

“Supporting Early Literacy In a Diverse Community”  
Washington School Readiness Summit, Breakout Session

**Early Reading First, *Partnerships for Literacy***  
**Puget Sound ESD in collaboration with Tacoma School District**

Kay Lancaster, Puget Sound ESD Early Reading First Director  
Leslie Meisner, Tacoma School District, ECEAP Program Manager & Kindergarten Facilitator

Overview of Early Reading First Project

- a. Early Reading First: overarching goal & grant goals
- b. Professional development model: mentor/coach: definition from feds
- c. Diversity of the settings, children, staff
- d. Framework for learning: Model, Share, Guide & Apply: for staff development and child instruction

2. Tacoma School District Programs

- a. Partnership between SD & childcare: transitions
- b. EC in Tacoma Public Schools:
- c. Diversity within the classrooms

3. Challenges and Lessons Learned

- a. Challenges
  - i. Big commitment by agencies & staff/Demands on staff
  - ii. Staff turnover
  - iii. Developing leadership capacity at all levels
  - iv. Pressures of high stakes program; new program needing to prove it's effectiveness
- b. What we have learned that builds success
  - i. 1:1 coaching model
  - ii. All site staff are implementing new practices!
  - iii. Use of tools such as the ELLCO have helped to provide objective measures of basic to exemplary language and literacy practices in Early Childhood classrooms
  - iv. Maintain/build collaborative partnerships with Pre-K & K-3 programs: shared understanding and goals for children

4. Resources and ideas to take away