

Early Childhood Resources for Families.

Feel free to share with colleagues these tips for applying to Head Start:

- Click [here](#) for a set of PP slides that provide tips to help families apply for Head Start and Early Head Start. The guide includes contact information for each of the Head Start providers in Multnomah County and suggests other free/low-cost preschool options.
- Community Childcare Initiative (CCI): Portland Children's Levy funds a childcare subsidy effort intended to help working families with low-incomes have better access to high quality childcare. If you scroll down the page at [this link](#), you'll see information about the CCI, which is administered by Childcare Resource & Referral of Multnomah County. CCI subsidies help working families with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level pay no more than 10% of their income toward childcare costs. Families receiving ERDC may qualify for CCI too, and CCI is designed to help families receiving ERDC or on ERDC waitlist. In addition, CCI subsidies must be used with providers involved with the State of Oregon's [SPARK program](#) and who have agreed to meet a few other quality criteria (e.g. having liability insurance, not have any serious, valid complaints in the past year). Spark (formerly QRIS, Quality Rating & Information System) is Oregon's efforts to improve childcare quality by defining practice standards, supporting childcare providers to voluntarily participate in the effort, and assessing their progress toward achieving the standards. CCI-participating childcare providers are either star-rated or "C2Q", meaning they've 'committed to quality' by opting to participate but aren't star-rated yet.
- [Kindergarten Sign Up](#): If you're a PCL grantee, watch the mail early next week for a package of materials promoting the Sign Up for Kindergarten by June 1 campaign. Using the link here, you can also download materials, in multiple languages, from Early Learning Multnomah (ELM)'s website. (Some PCL grantees will receive these materials from another partner, rather than from PCL).
- [Childcare Resource and Referral training catalog](#): CCR&R publishes a quarterly newsletter, in multiple languages. It's a good resource for childcare providers, and home visitors and other early childhood practitioners. It serves as a quarterly catalog of trainings available through CCR&R. You may want to get on their email list to receive the newsletter (email amelia.reyes@mhcc.edu to request their newsletter by email). Click on the language you want to read the newsletter, it'll download a pdf of the newsletter, and then you can scroll through to the class offerings and registration instructions. Many of the trainings are low cost, and PCL grantees can use PCL grant funds to send staff or parents to the trainings.
- [VROOM](#): It's a free website, app designed to help families and caregivers support young children's development- it's based on brain science and funding for the development of it all came primarily from the Bezos Foundation (i.e. Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon). The initiative includes [support for staff](#) working with families and caregivers. The Oregon Early Learning Division has been promoting Vroom, and has a [website to introduce it](#), in case you want a quick orientation to Vroom.

- [2018 Latino Health Equity Conference](#): The all-day conference at the end of June is focused on Strengthening Latino Mental and Emotional Health. PCL grantees can use PCL grant funds to attend the training.
 - Upcoming Early Childhood conferences: Links below take you to the brochure, description of sessions, and registration information. PCL grantees may use PCL grant funds for registration and travel costs associated with attending these conferences:
1. [Washington's Infant and Early Childhood Conference](#): May 2-4 in Tacoma, WA.
 2. [Oregon's Parenting Educators Conference](#) May 21-22 in Corvallis, OR, and it has a special discounted registration fee for home visitors (see pg 2 of conference brochure at link).
 3. [Annual Early Childhood Summer Institute](#) June 25-28 in Albany, OR and registration is free (event is sponsored by the OR Dept of Ed, OR Health Authority and OR Early Learning Division).