



# Autumn Quarterly Newsletter



Oct-Dec 2025

## What's Ahead: Emergent Coaching in Early Achievers

From BrightSpark's Early Learning Services Department Manager, Tamara Lamb

We're excited to announce some new opportunities for connection and support coming this fall as a part of coaching services we provide at BrightSpark. Starting in October, BrightSpark will offer new, flexible coaching options for Early Achievers providers.

Monthly 1:1 coaching will continue for new participants and those pursuing a quality recognition level of 3 or higher. We recognize that not everyone can or wants to commit to monthly coaching and instead, would prefer to work through the quality recognition cycles independently and to receive coaching supports on an "as needed" basis.

To support this flexibility, Emergent Coaching will be introduced. This short-term option allows up to three coaching visits per request (in-person, virtual, or group). If a program finds they are using emergent coaching often, the program will need to return to 1:1 in-person monthly coaching. Emergent coaching is an infrequent short-term support option.

The request link for Emergent Coaching isn't active yet, but interested providers can contact their coach, call 1-800-446-1114 (option 2), or email [thrive@childcare.org](mailto:thrive@childcare.org) for more information.

No matter what coaching option you choose, providers will still have access to all our coaching options, including:

- ✱ Group Learning Experiences (GLEs)
- ◆ Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- THRIVE groups that include Business Supports, Trauma-Informed Care, Social & Emotional Development, Expulsion Prevention Partnership (EPP), and Behavior Guidance
- ◆ Monthly calendar with group events
- ▲ Quarterly newsletters
- ✱ Coach Connection Office hours that are informal drop-in times to connect directly with coaches
- ◆ Expanded Access to Mental Health Consultation – additional support for provider well-being and child success

More details will be shared in October. We look forward to supporting you in fresh ways to learn, connect, and grow with the Early Achievers community.

@LisaBontje



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## Fall 2025 Professional Development Opportunities

Now is the time to get you 10 annual STARS hours!

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

DATE	TRAINING TOPIC	LANGUAGE	TIME	LOCATION	STARS	COST
Wednesday, 10/15	<b>A Social Emotional Approach to Biting</b>	English	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Virtual-Zoom	2	\$20
Tuesday, 10/21	<b>Calming Connections: De-escalation Strategies for Child Care Providers</b>	English	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Virtual-Zoom	2	\$20
Saturday, 11/08	<b>Each and Every Child: Why Equity Matters</b>	English	9:30 AM - 12 PM	Virtual-Zoom	2.5	\$25
Saturday, 11/08	<b>The Brilliance of Black Boys</b>	English	10 AM - 12:30 PM	In-person Renton	2.5	\$25
Tuesday, 11/18	<b>Leadership Summit - From Survive to Thrive</b>	English	9 AM - 2:15 PM	In-person Renton	4	\$35
Saturday, 12/06	<b>Best Practices: Learning Activities LIVE!</b>	English	9 AM - 11:30 AM	In-person Tacoma	2.5	\$25
Saturday, 12/06	<b>Liderazgo Resiliente - Resilient Leadership</b>	Spanish	11 AM - 1 PM	In-person Renton	2	\$20

### Series

Thu, 10/09	<b>Everyday Nature, Everyday Learning: A Hands-On Nature-Based Experience (*Part 1 &amp; 2)</b>	English	7 - 8 PM	Virtual- Zoom	4	\$25
Sat, 10/11			10 AM - 1 PM	In-person Issaquah		
Saturdays, 10/04, 10/11, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22	<b>El Cerebro en Crecimiento: Desde el nacimiento hasta los 5 años (The Growing Brain)*</b>	Spanish	11 AM - 2 PM	In-person Renton	21	\$75

\*Must attend all dates to get credit

See our full list of classes and other opportunities using the QR code below!



### Classes registration system

Please use this QR code to access our registration portal, or simply go to [www.BrightSpark.org](http://www.BrightSpark.org), create your account (don't worry, it should take no more than 5-10 minutes), and then you'll be able to enroll in our Fall 2025 classes!



Register

## Group Learning Experiences 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/4l2mH3o>

### Oct-Dec

Name	Date	Time
EA Orientation	Thursday – October 02, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
Environments/Learning Through Play	Thursday – October 09, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
Mealtimes/Nutrition	Thursday – October 16, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
Curriculum/Schedule	Thursday – October 23, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
EA Orientation	Thursday – November 06, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
WAC Licensing Requirements: Child/Staff Files and Required Postings	Thursday – November 13, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
Program Profile/CECI	Thursday – November 20, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
EA Orientation	Thursday – December 04, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
Professional Development/Required Trainings	Thursday – December 11, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm
Provider self-care/Avoiding burnout	Thursday – December 18, 2025	6:30 – 8:00pm

### SPECIAL AFTERNOON - EA ORIENTATION

Use this zoom link for sessions listed below: <https://bit.ly/4m9x8Cl>

### Oct-Dec

Name	Date	Time
EA Orientation	Tuesday – October 14, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm
EA Orientation	Tuesday – November 18, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm
EA Orientation	Tuesday – December 16, 2025	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? On it you have access to our video tidbits, our coaching podcast and much more! It will be beneficial to your work.

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 past tidbit below!

