Early childhood education program receives $300,000 in extra funding

More preschool-age children in Everett and Marysville will benefit from specialized early childhood education programs thanks to a nearly $300,000 funding increase in Snohomish County’s Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).

The Washington State Department of Early Learning in July awarded Snohomish County ECEAP $298,350 to serve an additional 45 children in the Everett and Marysville school districts, bringing the total number of children in the program to 996. The extra funding applies each year for the next two years – for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years – and is the first step in the Department’s proposal to expand ECEAP across the state in the next five years.

“It’s important to ensure that children enter kindergarten ready to succeed,” said Snohomish County Executive John Lovick. “ECEAP helps prepare children for success in school and life, which in turn helps to build strong, sustainable communities for everyone’s future.”

The Snohomish County ECEAP is a preschool program, free to low-income families, that provides quality educational experiences to cultivate the potential of the whole child and access to health, nutrition and family support programs. Research shows that investment in programs like ECEAP reduces later costs for remedial education, teen pregnancy, criminal justice and public assistance, and ensures that children graduate from high school and have higher lifetime earnings.

ECEAP is currently recruiting families for the 2013-2014 program year. To learn more about how to enroll your child, please call 425-388-7268.

The mission of Snohomish County ECEAP is to nurture healthy growth, development, academic excellence and overall well-being of young children and their families so they can succeed in school and life. The program is administered by the Department of Early Learning, which strives to help create safe, healthy, nurturing learning experiences for all Washington children.

For more information on the Snohomish County Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, contact Joe Varano at 425-388-7251 or via e-mail joe.varano@snoco.org.

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