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For more information about
Seeds to Success,
visit www.del.wa.gov/seeds

**86 licensed child care facilities
will be re-rated in Spring 2011**

- 48 child care centers
- 38 family child cares

**229 child care providers are
receiving coaching and
professional development
opportunities**

**Approximately 3,000 children
are being impacted by Seeds
to Success**

**Average Baseline Rating—1.04
on a scale of 1—5**

What is Seeds to Success?

Seeds to Success is Washington's Quality Rating Improvement System. A Quality Rating and Improvement System is a method for rating child care facilities using valid, evidence-based measures of quality. They provide a consumer report to parents who are looking for child care and provide professional development opportunities and incentives to help providers increase the quality of care they offer.

Seeds to Success is being field tested in five field test sites: White Center, East Yakima and Clark, Spokane and Kitsap Counties. A total of 88 licensed child care facilities, both child care centers and family homes, participating in the field test which ends June 30, 2011

Background

- The 2007—2009 operating budget directed DEL to develop a Quality Rating Improvement and implement in the five field test sites. Due to the economic situation, funding was lost and the project stalled in December 2008.
- The 2009—2011 operating budget directed DEL to use \$1 million in federal ARRA funding to contract with Thrive by Five Washington to field test the system in the five sites. Due to this limited funding, only some elements of the model could be tested in year one of the field test. The five sites chose which elements to test.
- In year two, funding was secured to test and evaluate all Seeds to Success quality standards.
- Participating facilities received a baseline rating in December 2010. They will be rated once more in Spring 2011, following targeted coaching and professional development.

Preliminary field test findings:

- In the November progress report, the Seeds scores were combined across all 93 family home and center child care sites for an average score of 1.04 on a scale of 1 to 5. This is the first time all Seeds to Success quality standards have been tested.
- The baseline ratings will be compared with second ratings collected in Spring 2011 to measure to what degree coaching, funding for professional development and other resources help child care providers improve the quality of care they offer to children.
- The Seeds quality standards include two established measures of classroom quality, the Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) and the Classroom Assessment Scoring Scale (CLASS). The ERS measures the facility's environment, and the CLASS assessment measures teacher-child interactions. Using both assessments is unique and represents a bold step in facilitating and measuring quality early learning.

Next Steps:

- DEL is committed to moving QRIS work forward. We have prioritized a portion of our federal funding in the next biennium to expanding the number of children, families and child care providers who benefit from a system.
- We will use the data from the field test to refine our standards. We have learned a great deal about what works and what can be improved in helping child care providers create quality environments.
- Eligible field test participants will come early adopters of the final QRIS model, continuing to serve families and children statewide.

| <p style="text-align: center;">REFINE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July to October 2011</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">BUILD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 2011 to February 2012</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">LAUNCH & EXPAND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March to June 2012</p> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Washington releases final Seeds to Success Field Test Report • DEL begins working with “early adopters” selected from eligible field test sites • Standards revised, based on final field test data • DEL finalizes data system requirements • Create regional delivery structure with four regions: Northwest, Southwest, Central and East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement professional development policies necessary to ensure accurate workforce data on education and training • Align key system elements of licensed child care to QRIS • Select and begin to build robust data system that will create quality ratings and improvement plans, analyze program outcomes and track resources • Develop QRIS toolkit related to ratings, grievance and appeals process and participation requirements for new facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early adopters modified rating announced, using final standards • Roll out new data system • On-the-ground support for licensed providers with training and technical assistance on ERS, CLASS and family engagement, etc. • Inform and engage parents about what quality is, why it’s important and how to find it in their community • Expand Washington’s QRIS to new licensed centers and homes on a voluntary basis beginning July, 2012, based on funds available |