

**Methow Valley**  
**Early Childhood Education & Childcare Initiative**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***What will be done with the information gained from the Early Childhood Education and Childcare Initiative?  
What happens after the community needs assessment is completed?***

The information shared from the focus groups, interviews, and community conversations will be analyzed and reviewed by the Steering Committee. Creative models of affordable early childhood education exist in other cities (Bellingham is just one example). Research will be conducted to determine *which promising practices are emerging that could work in the Methow Valley*.

The Steering Committee will make recommendations based upon this information and share its recommendations in a Springboard Report to the community in spring 2015. It will also be posted on the school district website [www.methow.org](http://www.methow.org) under Early Childhood Education and Childcare Initiative.

***I don't have any kids or know anyone with kids. Should I still participate in the community meeting session?***

If you are interested in the future of the Methow Valley, in families, and in community, then your voice is welcome! Our kids are the future of the Valley, and we want to hear from many different points of view!

***If I'm satisfied with my childcare/preschool situation, should I still participate in the Early Childhood Education and Childcare Initiative?***

Absolutely. It is important to understand what works and include this in the information we look at and analyze.

***What is the timeline for the Early Childhood Education and Childcare Initiative?***

The timeline for the assessment is summer 2014 to spring 2015. You can keep up-to-date on progress via the school district's website: [www.methow.org](http://www.methow.org)

***How long will it take to have affordable child care/early childhood education for all the Methow?***

We don't have a crystal ball to know the answer, but we do know that early childhood education and childcare is a federal priority and a priority for the Methow community. This Initiative is the first step to having high quality, affordable early childhood education and childcare in the Methow.

Our work will help determine what is needed, and what steps can be taken to make affordable, quality childhood education and childcare a reality for all the Valley's children. Some change is already beginning. For example, for the first time, providers of early childhood education and childcare have come together to discuss common challenges and opportunities.

After recommendations have been made, it is up to the organizations committed to this work (i.e. MVSD, Little Star, Room One, Rainbow Bridge, etc.), as well as the larger Methow Community, to work together to take necessary steps to put these recommendations into action. **These organizations are committed to making this dream a reality. We hope you will join us!**