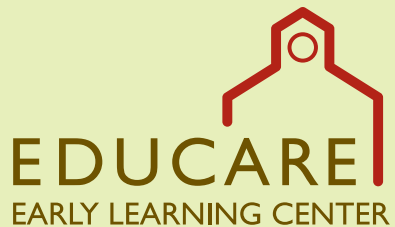


The Educare Early Learning Center Grand Opening Celebration



**Greenbridge Community
White Center**

March 27, 2010



Welcome!

Thank you for coming to help us celebrate this wonderful day for children, families, educators, caregivers, and the entire community of White Center – the grand opening of the Educare Early Learning Center in the Greenbridge Community.

Driven by a strong public-private partnership and commitment to children, the dream of an Educare Center – the first in Washington state – has come true!

This center is here due to the generosity of foundations and individuals, the support of state and federal legislators and agencies, an involved community and tireless champions for young children.

What a great accomplishment.

Along with our many partners in the White Center Early Learning Initiative and the entire White Center community, the Educare Center will work to enhance early learning in this community and throughout the state so that all young children begin school ready to succeed.

Thank you to everyone. It's a great day!

*—Puget Sound Educational Service District
Board of Directors*



Grand Opening Celebration

March 27, 2010

1:00 – 1:45 p.m.

Welcome

Monte Bridges

Superintendent, Puget Sound Educational Service District

John Bancroft

Assistant to the Superintendent for Early Learning

Puget Sound Educational Service District

Remarks

Portia Kennel

Senior Vice President, Bounce Learning Network

Nina Auerbach

President & CEO, Thrive By Five Washington

Bette Hyde

Director, Washington State Department of Early Learning

Greg Shaw

Director of Advocacy and Policy for the United States Program

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Beatrice Harper

Community Member and Parent of Educare Center Student

Program Conclusion

Monte Bridges

Ribbon-Cutting

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Open House

Tours for the Community and Activities for Children and Families

Educare Early Learning Center Designers and Contractors

Architect

Miller Hayashi Architects LLC

General Contractor

Kassel Construction

Project Management

BroadView Associates

Landscape Architect

Karen Kiest Landscape Architects

Artist

Mary Coss, Wit Visuals

Civil Engineer

KPFF Consulting Engineers

Structural Engineer

Peter A. Opsahl Structural

Engineering, Inc.

Mechanical Engineer

Hargis Engineering

Electrical Engineer

Hargis Engineering

Kitchen Design

George E. Bundy & Associates

Cost Estimating

The Robinson Company

Funder's Construction Advisor

OAC Services

Puget Sound Educational Service District Board of Directors

Jackie Smith, Chair

John Zurfluh, Vice Chair

Alan J. Arjo

Robert Beem

David Okimoto

Barbara Peterson

Joanne Seng

Charles Staadecker



Educare Early Learning Center Funders

Thank you to the following foundations, agencies and individuals for their generous support.

Foundations

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

Buffett Early Childhood Fund

George Kaiser Family Foundation

Bounce Network, LLC

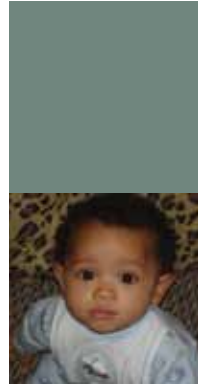
Thrive By Five Washington

The Norcliffe Foundation

The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation

The Seattle Foundation

Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation



Public Funding

King County Housing Authority

Taxpayers of Washington State

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Thank you to U.S. Senator Patty Murray, Governor Christine Gregoire, Washington State Representative Sharon Nelson, Representative Eileen Cody, and Senator Joe McDermott for helping us secure federal and state contributions for the Educare Center.

The Educare Early Learning Center

White Center is the tenth community in the United States – the first in Washington state – to have one of the country’s most respected models of early learning and care.

The Educare Early Learning Center was built through a strong public-private partnership of philanthropic foundations, individual donors and county, state and federal grants and programs. It is part of the national Educare/Bounce Learning Network, which seeks to provide the highest quality learning environments for children birth to five.

The Center also serves as the hub for the White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI), a community-wide effort to improve early learning for all children in the White Center/Boulevard Park neighborhoods.

It is a central part of the Greenbridge mixed income community developed by the King County Housing Authority. The 44,000 square foot building is LEED Certified for its environmentally positive design, and includes six preschool classrooms, four infant/toddler classrooms, training rooms and community gathering spaces.

The Educare Early Learning Center directly serves 134 children birth to five in full-day, full-year programs with high quality child development, health, and family support. The Center also offers caregiver and professional development programs to enhance the quality of early learning and care in all settings to prepare ALL children in the community to be successful in school and life.

Services for the entire community include educational activities that support parents as first teachers and enhance the home learning environment. Ultimately, all children in Washington state will benefit from the Educare Center’s demonstration of best practices and innovative strategies for early learning.

About The Educare Model

Educare is a nationally recognized, research-based birth-to-five program that incorporates Head Start and Early Head Start programs and critical quality elements of effective early learning.

Core features of Educare programs include small class size and high staff-child ratios, continuity of care, focus on language and literacy, emphasis on social-emotional development to promote school readiness, and highly trained teachers and intensive staff development.

About The White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI)

The White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI) is a partnership of community members and public and private organizations, which is expanding services to young children and providing education and support for parents, caregivers, and child care and early learning staff.

WCELI is one of two Thrive by Five Washington early learning demonstration communities in the state, modeling strategies and approaches that can be replicated in other communities to improve early learning statewide.

Primary partners in WCELI are Child Care Resources, Highline Public Schools, Open Arms Perinatal Services, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Puget Sound Educational Service District, and Thrive by Five Washington. The partnership is supported by grants from Thrive by Five Washington and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

About Puget Sound Educational Service District

Puget Sound Educational Service District is a public regional educational agency serving all schools and school districts in King and Pierce counties. PSESD develops and delivers a wide selection of Pre-K-12 services that provide instructional and administrative support to schools and direct services to students and families. PSESD operates the largest Head Start program in the Northwest and the largest Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) program in Washington state. PSESD is funded primarily through entrepreneurial means that include state, federal and private grants; membership and service fees.



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www.wceli.org/educare



"If"

by Pamela Houk

If I can

ask my own questions,
try out my own ideas,
experience what's around me,
share what I find;

If I have

plenty of time for
my special pace
a nourishing space,
things to transform;

If you'll be

my patient friend,
a trusted guide,
fellow investigator,
a partner in learning;

Then I will

explore the world,
discover my voice,
and tell you what I know in a hundred languages.

