

# Family Voice Listening Sessions



Entering preschool or kindergarten is a big milestone for children and their families. We know that when children and families have what they need in a preschool experience, they will be more likely to find success. Effective recruitment and enrollment systems for programs for 3-5-year-old children are a product of intentional, authentic collaboration among early learning programs, schools, communities, families, and children.

Family voice is critical to strengthening coordinated recruitment and enrollment. Hearing from families about their own experiences allows us to learn what's working and discover what's missing in order to support an effective system for all children and families – particularly those furthest from educational justice.

We are seeking families across from Washington to participate in listening sessions by sharing their stories with us. The following prompts will guide our conversation:

## Thinking about your experience finding and enrolling in early learning for your 3-5-year-old...

- How did you find a program?
- How did that process feel?
- What factors did you have to consider in finding care?

## Thinking about after your child was enrolled in a child care or preschool...

- What is your favorite part of your child's early learning program?
- How satisfied have you been with this early learning experience (both you and your child)?
- If your child's needs changed after they were enrolled in a specific program, how did their new needs get met?

## What to Expect

- Listening sessions are scheduled in small groups by video conference and will last about 90 minutes.
- Simultaneous interpretation is available upon request.
- Individual responses, verbal and written, will remain anonymous. We will offer the notes back to participants for review before we use them in any context.
- The results of this conversation, combined with the voices of families across the state, will help inform how to best support developing collaborative coordinated recruitment and enrollment systems, policies, and practices in Washington.
- Participation in this discussion is voluntary and will not affect any benefits you, your family, or your community may receive. No identification is required for participation.

## Scheduling

The Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE) Core Team, comprised of members from both OSPI and DCYF, is currently scheduling sessions to learn about the process of finding and enrolling into early learning programs that is experienced by children with disabilities, children from migrant and immigrant communities, and children of Black/African American communities, among others.

**If you are interested in scheduling a listening session, please contact:**

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