

TECC NEWS

April 2026

Thurston Early Childhood Coalition

Who we are



TECC is a community based organization who is working together to build and support high quality early care and educational environments for Thurston County children and their families caregivers.

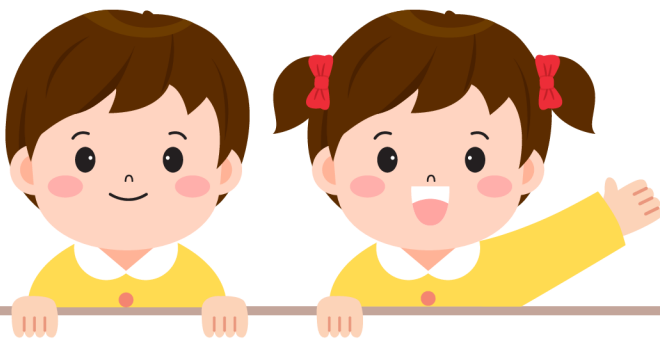
Join us

ALL are Welcome!

9:30AM - 11:00AM
4th Thursday of every month.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?
pwd=9sV77oJrMR82NgaX8
VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?pwd=9sV77oJrMR82NgaX8VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1)

Meeting ID / 821 8202 4692



**See you tomorrow
at 9:30am!**

Contact



thurstonecc@gmail.com
sthurman@ssp2p.org



360.485.2985

Shawn Thurman
Thurston County Lead





Meet your 2025/2026 Board

Thurston Early Childhood Coalition (TECC) Monthly Meetings

TECC meetings are held monthly via Zoom, free to attend and open to the public. **Your voice matters!**

If you are a parent, provider, or community member who is passionate about supporting local Thurston County families, we invite you to join us. Come share your ideas, learn about resources, and be part of a collaborative community working to make a difference.



Izi LeMay
Chair



Genrietta Parker
Vice Chair



Trista Houdyshell
Secretary



Kenny Brock
Treasurer



Tom Parnell
Member at Large



Jenny Cimbalnik
Member at Large



Jess Lee
Member at Large



Shawn Thurman
County Lead

If you would like to learn more about TECC, please contact :

Shawn Thurman

360.485.2985 / sthurman@ssp2p.org



Thurston Early Childhood Coalition



TECC Members Meeting / Thursday April 23, 2026 9:30am-11:00am

- Welcome!
- Please put your name, organization (if applicable) and email in the chat.
- Guest Speakers-
 - Tom Parnell with Olympia School District
 - Jess Lee with South Sound Reading Foundation
- Agency updates
- Planning for Suddenly Summer!

Meeting ID: 821 8202 4692 Passcode: 084432

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?
pwd=9sV77oJrMR82NgaX8VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82182024692?pwd=9sV77oJrMR82NgaX8VvnNbG0HCvIa0.1)

**For questions or how to learn more about TECC, please contact:
Shawn Thurman sthurman@ssp2p.org / 360.485.2985**

ATTENTION

COMING MAY 3, 2026

INTERcity TRANSIT

**IS GETTING
EVEN BETTER.**



intercitytransit.com/redesign

Our system redesign will go into effect on May 3! To help you prepare for these changes, schedules and maps are available online. You can now plan trips that will occur on or after May 3 using your favorite trip planning tool (Google Maps, the Transit app, the Intercity Transit website, etc).

If you need additional assistance with trip planning, please contact our Customer Service team at 360-786-1881. And, if you need help learning the new system, our Travel Trainers are available by calling 360-705-5879 or by emailing traveltraining@intercitytransit.com



Summer Fun

Free / low cost summer fun for the whole family!



\$1.75 Family Movies for Summer Break

Participating theatres will host Summer Movie Clubhouse on Wednesdays at 9:30am, June 1 through August 6. Select theatres will offer additional showtimes throughout the week, so be sure to check your local theatre for more Summer Movie Clubhouse fun!



Tune in to Lacey in Tune!

Join us Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at Huntamer Park for free, family-friendly entertainment! Check back soon for the full line up!



WET Science Center

LOTT's Education Center – All About Water

This free, fun education center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Come enjoy activities and exhibits for visitors of all ages and learn all about water – one of our most precious resources.