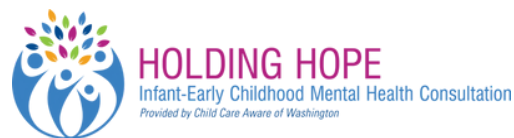


### Halloween with Kids

<https://conta.cc/40e5dKj>

### Thanksgiving with Kids!

<https://conta.cc/48Ljxg.cc/415zNFV>



## Comprehensive Services

### 🎵 Supporting Infants, Toddler and Adults Through Music 🎵

From the gentle sway of a lullaby to the joyful rhythm of a group song, music is everywhere in early childhood. It captures attention, sparks curiosity, and brings children and adults together in playful, meaningful ways.

#### The Impact of Music on Young Children:

Music comforts and nurtures emotional growth in infants and toddlers. Singing familiar songs builds language, rhythm, and connection—no perfect pitch needed!

Adding movement—like clapping, dancing, or playing instruments—boosts motor skills, body awareness, and self-control. Even simple actions like fingerplays or rocking help strengthen bonds.

Music is adaptable and inclusive, with tools like sign language, modified instruments, and sensory-friendly approaches ensuring every child can participate.

#### Promotes Emotional Well-Being for Educators:

Music isn't just for children. It supports caregivers and teachers too. Singing and moving with children can reduce stress, release tension, and create moments of joy during a busy day. It naturally boosts mood and energy, helping adults feel present, playful, and connected.

Engaging in music together strengthens teacher-child relationships, a key factor in protecting mental health for both. Positive interactions like these can help caregivers feel more satisfied, supported, and connected to their work.

✨ Music isn't just fun, it's a pathway to learning, well-being, and community for everyone.

#### Article Resources:

- ◆ Beyond Twinkle-Twinkle
- ◆ Getting in Tune: The Powerful Influence of Music on Young Children's Development
- 🌟 Lullabies, Leaping & Learning
- Acoustic Play Settings for Playgrounds

#### Video Resources

- What if every child had access to music education from birth? Anita Collins TED Talk (17 minutes)
- ▲ Supporting Children's Music Development in Early Childhood Settings (9 minutes)
- 🌈 Ideas of Activities & Materials to Incorporate Music in the Classroom (7 minutes)

#### Need Support?

Our Mental Health Consultants and Infant-Toddler Coaches are here to support you! They can help you nurture a positive social and emotional climate in your classroom, strengthen your teaching skills, and make every day more joyful for you and the children in your care. We'd love to connect—reach out and let's work together!

#### Mental Health Consultation

Office Hours:

- ◆ Sep 25, 2025, 6-8pm
- ◆ Oct 23, 2025, 6-8pm



#### Infant Toddler Services:

Scan the QR Code or visit our website at  
<https://www.brightspark.org/infant-toddler-coaching/>



For more information visit our website or reach out to Andrea Daniels: [daniels@childcare.org](mailto:daniels@childcare.org)

## THRIVE Groups

Our THRIVE groups specialized coaching can assist you in getting targeted support in the areas you may need at any given time. Each month we will send you a thrive calendar of GLE's or office hours and you can attend any of them that you are interest. **Keep an eye out for those emails!** Check below a brief description of each THRIVE groups:



### **Social Emotional Learning/Trauma Informed Care/Expulsion Prevention Partnership (EPP)**

The Thrive **SEL/TIC/EPP** group is here to support you with coaching designed to strengthen your program and help the children you work with flourish. With **Social Emotional Learning** coaching, you'll get practical tools and strategies to better understand and support children's emotions, build strong relationships, and create a positive environment. **Trauma-Informed Care** coaching will help you reflect on your practice, respond with empathy, and create safe, caring spaces for children who've experienced stress or trauma. And with **Expulsion Prevention Partnership (EPP)** coaching, you'll get support to build inclusive, culturally responsive practices, reduce bias, and work closely with families to prevent expulsion. Each coaching option offers flexible ways to learn including guided learning experiences, reflection practices, and office hours so you get the support you need, when you need it!

### **Business Supports**

Thrive Business Supports helps child care providers and directors strengthen their programs and grow enrollment through personalized coaching. Support includes marketing, technology, business management, licensing, grant assistance, and more—focusing on all aspects of running a successful child care business. We're here to help your program THRIVE one step at a time.

### **Emergent/Behavior Support**

**Emergent Coaching** - This flexible support service is designed for providers who prefer help on an as-needed basis. Instead of a dedicated coach, providers can access a team of experienced coaches and join group coaching sessions and other collaborative support opportunities.

**Behavior Support** - We provide comprehensive, culturally responsive coaching and support to foster a cooperative and respectful classroom community among children and adults. Our approach emphasizes developmentally appropriate practices and sensitivity to cultural needs and differences.

### **Rapid Response**

The Rapid Response Team assists family child care providers and centers in King and Pierce counties with understanding, implementing, and staying compliant with Washington State Licensing regulations (WAC). They offer coaching on health and safety standards, required documentation, staff and child files, and policy development.

If you have any question regarding THRIVE, please reach out to us at our provider line 1-800-446-1114 option 2 or send an email to [thrive@childcare.org](mailto:thrive@childcare.org)

## Provider Resources



### Leadership Summit

Join us for a 2-session leadership and growth opportunity, specifically tailored for leaders, directors, administrators, and aspiring leaders!

**Details:**

- ◆ Renton Triton Tower Two
- ▲ Early Bird price of \$25 until October 31<sup>st</sup>! Then \$35.
- ☺ 4 STARS Hours
- ◆ November 18th, 2025 - 9AM-2:30PM

**Interested in the thing?**  
Scan the QR code below to sign up!



[bit.ly/4g0hUNX](https://bit.ly/4g0hUNX)

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.

**Stay tuned for our Winter Newsletter!**

*"The light of winter is the poetry of patience"*

