

## Who are we?

South FACES (Family and Child Early Supports) is a consortium of early childhood educators, providers, agencies, funders, school staff, advocates and community members who work to support early childhood education and school readiness efforts in South King County.

The group uses a variety of strategies that will ensure that all children will enter school prepared to reach their full potential.

South FACES was the pioneering FACES group. It was established in 1999, with the goal of better coordinating prevention and early intervention services for children and families in South King County.

There are now FACES groups in the other sub-regions of King County: North, Seattle and East. Each group works on goals for their local area, and also on those that will benefit children and families in the County as a whole.

## Why the focus on early learning and supporting families of young children?

The years from birth to five are the most critical period of growth for children. Recent research has shown that adults, including parents and other caregivers, make a difference in children's early development and learning. South FACES aims to provide the support for all adults who come in contact with young children.

South FACES members participated in the development of the King County Early Childhood Development and School Readiness Action Agenda, which was completed in 2003. The Action Agenda is part of SOAR, helping kids reach for the sky, a countywide initiative that seeks to strengthen children's lives at all stages of development from birth to age eighteen.

## What are the Action Agenda's goals?

- **Nurturing: Children have strong bonds and nurturing relationships with their parents/guardians and other significant adults in their lives.\***
- **Prevention/Early Intervention: Children and families most in need of services to help their development get high-quality, affordable and culturally competent services early.\***
- **Early Care and Education: children and families have access to high-quality, affordable and culturally competent early care and early education.**
- **Successful Transitions: Children are prepared, from infancy, for a successful transition into school by the adults in their lives, working in concert with their communities and schools.**

\* **Goals chosen as South FACES priority goals**