

Early Learning Newsletter

About Early Learning

CRB's Early Learning program serves newcomers from Iraq, Afghanistan, DRC, and other pan-African communities. The Leadership, Early Learning, and Advocacy Program (**LEAP**) is a home-based early learning program that enhances parenting knowledge, healthy child development, school readiness, and parent-child attachment. It also promotes cultural knowledge-sharing among home visitors, builds parent networks through play sessions and events, and gives children opportunities to play and learn together. LEAP serves diverse, multiethnic communities in King County. We support families who are pregnant and those with children zero to five years old. The program provides learning support, social-emotional growth, parent engagement to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps between parents and school districts, school supplies, cultural sensitivity training for staff, and specialized counseling support.



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Events and Happenings: August



- The Early Program hosted a play session with the Afghan community at Les Grove Park in Auburn on August 19. The main activity was parents and children painting tote bags. The moms asked their children what they should do with the bags, giving autonomy to the children. The moms painted on dots on the tote bags, and the children connected the dots, allowing the children to work on motor skills. A book was read, and a song was sung to increase vocabulary.
- There was also a play session with the Iraqi community at Morrill Meadows Park in Kent on August 20. The play session was centered around emotions. Each parent and child was given a piece of paper with a face on it. They had their emotions of the day inside the face, including

[Children singing "If You're Happy and You Know It" during a play session at the Mother Africa Center]



[Children singing "If You're Happy and You Know It" during a play session at the Mother Africa Center]



[Play session at the Mother Africa Center, motor skills activity by painting on wood]

the causes of their emotions. Staff also gave tips on how to teach their children and how to manage their emotions. In addition, there was a role-playing exercise to learn how to manage emotions. Once again, a book was read, and a song was sung to increase vocabulary.



[Play session with the Iraqi community at Morrill Meadows Park]

Events and Happenings: September

- Early Learning staff held a play session on September 15, focused on child development: fine motor skills, focus, and art. There was an activity with parents and their children to draw their whole family on a piece of wood. This challenge allowed the children to practice their dexterity and fine motor skills. A relevant song was sung with the families to build vocabulary. Each child received either a book or a toy.
- Early Learning staff also organized a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Cohort meeting, focusing on attendance, discipline, and what that means to parents and their children. CRB started this committee for parents to engage with schools and stakeholders so that they can learn how to advocate for their children's education.



[A child displays her artwork at a play session.]



[CRB's Reading Library for children ages 0–5. We provide bi-lingual books so that parents develop a habit of reading with their children in their home languages.]



[Play session at the Mother Africa Center, with a parent showing their finished work]



[A child working on their wood art at the playsession.]

Services for Our Clients

- Home visits: Twice a month, LEAP staff conduct home visits with families to teach them how to play with their children in an instructive way.
- Each month, each family receives a book or toy.
- Resource gathering:
 - Enrolling children in low-income preschools
 - The delivery of diapers
 - Directing families to additional resources in their communities

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