

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Environmental Science Center

Address:
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Burien, WA 98166

Contact:
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<https://envsciencecenter.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Founded in 2000, the Environmental Science Center is a not-for-profit organization offering quality, experiential environmental education programs at our local beaches, streams, forests, and classrooms in South King County. ESC promotes environmental stewardship to thousands of people through collaborations with a growing number of school districts and community-based organizations as well as speaking engagements, festivals, and workshops.

Date of Award:	Level:
2019 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Environmental Science Center.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

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Environmental Science Center Toddler Time

Timeline: 36 weekly classes Sept 4, 2019-May 27, 2019 (28 in-person, 8 online sessions)

Attendance of 28 in-person programs: 260 people (146 children, 114 adults)

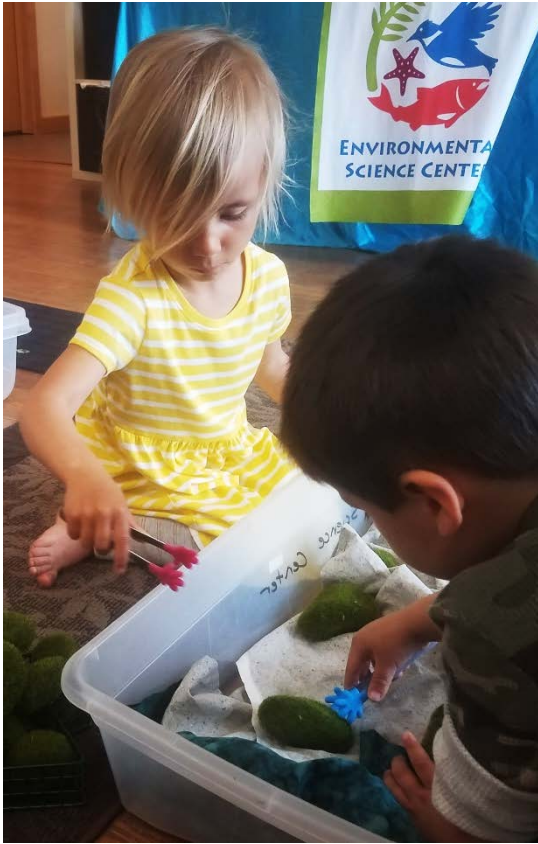
Participation in 8 online programs: 498 views/engagements



Summary

Toddler Time at the Environmental Science Center provided 260 in-person contact hours of environmental education classes for toddlers and their caretakers from September of 2019 through March. An average of 15 participants took part in 28 free 1-hour weekly nature lessons. Most were held in Seahurst Park, but four partnership programs were at the Burien Library to accommodate more people and reach new participants. Programs ceased in March for COVID-19 safety concerns. Eight online sessions were created in April and May. The first had 232 views, the second 64, and the following six averaged 20 views and engagements.

Weekly lessons were designed around seasonal themes and concepts were reinforced with reoccurring nature topics and activities. Indoors, an educator used nature-related exploratory stations and stories, songs and movement to help participants learn about and further connect with natural elements. Afterward, a gentle outdoor



exploration took place in Seahurst Park to apply and build upon learned concepts. Forest, stream, wetland, beach, tide pools and urban environments were explored regularly. Both indoor and outdoor lessons were developed to help further connect children with nature, with fellow children, and communal groups, and to prepare them for kindergarten. The Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) helps ensure children in Washington get a great start in kindergarten. Many of these skills were applied in varying Toddler Time approaches in focus areas of cognitive, physical, social emotional, mathematics, literacy, language.

It was required of caregivers to be present the whole time for supervision, engagement and support. This encouraged them to further explore natural concepts with their toddlers outside of the program. Many shared their gratefulness for the ease of incorporating seasonal themes, songs and activities into their daily lives. Ending lessons with a focused outdoor exploration also helped them make direct connections with their natural environment and provided more ways to make discoveries with toddlers during their typical outings. The no-cost factor and consistency of meeting dates and times was another plus for caregivers.



