GRADUATION & FAMILY FUN DAY
Please join us at our Graduation Celebration honoring the Kindering Class of 2019 on Friday, August 16th at 9:30 a.m. We will gather in Crossroads Park near Kindering Bellevue, between the pavilion & the play structure. We look forward to seeing Bellevue, Bothell, Redmond, and Renton graduates there! Look for an invitation in the mail coming soon if your child is in the Class of 2019. Stick around after the ceremony for an opportunity to connect with other Kindering families and enjoy some fun activities and treats at Family Fun Day in the grassy area behind our building. Family Fun Day will be from 10:00-11:30 a.m. and is open to all Kindering families, including siblings.

2019-2020 FAMILY CALENDARS
You can find our program calendars for the coming year on the Family Calendar webpage at: https://kindering.org/kindering-families/family-calendar/

KINDERING PARENT SURVEY 2019
Dear Kindering Families:
Quality improvement is very important to Kindering. We use the below survey to get feedback on how we are doing and what kind of improvements you would like to see. Click here for the anonymous, online survey. Please complete by August 31st, 2019. Thank you for helping us to evaluate and improve our services! If you experience problems with this survey or need an alternate format, please contact us at surveys@kindering.org

SALUTE TO COURAGE
Join us for our 14th Annual Salute to Courage Luncheon on Friday, October 25 at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue. Kindering’s Salute to Courage Luncheon is a chance to gather with family, friends, and the community to celebrate the courage of the extraordinary children who walk through Kindering’s doors every day! This event allows our community to sit down to a nice lunch and learn about our programs and the impact they are making on the children in our care. Our keynote speaker this year will be Dr. Jeff Sperring, CEO of Seattle Children’s. For more information and to register, visit: kindering.org/luncheon

2019 CALENDAR
AUGUST 16
GRADUATION & FAMILY FUN DAY
KINDERING BELLEVUE
9:30-11:30 AM

AUGUST 19-30
EARLY INTERVENTION AUGUST BREAK
No Classes or Therapies for EI Programs Only
KidsClinic will be open

AUGUST 31
PARENT SURVEY
LAST DAY TO SUBMIT

SEPTEMBER 2
HOLIDAY—CLOSED
Early Intervention and KidsClinic
No Classes or Therapies

SEPTEMBER 3
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
No Classes or Therapies for EI Programs Only
KidsClinic open, but on a different schedule

SEPTEMBER 4
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
No Classes or Therapies for EI Programs Only
KidsClinic open, but on a different schedule

SEPTEMBER 5
EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS RESUME
OPEN ENROLLMENT: STEPPING STONES TODDLER PRESCHOOL
We are currently enrolling children ages 22-33 months in our Stepping Stones Toddler Preschool program at our locations in Bellevue, Bothell, and Renton. We embrace learning through play with a themed curriculum and high teacher-student ratios. Children of diverse abilities are welcome, and we have lots of room for community preschoolers in this integrated program. Our spaces for those receiving early intervention services are limited, and your child may need to be added to the waitlist.

For more information, please contact your Family Resources Coordinator, your current providers or Lauri Stoll, our Early Learning Coordinator, at 425-747-4004 ext.4953 or by email at Lauri.Stoll@kindering.org.

BABY STEPS CLASS IN RENTON NOW ENROLLING!
What is it?
Baby Steps is a parent-child playgroup for infants with special needs and their families designed to provide parents with information and support; access to Kindering staff and resources; and a chance to get to know other parents and children in a similar situation. In addition, a highly qualified special educator provides parents with coaching around how to support effective play, target new skills, and have positive, responsive parent-infant interactions.

Who can join?
Baby Steps is for caregivers and their babies from birth through approximately 16-18 months of age who are eligible for Early Intervention services. Family members including parents, foster parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, and/or siblings are welcome.

When?
Classes meet Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m.

How do I register?
Please contact your Family Resources Coordinator or your child’s therapist to discuss enrollment, as space is limited and subject to availability.

FROM THE WA STATE FATHERS NETWORK
Save the dates for two upcoming popular Fathers Network Activities. On September 7th we’ll have our annual Kickoff the School Year breakfast and on November 2nd we’ll have our Fathers Network annual conference. Both events will be in Bellevue. Join our mailing list here, to get updates on these and other Network activities.

