens of organizations and businesses supporting this effort in Kittitas and Yakima counties through the South Central Washington School Readiness Partnership. For more information on Born Learning, and to access free downloadable teaching materials, go to www.YakimaBornLearning.org.

Special Education Early Intervention

The ESD 105 Special Education staff provides services to assist the development of learners from 3 to 21 years old, and collaborates with the other other early learning programs within our agency. Members of our Special Education team assist school districts in understanding implementation of laws pertaining to special education, provide trainings on current early childhood requirements for special education students, and offer preschooler autism services. ESD 105 also facilitates a state inclusion grant with the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children to help school districts promote inclusionary practices for special education preschoolers with their typically developing peer groups.