Advocating for Farm to Early Care and Education in WA
Developing a Farm to ECE Success Story Template and Producing Subsequent Success Stories

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INTRODUCTION
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FARM TO ECE NETWORKS
Farm to ECE incorporates:

- School Gardens
- Agricultural Education
- Locally-Produced Foods

into Early Care and Education (ECE). WA Department of Health (DOH) and Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (COPC) formed a statewide farm to ECE coalition. The coalition will produce a Success Story Template and Success Stories to:

- Highlight important farm to ECE work
- Engage new farm to ECE stakeholders
- Advocate for farm to ECE practice
- Help achieve the coalition’s goals

METHODS
Success Story Development Process:

- Review background information
- Reviewed existing success stories
- Gather feedback from the coalition
- Created Success Story Template
- Engaged farm to ECE programs
- Wrote Success Stories
- Shared stories with stakeholders for feedback

RESULTS
Produced three farm to ECE Success Stories based on:

- Food for All and Spokane Head Start, Spokane
- The Suquamish Nation’s Marion Forsman-Boushie Early Learning Center, Suquamish
- Skagit/Islands Head Start and Viva Farms, Mt. Vernon

Additional results:

- Photos collected from each program
- Stories shared to each program for feedback
- Stories to be finalized/published later in 2021
- Success Story Template available for more stories

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION
SUCCESS STORIES BENEFIT FARM TO ECE PRACTICE
DOH and COPC will use the Success Story template for more stories. Finalized stories to be shared with participating programs to:

- Share with parents
- Share with funders or grantors
- Share with local partners
- Share in a newsletter
- Publish on their website

Stories to be disseminated through statewide farm to ECE website to:

- Inspire new farm to ECE programs
- Connect existing programs to new partners
- Share resources with stakeholders