



Summer Quarterly Newsletter



July–September 2026

Coaching Support Is Here—And It's Free!

By BrightSpark's Early Learning Services Department Director, Janine Meyers

Did you know that all of our coaching services are available to you at no cost? That's right—we do not charge for any of our coaching services. Whether you're seeking support with quality improvement, business practices, classroom strategies, infant and toddler care, or a specific challenge you're facing today, we're here to help.

Because of the large number of providers across our region, we are continually finding creative and meaningful ways to connect with you. We recognize that every program has unique needs, goals, and schedules, which is why we offer a variety of coaching and learning opportunities designed to meet you where you are.

Available supports include:

- Thrive Coaching-Business Supports, Trauma Informed Care, Social Emotional Learning, Rapid Response
- Group Learning Experiences (GLEs)
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Infant Toddler Coaching
- Professional Development Trainings
- One-on-One Coaching
- Emergent Coaching

Whether you prefer to connect regularly or on an as-needed basis, we are here to support your quality improvement journey. Our strengths-based coaching approach is designed to meet you where you are and help you achieve your goals.

If you need coaching support or are curious about Emergent Coaching, we encourage you to reach out today.

Provider Line: 1-800-446-1114, Option 2

Email: thrive@childcare.org

No matter where you are on your quality improvement journey, you don't have to do it alone. We look forward to partnering with you as you continue the important work of helping children learn, grow, and thrive.



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Summer 2026 Professional Development Opportunities

The Summer quarter is packed full of amazing Professional Development opportunities, including:

TRAINING TOPIC	STARS	DATE(S)	TIME	LOCATION	LANGUAGE	COST
Understanding the Roots of Behavior	2	7/14/2026	6-8 PM	Zoom	English	\$20
The Growing Brain - Everyday Play	3	7/15/2026	5:30-8:30 PM	Zoom	English	\$25
Zoning to Maximize Learning	2	8/6/2026	1-3 PM	Zoom	English	\$20
Behavior Management in a Positive Climate	2.5	8/18/2026	6:00-8:30 PM	In-person Redmond Together Center	English	\$25
Nurturing Deep Root for Infants and Toddlers	2	9/3/2026	1-3 PM	Zoom	English	\$20

Save the date for our upcoming virtual PDI

It will take place on **September 15th-17th** and **Saturday the 20th**

We will offer 3-4 training sessions each day at various times, providing multiple opportunities to participate. Additional details, including the training schedule and registration information, will be shared over the summer.

Stay tuned!

Sales Tax Update

Due to a change in the WA State tax code, BrightSpark is now required to charge a sales tax on all trainings and handbooks.

See our full list of classes and sign up using the QR code to the right!



Reminder - you must have a BrightSpark account to sign up for classes!

If you don't have an account, register using the QR code to the right.



Group Learning Experiences (GLE) for NEWLY Enrolled Providers

Group Learning Experiences support the progress of your Early Achievers timeline requirements. These GLE's will provide you with information about EA, technical supports, and topics on children's needs that will guide your quality improvement journey.

We are offering a consistent schedule and multiple times each week to hopefully fit with your schedule. Take a look at what's coming up this quarter and connect with your Early Learning Coach to sign up!

Save this zoom link and join any of the sessions listed below: <https://bit.ly/48M45Br>

July-September

Name	Date	Time
EA Orientation	Thursday – July 02, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Chat with a coach/Coaching Services	Thursday – July 09, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Summer fun activities/Safety Resources	Thursday – July 16, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Mealtimes/Nutrition/ Food Program	Thursday – July 23, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
EA Orientation	Thursday – August 06, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Chat with a coach/Coaching Services	Thursday – August 13, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Cleaning and Sanitizing (WAC Requirement)	Thursday – August 20, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Emergency Preparedness	Thursday – August 27, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
EA Orientation	Thursday – September 03, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Chat with a coach/Coaching Services	Thursday – September 10, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Program Profile/CECI	Thursday – September 17, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Professional Development/Required Trainings	Thursday – September 24, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm

"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you." ~ B. B. King

Professional Learning Communities

BrightSpark invites you to increase your early learning knowledge by joining our Professional Learning Communities (PLC)! These PLC's will also provide you with an opportunity to connect with other early learning professionals. Collaborate, ask questions, and get resources! Historically these communities have been led in person, but the past few years they have been led virtually. We have raffle prizes at the end of each PLC - so make sure you attend!



These communities are exclusively for Early Achievers participants!

Which includes family Child Care providers, Child Care Center teachers, staff members, co-teachers, and teaching assistants.

✨ Please note that these learning communities do not provide STARS hours

Keep an eye out for our monthly PLC emails. They detail all of the PLC's happening each month, along with their dates, times, topics, and Zoom links.

BrightSpark YouTube Channel & Monthly Tidbits

Have you seen our YouTube channel yet? BrightSpark's YouTube channel features short, practical videos to help child care providers enhance quality, strengthen family engagement, and support early learning best practices.

Scan the QR code to the right to start watching today!

Also, we have a monthly tidbit newsletter where our coaches put together pieces of information on various topics.

These topics include things like: science activities, art activities, equity and inclusion, social emotional skills, challenging behavior and much more!

Check out our latest tidbit below!



