

Our Purpose:

CSHEL strives to insure that children in child care and early learning settings in Washington State receive the highest quality of care possible.

Health and safety are key indicators of high quality child care and early learning settings. High quality early learning settings have positive benefits for children in areas such as language development, social skills, and academic success.

CSHEL works with community partners and other agencies:

- To provide a forum for networking among early childhood professionals and others interested in promoting health and safety in early learning settings.
- To disseminate health and safety information.
- To achieve consistency on health and safety issues statewide.
- To promote evidence-based best practice in the care of young children.
- To foster an environment for creative, diverse, and innovative thinking and practice.

Our Values and Beliefs:

- Evidence-based health and safety best practices are critical to a child's development and learning.
- Health and safety concerns should be resolved using the expertise of health professionals with experience in early childhood education.
- Young children deserve the best quality of care in a positive early learning setting.
- Quality training in health and safety issues is an important means to improve quality of care.
- Caregivers should have access to information and guidance from health and safety professionals in order to promote best quality care.

We welcome your interest.

**To learn more about CSHEL
Please contact us at:**

info@cshelwa.org

or visit our website at:

www.cshelwa.org



Welcome to the Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning, Washington State



Our Mission: To develop, promote, and advocate for quality child health and safety in early learning settings in Washington State.

CSHEL

The Washington State Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning, (**CSHEL**), has a strong foundation, having been in existence for more than 15 years. It is built on the premise that:

- Every child deserves the best care possible.
- Every caregiver deserves to have access to timely, accurate, and evidence-based health and safety information.
- Advocacy can affect policy change in the areas of health and safety for all children in Washington State.



Membership:

CSHEL membership includes individuals active in health and safety in early learning settings such as, Child Care Health Consultants, RNs, Environmental Health Specialists, Registered Dietitians, HeadStart and ECEAP Health/Nutrition Coordinators, Pediatricians, Department of Early Learning staff, Child Care Resources staff, and other representatives of the child care community throughout Washington State.

CSHEL meets quarterly with teleconferencing and videoconferencing available.

Over the years **CSHEL** has worked on many projects geared toward improving the health and safety of children in early learning settings.

- Coordination of statewide conferences with Healthy Child Care Washington and HeadStart.
- Development of position papers on mental health, medication management, food and water safety, and other topics in early learning settings.

- Review and production of health related materials.
- Assistance with the development and review of rules and regulations governing child care and early learning settings.
- Distribution of current and changing health and safety information through an e-mail distribution list.
- Collaboration with other groups to develop consistent core policies and messages for use by early learning health and safety professionals and others.



EVERY CHILD DESERVES THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE.

CSHEL AND IT'S PARTNERS ARE WORKING TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.