



Ready by Five

November / December 2008

Our Story

Ready by Five is an early learning program in Yakima, Washington, designed to strengthen learning opportunities in East Yakima for families and their children from birth to age five, so that they will enter kindergarten ready for success at school. By surrounding children with high quality early learning environments that develop their potential and creativity, children will enter kindergarten ready for success at school. This project is funded principally through grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Thrive by Five Washington and the Washington State Department of Early Learning. Ready by Five is one of two Thrive communities that serve as models for early learning statewide.

Our Programs & Services

Ready by Five offers programs and services that support *Children's Early Learning*, *Child Care Quality Improvement*, and *Parents* in their roles as their children's first and most significant teachers.

Children

Ready by Five understands that starting kindergarten can be a scary time for young children and their families. In August, 294 East Yakima children joined our **Kindergarten Transition Program** for entering the Yakima School District and started school:

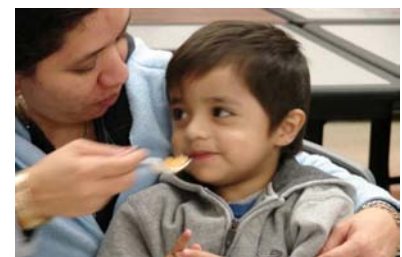


- feeling secure
- knowing their teacher
- having friends
- enjoying school



Child Care

Ready by Five recognizes that many people care for children — childcare providers, friends, relatives, and neighbors. To support those who do this work, we are piloting childcare quality improvement through professional development, coaching, and mentoring. In addition, **Ready by Five** is helping child care providers to further their education through adult literacy and early childhood education classes. We are also developing a **Families, Friends, & Neighbors (FFN)** workgroup to support relationships with informal childcare providers, also known as FFN providers.



Program Provider Partners


- ◆ Catholic Family & Child Service
- ◆ La Casa Hogar
- ◆ Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
- ◆ Yakima School District
- ◆ Yakima Valley Community College
- ◆ Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic
- ◆ Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital


Parent Groups


Adult Literacy

Parents

Ready by Five believes parents are their children's first teachers. Our staff visit parents at their homes to support them as parents as they help their children grow, learn, and become ready for school. Three **Home-Based Early Learning (HBEL)** programs also started in 2008 that support parents as they build nurturing relationships with their children and ensure healthy development. HBEL programs also equip parents to spark a love of learning and promote high-quality early learning at home. These home visiting programs are:

 **Enhanced First Steps (EFS)** for pregnant, postpartum, and parenting low-income women and their families. Nurses and other health professionals visit homes to promote the health and well-being of mothers and infants for the first two years of a child's life.

 **Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)** for low-income, first time mothers who are less than 28 weeks pregnant. Nurses visit women, their spouses/partners, their families and friends at home, until the infant's second birthday.

 **Parents As Teachers (PAT)** for pregnant women and children up to age five. Skilled family educators help increase parent and caregiver knowledge of child development, improve parenting skills, detect developmental delays and health issues, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase a child's school readiness and success.



Educare of East Yakima

Generous cornerstone funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund is providing our community with the opportunity to build a high quality, early learning resource and child care center in East Yakima, planned to open in 2010. Based on an Educare educational program model, the center will work with children and parents to promote school readiness. Additional community and national support will be needed to fund our center. We invite you to join us in building this very special, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our community. For information on how to become involved, please contact us at (509) 454-2493. We look forward to sharing our plans - and our future developments - with you!

Thank you

Especially during this season of giving thanks, we appreciate the hard work of the 42 stakeholders who brought Ready by Five to Yakima and have continued to contribute to our success as Work Group Chairs, Board members and service providers. We appreciate the enormous effort it took to develop, build and staff Ready by Five's programs and services. Together we have reached over 600 families so far this year. We are very grateful to our community colleagues, to ESD105, our fiscal intermediary, and to our funders, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Thrive by Five Washington and the Washington State Department of Early Learning for this opportunity to work with children and families through such a significant initiative in their learning lives.

Rick Linneweh, Board President

Helen Marieskind, Executive Director

*Ready by Five is a Thrive by Five
Washington community*



(509) 454-2493

www.ReadyByFive.org

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