

## Things to do this Spring

Take a walk. If it's raining use a bumbershoot, paraguas, paraply, regenschirm, or umbrella.

Celebrate National Teacher Day on May 9th.

Spruce up the entrance to your program. Have the children plant bright colored flowers in fun pots.

Celebrate National Bike Month. During the month of May, plan a bike parade. Visit [bikemonth.com](http://bikemonth.com) for more ideas.

Celebrate National Chocolate Chip Day on May 15th. Bake chocolate chip cookies with the children.

June is National Safety month. Use photographs to make a poster documenting the steps of your fire or earthquake drill and post it for everyone to see. (Dont' forget to inform your parents of your emergency policy.)

Make homemade ice cream. (see recipe inside)

Set up a lemonade stand on a warm afternoon and use the proceeds to buy outside toys for the season.

## Question from the field

**Q** I'm adding a summer school-age program to my year-long preschool. Do you have any suggestions regarding how to do this?

**A** School-age children are not just big preschoolers. One of the biggest mistakes providers make is creating a school-age program that is an extension of the child's preschool experience. Often, the school-agers have been in the program for several years and are bored with the same old thing. To keep them from feeling resentful about going to "daycare", create a fun space and cater to the developmental needs of this unique group of children. Your big kids will love to be with you! Keep these helpful hints in mind:

If space and supervision allow, create a separate space for school-agers. Give them a separate entrance to reduce the feeling that they are going to daycare. If space is not available, create a separate sign in an area for them and think of ways to add maturity to their space.

When designing the environment think of the kids' interests. To start, display appropriate pictures of role models they admire, add magazines to the book area, and ask the kids for their ideas and implement them as possible. Offer them independence by creating a diner or cooking area for them to make their own snack or meals.

School-age children often group themselves in social situations, based on like interests. When developing the curriculum, consider creating mini clubs such as environment, sports or activity-focused. Find outside support for these clubs and connect the children and your school with the community.

*If you have a question for ETP, send us an e-mail or write a letter. We may select it for publication!*

### CONTACT US

[info@educationaltrainingpartners.org](mailto:info@educationaltrainingpartners.org)

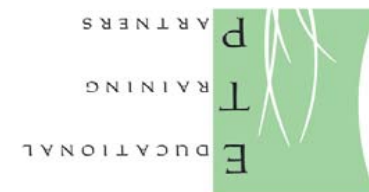
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## Research your summer field trips now

Planning for summer field trips is just around the corner, so we decided to start your creative juices flowing with a list of ideas. Doing a little research now can add some pizzazz to your summer plans. And, don't forget to ask for group rates!

- Check local parenting magazines, usually found in grocery stores, children's clothing shops, etc.
- Contact your local Chamber of Commerce for ideas
- Ask your families for their favorite hot spots
- Call local museums and concert halls for special events
- Visit your local visitor's center and plan to be a tourist in your own town
- Visit your library for books on regional and city excursions for kids.

### NEW SERVICE FROM ETP

**CDA Completion Support**  
ETP now offers CDA Competition Support for anyone who has completed the required training for Child Development Associate (CDA) and needs assistance completing their certification. Take a look inside for more details.

**Save 10%**  
sign up by 06/15/06

**SAVE 10% if you sign up by June 15, 2006!**

## Early Childhood Leaders Retreat

The January retreat was a huge success! The commanding speakers set the tone for a professional and thought-provoking weekend of training. Nearly 50 participants from across the state created an atmosphere of positive energy and motivation at the Kitsap Conference Center. We enjoyed watching the attendees' motivation to improve their programs increase during the two days of intensive work.

Thank you for the follow-up phone calls and emails praising the event. We are currently working on another training program that builds on the first and are planning to offer the same series of inspiration, motivation and guidance training again soon. Please contact us for details.

...**HUGE** rummage sale with a focus on early learning environments.

see "Rummage Sale" inside

## Support, networking, and STARS credit training

STARS scholarships are accepted. Registration form is at [educationaltrainingpartners.org](http://educationaltrainingpartners.org)

### Due to Popular Demand

#### CDA Completion Support

Several people who have completed their required training for Child Development Associate (CDA) have been calling our office to find out how to complete their certification. In response to this need, we have developed a CDA completion support program to demystify the process for those needing to submit for their CDA.

Once you have completed your 120 hours of required training, you still must develop your professional resource file, administer parent questionnaires and finish your classroom observation. For \$250, our trained staff can help you through the final stage. We have experience with the entire CDA process and offer professional, one-on-one advice to ensure everything is in place when you are called by the CDA council for the assessment.

#### CDA Classes

\$255 per quarter payment plans and STARS scholarships accepted.

Federal Way classes meet every Wednesday from 6-9:00 PM

Gig Harbor classes meet every other Monday from 6:30-9:30 PM

**CDA on the Go:** No time to attend class? Try *CDA on the Go*. These training packets allow you to earn the 120 hours of training on your schedule. Call the office or visit our website to register.