FOCUS GROUP OPPORTUNITY
Join us for a conversation about a plan to enhance developmental screening, referral, & service connection in King County
The King County Best Starts for Kids Program has been looking into improving the developmental screening, referral and service connection process. From previous focus groups a strategic plan has been developed to implement changes and now final focus groups are being organized to get feedback on whether the plan meets the needs of families. Even if you weren’t part of an earlier focus group, your voice and input is important to making sure this process is improved in the best way. As Kindering families, this screening, referral and connection process is likely something you’ve experienced not too long ago so having your input would be especially valuable. The focus group will take place across the street from the Kindering Bothell office the evening of August 14th (please see the attached flyer for more information) and participants will receive a $50 gift card. We hope you’ll consider taking part in this opportunity to have your voice heard on an issue that affects so many families. If you can attend, please RSVP to Louis Mendoza at louis.mendoza@kindering.org with your first name, last name and zip code (for demographic reporting purposes).

KINDERING BOTHELL FEEDING CLASS
Kindering-Bothell feeding class is scheduled to start this September! Children aged 22 months - 3 years are eligible to participate. Feeding class provides your child the opportunity to work on mealtime routine, sensory play, and building a positive relationship with food in a group setting. Please talk to your provider about whether this would be a good fit for your child.

KINDERING RENTON
No Sibshops in August. Have a wonderful summer!
Sibshops will resume on Thursday, September 12th.
For more information contact Sharissa Aromi or Rachel McKee: Sibshops@kindering.org

Follow us on social media for more updates. Find us at Facebook.com/KinderingCenter and Instagram.com/Kindering.
WELCOME NEW STAFF

Hi! My name is Tiffany Lynch, and I am the new Director of Finance here at Kindering. I was born in Calgary, Alberta, but grew up in Renton which is where I live now with my husband and twin 8 year-old boys. I received my undergraduate degree from Western Washington University and am a licensed CPA. I most recently worked at the Washington State Bar Association and the Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children in similar roles and am very excited to be bringing my expertise to Kindering!

Hi! My name is Emily Edmiston, and I am very excited to join the CHERISH program as the new CHERISH Program Planner here at Kindering. I grew up in the Seattle-area and attended Seattle University, where I received my Bachelor’s degree in Sociology. I then earned my Master’s degree in Social Work, with a focus on administration, from the University of Washington. After graduating, I coordinated programs at a couple of different nonprofits. Most recently, I worked in academic operations at the University of Washington. Outside of work, I enjoy reading, riding my bike, hiking, and experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen.

Hello! My name is Savannah Slone and I am a new CBT and TA in the CUBS, Co-Op, and Stepping Stones classrooms. I couldn’t be more thrilled to join Kindering’s incredible staff. I grew up in a small town near Steven’s Pass, where I still live with my partner and our five-year-old son. My son has ASD and spent roughly eighteen months receiving services at Kindering and a solid chunk of that time in the CUBS classroom, with the same lovely folks who I’m now working directly with. Kindering changed my family’s life and helped nurture and guide me into this experience as a young, single mom. In addition to working at Kindering, I am a part-time English and creative writing professor and am training as a full spectrum doula. I earned my M.F.A. at Lindenwood University and my B.A. from Central Washington University. I am the author of the poetry collection, HEARING THE UNDERWATER, and enjoy reading, writing, and hiking in my spare time.

Hi! My name is Katherine Niemann, and I am very excited to join Kindering as a Speech-Language Pathologist at the Renton campus. I grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan and received my Bachelor’s degree from Northern Michigan University. I recently completed my Master’s at Portland State University, where I was part of the bilingual concentration. I am so grateful for the opportunity to partner with kids and their families through early intervention, especially as part of such a wonderful team. In my free time I enjoy playing piano, hiking, kayaking, embroidery, and hanging out with my two awesome cats.

Hello! My name is Jennifer Kirkevold and I am very excited to be joining Kindering as an Occupational Therapist. I grew up in Renton and attended Seattle University where I received my Bachelor’s degree in Sports & Exercise Science. I then moved to California and attended graduate school for Occupational Therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences – San Marcos. I feel so fortunate to be part of the Kindering team and sharing my passion for working with kiddos with all the staff and families. In my free time I enjoy hiking, crafting, and hosting game nights!

Hi! My name is Becca LeafMeeker, and I am a new CHERISH clinical social worker in the 3-5 program here at Kindering. I received my Bachelor’s in Social Work from the University of Washington, and went on to receive my Master’s in Social Work at Simmons University in Boston, MA. Most recently I worked for Amara, licensing and supporting foster families. In my free time I enjoy camping, gardening, ceramics, and spending time with friends and family.
FATHER’S NETWORK

Hello Fathers!

