

Our vision is a
community where
ALL children thrive.

Our mission is to partner
with families to build
healthy foundations
for children.



encompass
Children. Families. Community.

Early Learning Programs

Onsite:

- Toddler groups – for children and caregivers
- Preschool – tuition-based and free through Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) for income-qualifying families
- Summer camps – scholarships available

In the home:

- ParentChild+ – free two-year early literacy and parent coaching program for income-qualifying families

Pediatric Therapy Programs

Onsite:

- Behavioral health
- Feeding therapy
- Motor therapy
- Speech and language therapy

In the home:

- Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)

Family Enrichment Programs

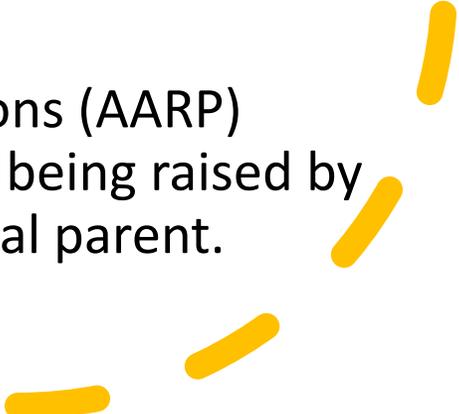
Parents and other caregivers:

- Parenting support groups (Kinship, CHERISH, Connections)
- Parent workshops
- Parents' Night Out

Siblings:

- Sibshops – support group for siblings of children with special needs

KINSHIP CARE: LEARNING THE FACTS

- The need for kinship care is on the rise in our society due to a number of circumstances: drug use, alcohol abuse, economics, mental health and other negative social conditions .
 - The need for support and resources among kinship families is high.
 - In Washington State, over 45,000 families are thought to be raising a relative's child.
 - The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) estimates that 1 child in 10 (4.5 million) is being raised by a family member other than their biological parent.
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TYPES OF KINSHIP CARE

- Informal—Arrangements made by family with no involvement of the child welfare system.
- Voluntary—Some involvement with “the system” but family steps in to prevent placement in foster care.
- Formal—Placement in agency custody resulting in care by approved relatives.

BENEFITS OF KINSHIP CARE

- Research shows that living with relatives is better for children and benefits them in several ways.
- Placement with kin caregivers when children cannot live safely with their parents can minimize the trauma of removal.
- Children in the care of relatives experience increased stability, with fewer placement changes, decreased likelihood of disruption and not as many school changes.
- Children in kinship homes have better behavioral and mental health outcomes. One study showed children in kinship care had fewer behavioral problems three years after placement than children placed into traditional foster care. This study also found children who moved to kinship care after a significant time in foster care were more likely to have behavioral problems than children in kinship care from the outset.
- One important benefit of kinship care is the increased likelihood of living with or staying connected to siblings.
- Kinship care also helps to preserve children's cultural identity and relationship to their community. Children in kinship homes are more likely to stay connected to their extended family and maintain their cultures and customs.

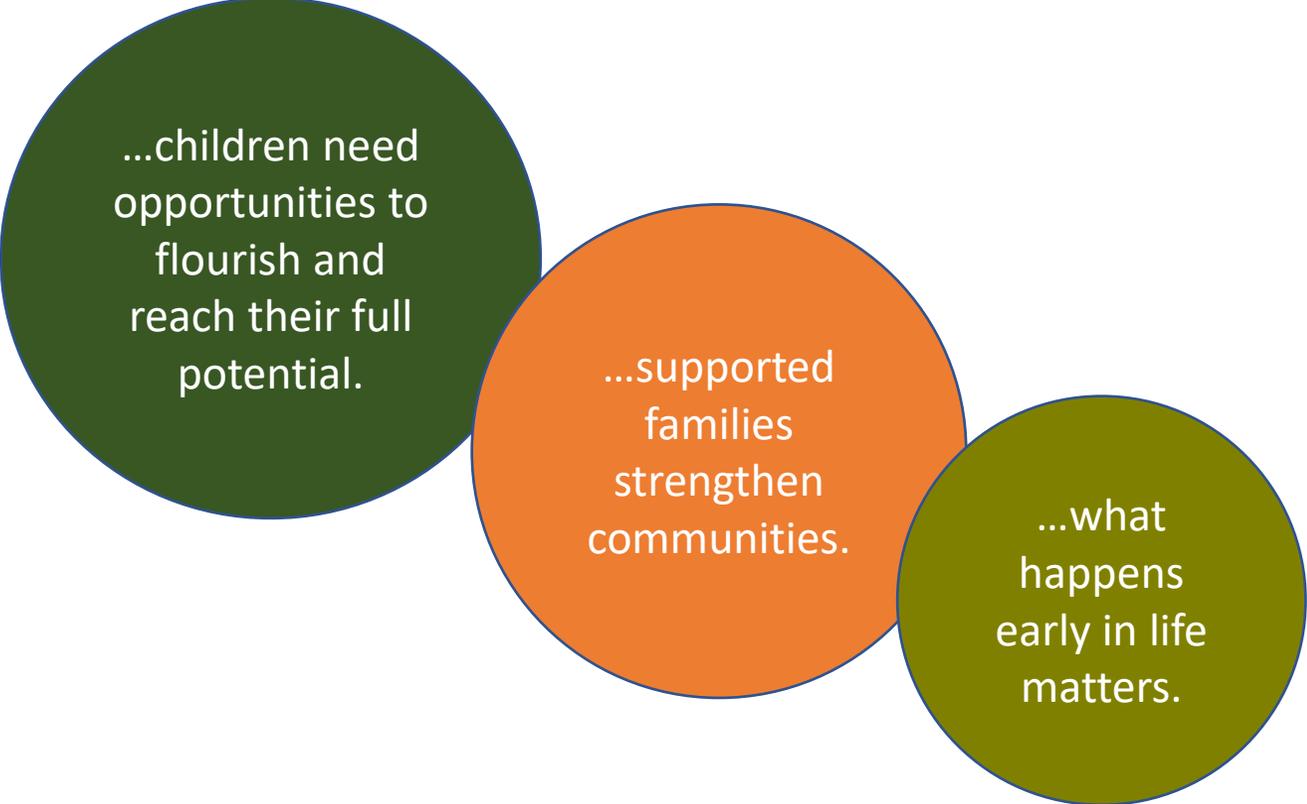
-Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW, is director of kinship policy at the ABA Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC.

EARLY SUPPORT FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

- Formerly Early Intervention/Birth to Three
- No referral necessary
- Integrated services to identify and treat children who have disabilities or developmental delays
- Free to families
- Transition to school



At Encompass, we believe that...



...children need opportunities to flourish and reach their full potential.

...supported families strengthen communities.

...what happens early in life matters.

For more information, please visit
www.encompassnw.org