

Community Colleges' Parent Education & Cooperative Preschools: Where Parents Learn Side-by-Side with their Babies and Children

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Are you looking for:

- A fun place filled with fascinating objects for your baby to explore as she develops new skills?
- A social time where you can learn songs to sing and games to play with your baby?
- Opportunities to meet other families and build community?
- Research-based education about parenting skills and child development?
- Personalized advice from an expert on ways to manage your unique parenting challenges?

You can find all these great opportunities in one place! And, even better, the programs offer classes for families of children up to age 5, so they could serve your needs for many years to come.

What are Parent Education programs?

Each of our local community colleges sponsors a parent education program, which offers parent-child classes for families of infants and toddlers. The children have the opportunity for play-based learning: free exploration of developmentally appropriate toys, sensory activities (like water tables), and art activities in a safe, familiar environment – the best conditions for learning. Meanwhile, parents attend parent education sessions, with topics tailored to the age of the child: nutrition, early learning, emotional development, daily routines, discipline / setting limits, potty training, and more. Class also includes circle time, a chance for parents and children to learn songs and rhymes that children love.

Programs meet for a full school year, September through May. (Some infant programs may start in January.) This gives you and your child a chance to develop long-term connections.

What are cooperative preschools?

Cooperative preschools are for children age 3 to 5. Again, the classrooms are filled with stimulating activities (art, big motor, small motor, imaginary play, etc.) to help your child learn and grow, and circle times for learning group skills. Parents learn skills through monthly parent education sessions.

Parents work in the classroom some days, and drop off on other days. Thus, the cost is much less than other preschools. It also is a great chance to be a very active participant in your child's learning.

Program Name / Website	Location of Infant Programs **	Programs for Babies *
Bellevue College www.bellevuecollege.edu/parented/	BC Campus	Infant 0 – 9 months, wobblers 9 – 12 months
Edmonds CC www.edcc.edu/pared/	Edmonds CC Campus	Baby Class 7 – 15 months
Green River CC. Limited info at: www.greenriver.edu/academics/areas-of-study/details/parent-child-education.htm .		
Lake WA Institute of Technology www.lwtech.edu/parented	3 sites: Redmond, Kirkland, Woodinville	Infant (0 to 6, 6 – 12) Wobblers 8 – 14 months
North Seattle Community College http://coops.northseattle.edu/	N Seattle CC Campus	Infant Co-Op 2 – 12 months
Seattle Central Community College www.parentchildcenterseattle.org/	S. Seattle CC campus	Infants 2 – 6 months, older infants 6 – 12 months
Shoreline Community College www.shoreline.edu/parenting-education/	Shorenorth 816 NE 190th St. Woodinville Family – in Bothell	Baby N Me birth to 1 yr Prenatal to 12 mo
South Seattle Community College https://sites.google.com/a/southseattle.edu/homelife/	Arbor Heights at Hillcrest Presbyterian 10404 34th Ave SW	Infants 0 – 6 months, movers 6 – 12 months

* All programs serve children up to age 5. 1 – 3 year olds attend parent-child classes. 3 – 5 years attend coop preschools.

**Preschools are held at additional locations. For example, Bellevue College has coops in Bellevue and 6 other cities.