East Bay Public Plaza

This fun, urban park, and kid's play area showcases LOTT's reclaimed water exhibits. Safely cross the street is the splash and play wading stream.



Screen on the Green

What better way to spend summer nights in the Pacific Northwest than in an open-air cinema? Grab a blanket, pack a picnic, and join fellow park-goers for a FREE family-friendly movie under the stars.



Hands on Museum - First Friday Night

\$3.00 admission, exhibits, activities and guests on the first Friday of every month from 4 - 8 pm. Must reserve tickets.



Timberland Regional Library.

TONS of FREE family activities and events. You can even get a FREE pass to the Hand on Children's Museum. (limited availability, ask your library)





Warm Hearts

Soup Bowl Fundraiser



you're invited!

Creating and supporting high quality early learning opportunities for children.

Invest in early learning programming today and help Child Care Action Council provide high-quality early learning opportunities in our community. The Warm Hearts Soup Bowl Fundraiser supports programming for over 10,000 children and families. Our Warm Hearts luncheon will take place on **May 5th at 11:30 at the Lacey Community Center**. During our event our guests will hear from early childhood education experts, the Child Care Action team and the community we serve to explain our impact. A minimum donation of \$100 is suggested, which includes lunch and your soup bowl to take home.

At Child Care Action Council our mission is to nurture early learning communities through direct family services, ECEAP preschool programs, and professional development for childcare providers. These programs ensure that every child in our region has access to the quality of care they deserve. During this event, guests will hear directly from early childhood education experts and the families we serve to see the tangible impact of this work.

Learn More



Enjoy:

- ✓ Enjoy Program Updates
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ A discussion on why Early Learning matters

REGISTER NOW!

- 📍 ccacwa.org/events_projects/warm-hearts/
- 📞 For questions please contact CCAC staff at events@ccacwa.org
- 💰 Can't attend the event, but you would still like to make a donation? Visit the QR code above!





OLYMPIA

MAY 14-17
Presales (May 12 & 13)

**FORMER JOANN STORE
2725 HARRISON AVE NW
OLYMPIA 98502**



Better call your shopping bestie...

the JBF Olympia MEGA Kids' Sale is almost here!

Get Early Access Tickets & Free Entry Tickets:

<https://olympia.jbfsale.com/gettickets>

At JBF, you'll find thousands of name-brand, like-new items for babies through teens, at up to 50-90% off retail!

May 14-17

Early Access Shopping May 13

Former JOANN Store | 2725 Harrison Ave NW

ClothingShoesToysBooksGamesBaby

EquipmentOutdoor Toys & MORE!

GET TICKETS:

<https://olympia.jbfsale.com/gettickets>

Pictures are from past events but expect the same great items!

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER OF SOUTH SOUND ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

Masquerade Ball

Saturday, May 2nd 5:30PM - 10:00PM Capital Event Center

Tickets available now at fscss.org/gala-auction





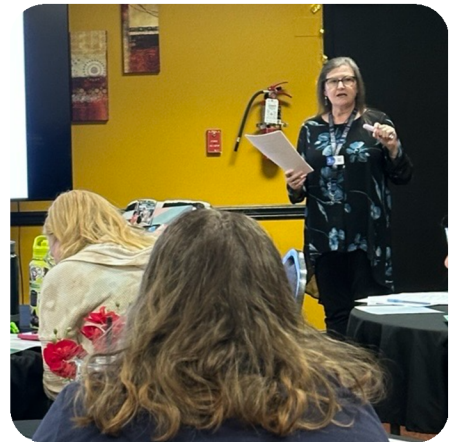
Thurston Early Childhood Coalition



The Thurston Early Childhood Coalition (TECC) hosted a STARS Luncheon at ASHHO last month. This special gathering brought together Thurston County early learning providers to connect, share, and learn!

Shout out to Rose Tiller & Amy Stevens with the Child Care Action Council and ASHHO Cultural Community Center for their inviting space and wonderful food!

Big thanks to Lots of Love Daycare and Early Learning Center, South Sound Parent to Parent & Trista Houdyshell for their raffle basket donations!





Olympia School District

Child Find Notice

- Are you worried about your child's development?
- Does your child have difficulty communicating with people outside the family?
- Does your child have difficulty keeping up with other children their age?
- Does your child have concerning behaviors?
- Does your child have a medical disorder or birth defect that interferes with their development?
- Does the child seem to have hearing or vision issues?

