

A Continuum of Care

Preparing Seattle Children for a Strong & Fair Start

A large body of research has shown that the early years of a child’s life — before kindergarten — are a critical window for social, emotional and cognitive development.

Many Seattle children, especially those living in poverty and children of color, enter kindergarten already behind their peers. City government invests heavily in early childhood programs to help close the opportunity gap, provide children with a strong and fair start, and prepare them to enter kindergarten ready to learn and thrive.

The Nurse-Family Partnership

Birth to Two Year Olds



Regular home visits by specially trained nurses teach low-income first-time families good preventive health practices and responsible care for their children.

Parent-Child Home Program

Two & Three Year Olds



A two-year home-visitation literacy program for two- and three-year old children leads to better preparation for kindergarten and higher reading and math scores in the third grade compared to their non-participating peers.

Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) / SPP Pathway

Three & Four Year Olds



High-quality preschool leads not only to improved academic achievement, but also to better health, higher-paying jobs, and lower rates of criminal justice system involvement.

Book Up Literacy Program

Five to Seven Year Olds



Providing age-appropriate books for children to take home each summer after kindergarten, first grade, and second grade helps to address the summer literacy slump.

Family Child Care Training

Birth to Five Year Olds



Consistent training and consultation ensures higher quality among Family Child Care providers, where most low-income families and families of color seek child care in the years before pre-school and kindergarten.

