2011 2nd Quarter Narrative Report
Kindering Early Childhood Consultation Report

One trend we've noticed during the first half of 2011 is the continued importance and urgency for many local families around finding suitable child care for their children. The challenges and uncertainties of the current economy mean that more families are dependent on two incomes to make ends meet. These parents don't have the option of staying home when their child is expelled from care for a behavioral problem, or when care providers are unprepared to meet their child's special needs.

As a reflection of this trend, to date this year our program has experienced a noticeable increase in calls from parents and child care providers in need of support. Already in 2011 we have provided services to 101 local child care centers and a total of 260 children have directly benefited from these services, including 3 children residing in the City of Renton. Compared to the same timeframe last year this is a 21% increase in the number of children served and a 10% increase in the number of child care centers served.

At the same time Kindering is also experiencing a surge in demand for its early intervention services. This past May 484 children received services through our Early Intervention Program – the highest number of children we've ever served in one month. Current growth figures show our enrollment is increasing by an average of 10 children each month.

We are endlessly grateful that the City of Renton and other local cities have been powerful advocates for the difference our Early Childhood Consultation program makes for families in our community. Thankfully, the funding our Early Childhood Consultation Program receives has either remained stable or received a slight inflation increase over the past year. This consistent support as allowed our program to continue to operate with three dedicated, experienced full-time staff to answer the phone calls, respond to consultation requests, conduct developmental screenings and offer provider trainings. As more working families are relying on stable child care – both to earn adequate money to support their family and also to be able to meet the increasing demands of the workplace – the services we provide have never been more vital to the health of our community. Thank you so much for providing us with the resources that enable our educators to continue to be available to the families and providers in our community who are in need of help.