Olympia School District can help! **Any child, birth to five**, whose family has concerns about their child's development and lives within the **Olympia School District Boundaries** can contact our office to receive a free Child Find Screening.

For details visit bit.ly/OSDChildFind or scan the QR Code above.



"If I'm concerned about my child's development, who should I call?"



Research shows that most learning happens in the first 3 years. If you think your child, age birth - three, should be crawling, walking or talking and isn't, please contact South Sound Parent to Parent and schedule a FREE evaluation to see if your child qualifies for early support services. **NO Physician referral required**

For more information or to schedule an evaluation, please contact us at: [360.352.1126](tel:360.352.1126) / www.ssp2p.org



*Proudly serving families in Grays Harbor,
S. Mason & Thurston Counties.*

Bienvenidos a South Sound Parent to Parent!

Si cree que su hijo (de 0 a 3 años) debería gatear, caminar o hablar, pero no lo hace, no se preocupe: ¡estamos aquí para ayudarlo! Obtenga una evaluación GRATUITA hoy mismo. Si recibe asistencia estatal, es posible que reciba todos los servicios sin costo. ¡Comuníquese con nosotros para obtener más información!



Elizabeth Adelman
(360) 352-1126
eadelman@ssp2p.org




SSP2P es un espacio seguro y acogedor para todas las familias.
No compartimos información personal con el Servicio de Inmigración y
Control de Aduanas de EE. UU. (ICE).





NOW ENROLLING

Lots of Love Daycare & Early Learning Center



Ages 6 Weeks - 9 Years Old

We Proudly Offer:

- State Subsidy Accepted
- Private Pay Options
- USDA Food Program
- STEAM-Based Learning
- Multi-Language Exposure
- Brightwheel App Daily Updates
- Early Achievers Rated Program
- Multi-Child Discount
- Military Discount
- Experience Curriculum




Before & After School Care Available

Bus Pick-Up from Zoned Elementary Schools

- School Breaks & Summer Camp

Schedule a Tour Today!

 **360-539-7321**

 **lodaycarelacey@gmail.com**





WE BELIEVE PARENTS ARE THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHER



Parents as Teachers

is a free home visiting program partnering with families to share information, resources and encouragement to support them through their child's most crucial years.

SERVING FAMILIES IN THURSTON AND LEWIS COUNTY FROM PREGNANCY THROUGH AGE 5

- Two monthly home visits**
- Developmental, health and family screenings
- Monthly group connections
- Access to the CYS resource network

At each visit Parent Educators bring activities and information suited to enrolled children's development, while additionally supporting families in creating goals and making connections to community resources.

Play is learning! The activities in our curriculum support language, motor, cognitive, problem solving, and social emotional development.

when possible
PAT brings families

BOOKS
DIAPERS
Household and hygiene products
Child proofing and safety supplies
& more

PARENT EDUCATORS CAN SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH

- potty training
- positive discipline
- tantrums
- sleep transitions
- school readiness
- finding dentists, childcare and pediatricians
- building routines
- finding new ways to connect
- creating a safe home
- understanding their child's development and how to support it

PROVEN OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Research shows that when families participate in Parents as Teachers

- Children enter kindergarten ready to learn and the achievement gap is narrowed
- Children achieve school success into elementary grades
- Children's developmental delays and health problems are detected earlier
- Parents improve their parenting knowledge and skill
- Parents are more involved in their children's schooling
- Families are more likely to promote their child's language and literacy



OUR VISION All children will develop, learn, and grow to realize their full potential.

OUR MISSION Promoting optimal early development, learning and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.

OUR APPROACH PARTNER FACILITATE REFLECT

Contact us for more information on getting started!

Ryanne Zielinski, Program Director
(360) 701-2528
rzeilinski@communityyouthservices.org



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Parents as Teachers
Affiliate

UPCOMING EVENTS



If you would like to share flyers on our next newsletter,
please email : Thurston ECC thurstonecc@gmail.com

For more information about how you can be involved in TECC,
please contact: Shawn Thurman 360.485.2985 or email:
sthurman@ssp2p.org