

August } 2015

# Newsletter



## Kindergarten is here!

### Nearly 6,000 new students will enter school

It's always surprising to people when they learn that nearly 6,000 babies are born each year in Clark County. That means there are nearly 30,000 children in our county alone who are getting ready to start kindergarten. So imagine in the next few weeks, 6,000 early learners will cross the doorway of a school and enter a formal educational system. This is a magical time for kindergarteners and parents alike. Here's a great [check list](#) to help prepare for the first day, first week and first year.

## Washington State Passes Important Early Learning Legislation - Early Start Act expands child care resources

Governor Inslee signed the Early Start Act, which adds nearly \$100 million for high-quality child care, particularly for the state's most vulnerable children. This legislation takes effect on July 1, 2016 and will bolster the Early Achievers program. Early Achievers supports child care through investing in grants, professional development, scholarships and higher reimbursement rates for children on assistance.

We always say that investing in early learning is an "upstream" investment. Helping to give our state's children the best start possible, means that we are creating children who will be school ready, family ready and community ready.

Providers can learn more about the [Early Start Act](#)

Parents can learn more about the [Early Start Act](#)

Department of Early Learning [website](#)

## Give More 24!

SELF is participating in the Give More 24 community fundraising opportunity spearheaded by the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. Beginning at midnight on September 24, SELF will tell stories about community members, provide early learning information and encourage our generous community to donate to SELF and Our Children Can't Wait initiative.

Get ready to give. Go to [give-more-24.org](http://give-more-24.org) to learn more about the online day of giving.

## Thank You!