



## Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Director  
**RE:** Cozy Bears Early Learning – Healthy Children’s Fund Innovative Services Contract  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 28, 2025

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Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Cozy Bears Early Learning for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract expands local childcare capacity in Ferndale and increases kindergarten readiness by implementing an advanced Kindergarten readiness curriculum program. The Contractor will expand childcare capacity by licensing a second classroom, which will provide up to 6 new enrollments slots in Ferndale with 8 of the 12 total slots available reserved for low income (at or below 85% State Median Income) families. The new curriculum will offer comprehensive kindergarten readiness through social-emotional learning, early literacy skills, and family engagement activities.

This contract is awarded as a result of 24-66 and aligns with the Healthy Children’s Fund Implementation Plan’s Strategy Six to support innovative approaches to meet various Healthy Children’s Fund goal related to Early Learning and Care.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$43,500, is provided by the Healthy Children’s Fund. These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Sarah Simpson, Children and Family Programs Supervisor at 360-410-2400 ([SSimpson@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:SSimpson@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions.

Encl.