High school interns helped in program delivery and the development of communication skills and relationship building for toddlers.

Eight 15-min Toddler Times were delivered online from ESC's recognizable Toddler Time educator on the same days as the previous programs, with the ability for people to watch replays. Program participants were used to registering for classes through ESC's webpage, so links to YouTube and Facebook were provided for easy access to the videos. Initially, a couple storytimes occurred at the start of the sessions, but were later edited out to honor author and publisher rights, as well as decrease video time. Spring brought about new growth in plants, as well as the courtship and nesting of birds. This inspired related songs and a new guessing game for children to find local birds within four different habitats. Paper and stuffed animal models were used, along with songs and practical tips to assist children in local bird identification. Each session built upon the last for reinforcement, ending with outdoor exploration and applications for children and caretakers.

Participation was high at the start (with 232 views), and helped by cross promotion of partners on social media, but decreased after a couple of weeks. The video format was not as appealing to toddlers as it was to older children. Lack of focus was a challenge, as well as the loss of a live interactive element. This included regular Toddler Time participants who were very engaged in the program throughout the year. Even so, ESC was proud to provide nurturing, environmental education and a sense of community for some people during such a tumultuous time.



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Toddler Time

Virtual Toddler Times!

View on our playlists on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

Until we can meet again, come online for a fun time on Wednesdays! Kharli Rose will deliver her lively programs to engage toddlers in songs, movement, and guessing games before a short outdoor exploration using similar themes and tools for your outdoor play. New games, bird calls and songs can help children learn 4 keys to bird IDs for observing and appreciating local species. We hope these seasonal activities still help children and families foster a lifelong love of nature!















Feedback of online sessions:

At the start, some of ESC's regular participants watched every week, sometimes multiple times. They also sent in videos of children sharing their related discoveries (such as soft things that birds can use in their nests), as well as how much they missed Toddler Times and teacher Kharli.

-The spring video is so fantastic! I think you did wonderful and Gabriel was so engaged... The bird nest video is so great! We are so excited to make our own nests. Thanks for the idea!

-Simon and I just did toddler time— we're going to look for spirals and swirls on our next walk.

-My kids love these! My daughter totally thinks you made the Earth Day video just for her.

-Many, many thanks for a creative way to reach out to our kids (and adults) at this time. This is just another reason for us to love supporting "our" ESC.

-Great job, Kharli! I thoroughly enjoyed your lesson... I'm sure many kids will learn and smile along with you!!!



Toddler Time

FREE—with REQUIRED registration



Engage toddlers in seasonal activities
that foster a lifelong love of nature!
Children can first enjoy exploratory play inside
then take part in storytime with song and dance.
We head outside to gently explore afterward.



(For ages 2-4, but friends & family members are welcome)



Most Wednesdays
10:30 - 11:30 am
at ESC in Seahurst Park



Plan for a 10- minute walk to our building.



Directions to Environmental Science Center
From the Seahurst Beach Parking lot:
(2220 SW Seahurst Park Rd, Burien WA)
walk north on the gravel road
200 yards to our building



For more details and to REGISTER please visit
WWW.EnvironmentalScienceCenter.org
or call 206-248-4266





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Have a little one? Register to join the fun!

Free, with required registration
Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 AM at ESC
-In fall and winter, last Wednesdays of the month are at the Burien Library and don't require registration.
For ages 2-4, but friends & family welcome
Space is limited, so walk-ups may be asked to explore the park instead

-Please allow at least 10 minutes for the walk from the lower parking lot to our building. [Directions](#)

Come join our friendly team at the Environmental Science Center to engage in positive and creative seasonal activities with toddlers that help them foster a lifelong love of nature! Children can first enjoy exploratory play inside and then take part in storytime with songs and dances. We head outside to explore afterward.

Register to help us prepare a fun day!











These programs are sponsored by the Tulalip Cares Charitable Fund and The Muckleshoot Charitable Fund to further connect the community with nature and with each other.




www.tulalipcares.org

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