#### Networking Groups

Director's forum for STARS credit. Is held the fourth Tuesday of every month from 12-1 in University Place. Call for details 253-853-3499.

Would you like to start one in your area? Give us a call and we can help!

### STARS on the Go!

Get STARS approved trainings in the comfort of your own home and complete the hours at your own pace. We can design a training program just for you and your staff. Thanks to your requests, New topics are being added monthly. Visit [educationaltrainingpartners.org](http://educationaltrainingpartners.org) for details.

Our newest trainings include:

*Leading with Passion*

*Infant Development and Activities*

*Will You Be My Friend? - School-age social development*

*Is This the Hill You Want to Die On? - Choosing your battles with staff*

3 easy steps:

1. Select your training topic from our list of trainings
2. Determine the number of hours you want to earn
3. Email us at [info@educationaltrainingpartners.org](mailto:info@educationaltrainingpartners.org)

Pricing for STARS on the Go!

2 hour training packet	\$30
4 hour training packet	\$55
6 hour training packet	\$75
8 hour training packet	\$90
10 hour training packet	\$100
20-hour basic training packet	\$120

### Basic 20-hour STARS

Do you or your staff need the Basic 20 hour guidebook training? ETP can set one up in your area. Don't have the minimum of 10 people to run a face to face class? Then consider doing it On the Go (see above).

### Program Specific Trainings

Offering training at faculty meetings or all-staff training days is a great way to monitor training hours. ETP's excellent trainers are available to provide workshops at your program and provide training based on your specific needs.

### Early Years Review E-Update

During the weeks between our quarterly newsletter, we've found reason to communicate with you via email. Sign up to receive these updates on our website:

[educationaltrainingpartners.org](http://educationaltrainingpartners.org)

## Meet your trainers



Name: Amber Havens

Position: Executive Director of ETP

Education: Bachelor of Arts, University of Washington, 1991

Favorite book as a child: Chronicles of Narnia

Favorite music: Anything by Elvis Presley

Favorite activity with kids: Anything messy

Nineteen years ago, Amber entered the field of early childhood education as an assistant teacher and continued in a lead teacher position during college. Originally, she wanted to become a child therapist, but the delight of teaching keep her firmly planted in early childhood education. Her career has included positions such as: family service worker, center director, education coordinator, college instructor and national trainer.

Her passion for young children and supporting the adults who work with them make her career exciting and truly fulfilling. She is currently the Executive Director for ETP and is running for the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children's (WAEYC) Vice President position on the Governing Board.

When she is not working Amber enjoys her family and the work on her Master's degree. "I know the hard work will pay off and that my two boys will learn how important work ethics and education are by watching me."

## RUMMAGE SALE

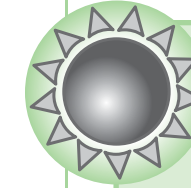
To help get your classroom ready for the new school year, we're putting together a HUGE rummage sale with a focus on early learning environments. Check our website for details and sign up for our Early Years E-Update. That way you'll be sure to stay informed. [educationaltrainingpartners.org](http://educationaltrainingpartners.org)

## A lovable program

7 reasons why children love to be in your program

1. Your face lights up when you see them.
2. Even when they challenge you, they feel your love.
3. You think messy play is the best learning tool.
4. When you read a story it almost comes alive.
5. You don't give them all the answers, sometimes you make them figure it out for themselves.
6. When they just need to be held, you stop everything to do it.
7. Their families love you just as much as the children do.

## Warm weather recipes



### STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM

Ingredients:

3 cups nonfat dry milk powder  
6 tablespoons melted butter  
1 cup boiling water

24 packages sugar substitute sweetener  
1 small pkg vanilla pudding mix  
4 cans sugar-free strawberry soft drink  
16 ounces frozen strawberries, sliced  
3 cups skim milk

Blend dry milk powder, butter, water and sweetener in blender. Pour into ice cream freezer container. Slowly stir in pudding. Mix well. Slowly mix in soft drink and strawberries. Add milk to fill line. Freeze.

### KOOL-AID ICE CUBES

Ingredients: Kool-Aid, sugar, water

Make a pitcher of Kool-aid per the package instructions. Pour into an empty ice cube tray. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze. Wait until slightly frozen and add popsicle sticks. Enjoy popsicles after completely frozen.

### SAILBOAT SNACKS

Ingredients: celery sticks, peanut butter, fruit roll snacks

Cut a 3-4 inch section of a celery stick. Spread peanut butter in the groove of the celery. Cut a small triangle from the fruit roll snack and attach to a toothpick. Stick the toothpick in the celery, through the toothpick. Now you have a sailboat snack.

### FRUIT KABOBS

Ingredients: 1 pkg. pretzel sticks; 4 med-ripe bananas, peeled and cut to 1" chunks; 1 20 oz. can pineapple chunks; 1 lb mozzarella or other soft cheese cut to 2" cubes.

Using the pretzel sticks, let children spear the bananas, pineapple and cheese onto their edible kabob.