

**Heather Pressley - heather.pressley@gmail.com
Testimony for EI/ECSE Budget Hearing on 3/29/21**

Please fully fund Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) Services

We have a four and half year old son who experiences Down Syndrome. Prior to moving to Portland, I was a home visiting teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Canada - so I was familiar with disability. However, I was completely unfamiliar with the system here in the USA and the guidance that Liam's Early Intervention specialist provided for us was invaluable. Without her, much time and energy would have been lost trying to figure out how to get Liam the resources he needed and probably missing some of his needs all together. As we help Liam prepare for kindergarten we are so thankful that for the support we have had during his preschool years from EI/ECSE. Without this service, Liam would definitely not be where he is today. This service is truly invaluable!

Warmest Regards.
Heather Wood