Spring activities with kids

<https://conta.cc/4svvKy1>

Pride Month & Juneteenth

<https://conta.cc/4v9X0ni>

Comprehensive Services



Nature-Based Summer Experiences for Infants and Toddlers

Summer is a great time to bring nature and outdoor-inspired learning into infant and toddler environments through simple, hands-on sensory and gardening experiences. Promote mental health by helping children feel calm, grounded, and connected to their surroundings. Nature-based play strengthens brain development, fine motor skills, and early language (sun, water, plant, grow), while also supporting emotional skills like self-regulation, patience, and curiosity. You don't need a large outdoor space, small potted plants, water play, sensory bins with natural materials, and access to light and greenery can create meaningful experiences. Infants benefit from gentle sensory exploration and soothing co-regulation, while toddlers can engage in simple routines like watering plants, exploring textures, and observing growth and change.

Intentional Experiences for Infants & Toddlers

Infants:

- ◆ Provide supervised tummy-time outdoors on grass or a soft blanket
- ◆ Offer sensory play with leaves, soil, and water
- ✿ Narrate experiences: "The grass feels soft,"
"The water is cool"
- Support bonding through eye contact and responsive interaction

Toddlers:

- ✿ Invite children to scoop soil, plant seeds, and water plants
- Establish simple care routines (watering daily, checking growth)
- ◆ Take short nature walks to observe changes outdoors
- ◆ Encourage independence and imitation ("You can pour the water")

Additional Tips for Success:

- ◆ Rotate materials to keep interest fresh
- ◆ Offer repeated experiences. Young children learn through repetition
- ✿ Model gentle touch and care when handling plants
- Celebrate small changes: "Look, it's growing!"

THRIVE Calendar

Get personalized support by joining a Group Learning Experience (GLE), meeting with a coach or attend a Office Hours focused on key topics—just use the Zoom URLs to join any of the offerings below.

July–Sept

Thrive Group	Topic	Date	Time	Meeting Link
Business Coaching Supports	Connect with a Coach	Tue, July 7	6:00 – 7:30pm	https://bit.ly/bc-office-hours
Rapid Response	GLE	Wed, July 8	6:30 – 8:00pm	https://bit.ly/rrc-gle
Emergent Coaching	GLE	Tue, July 14	1:30 – 2:30pm	https://bit.ly/emergent-gle
Behavior Support Coaching	GLE	Thu, July 16	1:30 – 2:30pm	https://bit.ly/bsc-gle
Business Coaching Supports	GLE	Tue, July 28	6:00 – 7:30pm	https://bit.ly/bus-support-gle
Emergent Coaching	Connect with a Coach	Tue, Aug 11	1:30 – 2:30pm	https://bit.ly/emergent-gle
Business Coaching Supports	Connect with a Coach	Tue, Aug 11	6:00 – 7:30pm	https://bit.ly/bc-connect-with-a-coach
Rapid Response	GLE	Wed, Aug 12	6:30 – 8:00pm	https://bit.ly/rrc-gle
Social and Emotional Support Coaching	GLE	Wed, Aug 12	6:30 – 7:30pm	https://bit.ly/4v04Xez
Expulsion Prevention Partnership (EPP)	Connect with a Coach	Wed, Aug 19	1:00 – 2:30pm	https://bit.ly/4uulgy7
Behavior Support Coaching	Connect with a Coach	Thu, Aug 20	1:30 – 2:30pm	https://bit.ly/bsc-gle
Business Coaching Supports	In person Workshop	Tue, Aug 22	11:00 – 2:30pm	BrightSpark Early Learning Services, 555 S Renton Village Pl STE 280, Renton, WA 98057
Emergent Coaching	GLE	Tue, Sep 8	1:30 – 2:30pm	https://bit.ly/emergent-gle
Business Coaching Supports	Connect with a Coach	Tue, Sep 8	6:00 – 7:30pm	https://bit.ly/bc-connect-with-a-coach
Rapid Response	GLE	Wed, Sep 9	6:30 – 8:00pm	https://bit.ly/rrc-gle
Social and Emotional Support Coaching	GLE	Wed, Sep 16	6:30 – 7:30pm	https://bit.ly/4a9D23B
Behavior Support Coaching	Connect with a Coach	Thu, Sep 17	1:30 – 2:30pm	https://bit.ly/bsc-gle
Business Coaching Supports	GLE	Tue, Sep 22	6:00 – 7:30pm	https://bit.ly/bc-gle
Social and Emotional Support Coaching	Connect with a Coach	Wed, Sep 23	1:00 – 2:30pm	https://bit.ly/4dZi7T6

Provider Resources



Child Care Finder is our new online child care and early learning search tool for families in Washington state, With the new platform, you have the power to manage your profile and market your business.



This is your chance to go beyond a basic listing. You can personalize your profile and help families see what makes your program unique, welcoming, and right for their child.

The Child Care Aware of Washington team has created some tools and resources to help you make a smooth transition to the new platform.

Please scan the QR code to learn more!

To view this newsletter online in English, Spanish or Somali, use the link below or scan the QR code.

Para ver este boletín en línea en inglés, español o somalí, use el siguiente enlace o escanee el código QR.

Si aad u aragto waraaqdaan warar oo ku baxaysa ama Soomaali, adeegso lifaaqa hoose ama iskaanka mari koodhka QR.



bit.ly/4srWM9c



Stay tuned for our Fall Newsletter!

"Autumn is a gentle reminder that changes can be beautiful".