



# Spring Quarterly Newsletter



Apr-Jun 2026

## Growth Is Happening — Even Now

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

Late winter can feel long. The days are gray, energy can dip, and both adults and children may be ready for a change of season. Yet beneath the surface, growth is already underway. Roots are strengthening. New skills are forming. Little by little, children — and educators — are preparing for their next big leaps.

In early learning, progress doesn't always arrive with fanfare. Sometimes it shows up as a child using one new word, managing a big feeling with a little more success, or a classroom routine that suddenly flows more smoothly than it did a month ago. These quiet shifts matter. They are signs that your consistent care, reflection, and willingness to try new strategies are making a difference.

Many of you are participating in coaching services, engaging in Early Achievers activities, goal setting, or conversations with a coach or professional learning community during this season. While these steps can sometimes feel like "one more thing" on a full plate, they are designed to support exactly this kind of steady growth — building on your strengths and helping you create the environment you envision for the children and families you serve.

If this season has felt especially full or challenging, please know you are not doing this work alone. Your coach, peers, and the Early Achievers community are here as partners alongside you.

Spring will come. New energy will come. And many of the seeds you are planting right now will soon be visible in wonderful ways.

Thank you for the extraordinary work you do every day. You are shaping not only school readiness, but confidence, resilience, and hope.

— Janine

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### Inside this issue:

Professional Development Opportunities .....	2
Group Learning Experiences .....	3
Professional Learning Communities .....	4
BrightSpark YouTube Channel & Monthly Tidbits .....	4
Comprehensive Services .....	5
THRIVE Calendar.....	6
Provider Resources .....	7

## Spring 2026 Professional Development Opportunities

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

TRAINING TOPIC	STARS	DATE(S)	TIME	LOCATION	LANGUAGE	COST
Every moment matters	2	5/5/2026	4:30-6:30 PM	Zoom	English	\$20
Safe and Stimulating Outdoor Play	2	5/27/2026	1-3 PM	Zoom	English	\$20

### Trainings Series:

TRAINING TOPIC	STARS	DATE(S)	TIME	LOCATION	LANGUAGE	COST
Growing brain - Cognition and executive function (2 parts)	5	Wednesday, 4/1/2026 & 4/15/2026	5:30-8:00 PM	Zoom	English	\$45
<i>*Must attend all series to get STARS credit</i>						
Growing brain - Social emotional development (2 parts)	5	Thursday, 5/7/2026 & 5/21/2026	5:30-8:00 PM	Zoom	English	\$45
<i>*Must attend all series to get STARS credit</i>						
Growing brain - Understanding Behavior (2 parts)	5	Thursday, 6/4/2026 & 6/18/2026	6:00-8:30 PM	Zoom	English	\$45
<i>*Must attend all series to get STARS credit</i>						

### Honoring and Uplifting Every Child: In Community with Families



Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 - 9AM-4:30PM  
Federal Way Community Center  
Class options to come.  
6 STARS Hours.

Registration will open on March 17th

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.



### 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.

## 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>

### April-June

Name	Date	Time
EA Orientation	Thursday – April 02, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Marketing/Provider Updating	Thursday – April 09, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Databases you need to know	Thursday – April 16, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Introduction to Coaching Services	Thursday – April 23, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
EA Orientation	Thursday – May 07, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Self Care/Preventing Burnout	Thursday – May 14, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Program Profile/CECI	Thursday – May 21, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
WAC Reviews	Thursday – May 28, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
EA Orientation	Thursday – June 04, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Needs Base Grant/Statewide Vendor Number	Thursday – June 11, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
Professional Development/Required Trainings	Thursday – June 18, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm
All about Family Engagement	Thursday – June 25, 2026	6:30 – 8:00pm

### SPECIAL AFTERNOON - EA ORIENTATION

Use this zoom link for sessions listed below: <https://bit.ly/4osVuYU>

### April-June

Name	Date	Time
EA Orientation	Tuesday – April 21, 2026	1:00 – 2:30pm
EA Orientation	Tuesday – May 19, 2026	1:00 – 2:30pm
EA Orientation	Tuesday – June 16, 2026	1:00 – 2:30pm

## 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!



### Ramadan & Winter Fun activity to do with kids

<https://conta.cc/4bdm6Jd>

### Black History Month & World Hijab Day

<https://conta.cc/49JFs9a>

## Comprehensive Services



### Spring Into Reading & Growing Together

Spring is a season of growth and it's the perfect time to nurture young minds and hearts, too. Reading together is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to support your child's development from the very start even in infancy.

For babies and toddlers, it's not just about the words on the page. Hearing your voice, looking at pictures, turning pages, and cuddling close all help build early brain connections that support language, learning, and emotional security. These shared moments strengthen attachment and help little ones feel safe, loved, and ready to explore the world around them.

As children grow, reading continues to build strong language skills. Stories introduce new vocabulary, support listening and comprehension, and lay the foundation for later reading and writing success. Books also help children make sense of their feelings and experiences. Through characters and stories, they learn empathy, problem-solving, and ways to understand big emotions.