We would like to learn more about your experiences with existing services and systems, and invite you to participate in a survey. The goal of this survey is to inform future state policies and programs. To be eligible to take the survey you must identify as a father, be 18 or older, and live in Washington State. Please click on the following link to take the survey: https://uweducation.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Wlby0ZPwNrB4od

We know your time is valuable and limited, and we appreciate your participation. Upon completing the survey, you will have the option to enter into a drawing to win one of ten $50 Amazon gift cards.

Please complete the survey by Friday, August 2nd at 5:00 pm.

Thank you,
University of Washington and
Washington State Fatherhood Interagency Council

¡Hola, padres!

Nos gustaría conocer más sobre sus experiencias con los servicios y sistemas existentes e invitarlos a participar en una encuesta. El objetivo de esta encuesta es informar sobre las políticas y programas estatales futuros. Para ser elegible para tomar la encuesta, debe identificarse como padre, ser mayor de 18 años y vivir en el estado de Washington. Haga clic en el siguiente enlace para tomar la encuesta:
https://uweducation.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Wlby0ZPwNrB4od

Sabemos que su tiempo es valioso y limitado, y apreciamos su participación. Al completar la encuesta, tendrá la opción de participar en un sorteo para ganar una de las diez tarjetas de regalo de Amazon por $50.

Complete la encuesta antes del viernes 2 de agosto a las 5:00 pm.

Gracias,
University of Washington y
Consejo Interagencias de Paternidad del Estado de Washington
WILDFIRE SMOKE REMINDERS:

This message is being sent on behalf of Dr. Jeff Duchin, Health Officer for Public Health – Seattle & King County:

WILDFIRE SMOKE

Smoke from regional and distant wildfires can impact local air quality and cause health effects to children and adults. Children’s lungs and airways are still developing, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults, making them especially sensitive to smoke pollution.

Prepare ahead of time to reduce health impacts from exposure to wildfire smoke:

Check air quality daily during wildfire season. Air quality conditions may change quickly. Go to Puget Sound Clean Air Agency’s website (pscleanair.org) or follow them on Twitter (@pscleanair) for the current smoke level report for King County. Their forecasts will let you know when air quality has reached unhealthy levels.

Work with staff and parents to manage physical symptoms from smoke exposure:

- Staff should watch for symptoms of wildfire smoke exposure: coughing, headache, sore throat, burning eyes, and wheezing. If children or staff experience these symptoms, they should limit time spent outdoors, avoid vigorous physical activity (like running or playing sports) and stay in an indoor space that has cleaner air.
- Dial 911 for emergency assistance if symptoms are serious like shortness of breath or chest pain.
- Ask parents of children with asthma and other health conditions to make sure they have a care plan from their health care provider, possibly including inhalers and other needed medications.
- Make sure to have plenty of water for youth and staff to drink. Keeping hydrated is important, especially in hot weather.

Plan alternatives for outdoor activities on smoky days.

- Children are more sensitive to smoke and should not have physical activity outdoors on days when air quality is unhealthy. This includes activities like field trips, biking, running, playing sports, marching band, cheerleading, and outdoor swimming.
- On days that are unhealthy for sensitive groups, children with heart conditions and respiratory conditions or infections (such as asthma or the common cold) should stay indoors.
- Use this activity guide with recommendations for recess, P.E., and athletic events and practices during smoky conditions.

Improve indoor air quality on smoky days.

- Close windows and doors as much as possible.
- Use fans or an air conditioner (AC) when it’s hot, if possible. Set your AC to recirculate.
- Consider getting air purifiers with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters.
- DIY air cleaners may be an easy and cost-effective way to reduce the risk from smoke inside your facility. Information on how to construct a portable air cleaner and important safety tips can be found at Puget Sound Clean Air Agency’s DIY Air Filter website
- If it’s too hot inside the facility, it’s better to open the windows for a short time to cool the indoor space than to overheat.

Recommendations for Schools and Buildings with Mechanical Ventilation: Improving Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality during Wildfire Smoke Events (PDF)

More information is available at www.kingcounty.gov/wildfiresmoke and from the Washington State Department of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/smokefromfires

Follow us on social media for more updates. Find us at Facebook.com/KinderingCenter and Instagram.com/Kindering.