

**Early Childhood Education students receive swim lessons and life jackets**

*Community partners respond to staff request for support*

EVERETT—The Madison Elementary School Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) staff identified a need to support water safety for their students and families and reached out to Everett Public Schools and the community for support. The result was a multi-agency partnership between The Everett Family YMCA, Everett Public Schools Foundation (EPSF), Seattle Children's-North Clinic, and Puget Sound Taxpayers Accountability Account (PSTAA) grant program.



Funded by EPSF and the Early Learning Partner portion of the PSTAA grant, this partnership allows all Madison ECEAP families to have access to eight weeks of free swim lessons at the YMCA, starting March 17. While students are in swim lessons, parents and guardians can attend the Water Safety Ambassador Training.

Then, in May, as part of a spring family event, Seattle Children's-North Clinic and Safe Kids Snohomish County will be providing education on water safety and properly fitting Everett Public Schools' ECEAP preschoolers with life jackets. The life jackets are also being provided by Safe Kids Snohomish County.

Anne Arnold, director of P-5 instruction and early learning at Everett Public Schools states, "It is truly amazing to see what can be done when people pull together to support students and families. The passion of our Madison ECEAP team, Kim Monk, Cheryl Vandermoon, Vicki Rister and Nancy Brown, rallied people and organizations and now our youngest learners and their families have a great opportunity to learn water safety. It is heartwarming to see. We appreciate the way our partners stepped up to support this vision."

Kay Fantin, executive director of EPSF shared, "The Everett Public School Foundation board was thrilled to award Nancy Brown a classroom grant for water safety this year. Thanks to our donors and community partners we were able to create an opportunity for students and families both to gain access to necessary skills and safety gear to prevent tragedies around water. This aligns with our mission that all students have the programs and resources they need for success and well-being and allows students and families to feel safe and enjoy not only pools but the beautiful waterways in our community."

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