Reading together also supports early childhood mental health. Cozy, predictable routines like story time create a sense of comfort and connection, helping children regulate emotions, build resilience, and develop trusting relationships. Feeling connected to caring adults is one of the strongest protective factors for healthy social-emotional development.

Reading sparks curiosity and imagination, encouraging children to explore new ideas and discover the world around them. Like flowers blooming in spring, their confidence, creativity, and love of learning begin to blossom.

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This season, find a sunny spot, share a story, and enjoy growing together one page at a time.

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### Try This at Home

- ◆ **Babies:** Snuggle close and read board books with bright pictures. Talk about what you see and let your baby touch and turn pages.
- ◆ **Toddlers:** Name objects, make animal sounds, and ask simple questions like "Where's the dog?" or "What do you think happens next?"
- ✿ **Preschoolers:** Talk about characters' feelings and choices to build empathy and problem-solving skills.
- **Make it routine:** Add a short story to bedtime or quiet time for comfort and connection.
- **Take it outside:** Enjoy reading on a blanket at the park or patio to bring books into the fresh spring air.
- ✿ **Visit your library:** Let your child choose books that match their interests — choice builds excitement and confidence.

## 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.

### April-June

Thrive Group	Topic	Date	Time	Zoom Link
Business Coaching Supports	Office Hours	Tue, Apr 6	6:00 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bc-office-hours">https://bit.ly/bc-office-hours</a>
Emergent Coaching	GLE	Tue, Apr 14	1:30 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/emergent-gle">https://bit.ly/emergent-gle</a>
*SEL & EPP	Connect with a Coach	Wed, Apr 22	6:30 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/4udFjmt">https://bit.ly/4udFjmt</a>
Rapid Response	GLE	Wed, Apr 15	6:30 – 8:00pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/rrc-gle">https://bit.ly/rrc-gle</a>
Behavior Support	GLE	Thu, Apr 16	1:30 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bsc-gle">https://bit.ly/bsc-gle</a>
Business Coaching Supports	GLE	Tue, Apr 28	6:00 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bus-support-gle">https://bit.ly/bus-support-gle</a>
Social and Emotional Learning	GLE	Wed, Apr 29	1:00 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/40XXkrq">https://bit.ly/40XXkrq</a>
Business Coaching Supports	Office Hours	Tue, May 5	6:00 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bc-office-hours">https://bit.ly/bc-office-hours</a>
Emergent Coaching	Connect with a Coach	Tue, May 12	1:30 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/emergent-gle">https://bit.ly/emergent-gle</a>
Rapid Response	GLE	Wed, May 13	6:30 – 8:00pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/rrc-gle">https://bit.ly/rrc-gle</a>
*SEL & EPP	Connect with a Coach	Wed, May 20	6:30 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/4sjvimF">https://bit.ly/4sjvimF</a>
Behavior Support	Connect with a Coach	Thu, May 21	1:30 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bsc-gle">https://bit.ly/bsc-gle</a>
Business Coaching Supports	GLE	Tue, May 23	6:00 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bus-support-gle">https://bit.ly/bus-support-gle</a>
Expulsion Prevention Partnership	GLE	Wed, May 29	1:00 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/3Ng6M6l">https://bit.ly/3Ng6M6l</a>
Business Coaching Supports	Office Hours	Tue, Jun 2	6:00 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bc-office-hours">https://bit.ly/bc-office-hours</a>
Emergent Coaching	GLE	Tue, Jun 9	1:30 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/emergent-gle">https://bit.ly/emergent-gle</a>
Rapid Response	GLE	Wed, Jun 10	6:30 – 8:00pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/rrc-gle">https://bit.ly/rrc-gle</a>
*SEL & EPP	Connect with a Coach	Wed, Jun 17	6:30 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/4szLsb6">https://bit.ly/4szLsb6</a>
Behavior Support	GLE	Thu, Jun 18	1:30 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bsc-gle">https://bit.ly/bsc-gle</a>
Business Coaching Supports	GLE	Tue, Jun 23	6:00 – 7:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/bus-support-gle">https://bit.ly/bus-support-gle</a>
Social and Emotional Learning	GLE	Wed, Jun 24	1:00 – 2:30pm	<a href="https://bit.ly/40lJiQh">https://bit.ly/40lJiQh</a>

\*SEL - Social Emotional Learning & EPP - Expulsion Prevention Partnership

## Provider Resources

### Looking for licensed Required Trainings?



Our regional partners at Child Care Action Council offer Enhancing Quality Early Learning (EQEL) and Provider Access to a Community Equivalent (PACE) trainings throughout the year. Classes are available in English and in Spanish.



- Visit their website: <https://ccacwa.org/wa-state-required-trainings/>
- To learn more about licensed required training to met WAC requirements visit DCYF's website: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/qualifications/child-care-providers/training>

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](https://bit.ly/4srWM9c)



**Stay tuned for our Summer Newsletter!**

*Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is." – Jessica Harrelson*