



FEBRUARY

HEAD START NEWS

Osteen Head Start Newsletter



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FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: Jeamary Garcia

Hey mom and dad!!! Raising a smart child is easy!! According to the University of Melbourne Department of Early Childhood Development online article, one of the biggest things you can do to help your preschooler is to read to them. The frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment. Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e., language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life. Reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age 4-5 as being six months older. Reading to them 67 days per year has the same effect as being almost 12 months older. Children read to more frequently at age 4-5 achieve higher scores on the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for both Reading and Numeracy in Year 3 (age 8 to 9). These differences in reading and cognitive skills are not related to the child's family background or home environment but are the direct result of how frequently they have been read to prior to starting school. You can read the online article at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/readtoyoungchild.pdf>

Help Your Child Become A Reader Source: Readingrockets.com

Parents, who limit television, choose child care that is literacy-rich, and read and talk to their children often can help their children become readers. Learn about steps parents can take to promote reading in their children's lives.

1. Talk to your child 2. Read Aloud 3. Test your child's eyes and ears 4. Choose child care carefully 5. Ask the teacher about your child's reading 6. Limit TV watching 7. Create a reading corner 8. Visit the library 9. Show that you read 10. Join a family literacy program 11. Give books 12. Tap relatives 13. Attend book activities



CONTACT US!

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Family Advocate:

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Classroom Phone Number

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 3rd (Wednesday) – Early Release Day

February 15th (Monday) – President's Day Holiday



Head Start
Mid Florida Community Services
Early Head Start

Let's Get
Connected!



@MFCSHedStart



FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

By: Annette Gregory

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It's that time of year again when we start preparing to complete our taxes. If you prepare your own taxes the IRS has a partnership with the Free File Alliance. Free File Alliance are tax software providers who make their federal tax-return products available at no cost to taxpayers whose adjusted gross income was \$72,000 or less in 2020. You can find this free service by going to irs.gov/freefile. If you have someone else prepare your taxes for you make sure they are legitimate. Be wary of those that promise large refunds. Make sure they sign your return. Make sure you look over your form before signing. Do a little research on the person or company if you do not know them.



A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

CLASSROOM 2

Classroom #2 Mrs. Lorraine and Mrs. Olga

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This month we will be studying and exploring Insects. What do we know about insects? What do we want to find out? What are the characteristics of insects? Where do insects live? How do they live? How are these insects alike? Go outside and explore with your child. Have them look to see if they can find insects. Try to identify the insect and look up information about that insect. Record and write the things your child may say about their discovery. Share this information with the teachers. We would also like to remind everyone that Head Start hours are from 7:45 am to 2:00 pm Monday-Friday now. PLEASE have your child at school EVERYDAY and please be on time. We know that life gets a little crazy at times but please keep in communication with the teachers if your children are going to be absent from school. Head Start is here to help you and your family. We would like to thank all of you for doing so well with your child and their education. We know that these are trying times and it is an adjustment for everyone. Thank you for all that you do!

CLASSROOM 3

Classroom #3 Ms. Ada Iris and Mrs. Maria Eva

Dear Parents/Guardians:

February already, where did the month of January go? In the month of February in our Second Step Program we will be focusing on learning Fair Ways to play with Friends so that all can have fun and learning ways to invite and join in with play. We will continue to learn our alphabet letters, numbers and to work writing first and last names.

During this month we will study the topic Reduce, Reuse, Recycle with the children to answer questions: What do people throw away? Where does trash go? How do trash and garbage affect our community? How can we reuse junk? How can we create less trash?

Please make sure that children are coming to school each day with labeled weather appropriate clothing (jacket, hat, mittens, long pants, and boots). We try to go outside each day weather permitting. Remember that your child's attendance to the school makes a great difference in its academic performance; please bring it every day and on time. "Arrive at 8:00 am, Don't be late."



HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Home Learning Activity:

Stories with three

When reading books that illustrate the concept of three, stop and let your child count items that come in threes. Your child will gain a fuller understanding of the number three by hearing it in stories and by counting.

Why this is important:

Now that your child is 3 years old, he may show interest in objects that come in threes. You can strengthen his concept of three by telling traditional stories that are built around the number three.

What you do:

- Bring the number three to your child's attention by telling or reading stories with threes such as Three Perfect Peaches, The Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs, and The Three Billy Goats Gruff.
- Emphasize the number three in the title: Let's read the story The Three Bears. Look, here are their pictures: 1, 2, 3. Three bears.
- Count items in the story that are grouped in threes such as the bowls, chairs, or beds.
- Have your child use objects such as blocks, clothespins, or crackers as counters. Help your child practice handling groups of three: Count out some crackers to show how many bears there were in the story. Yes! Let's put that group over here. Now can you count out more crackers to show how many bowls there were?
- Encourage your child to do most of the counting and talking as you move through the story or count objects. Play this game with different books and objects to help your child learn that three is a word and a concept used to describe three items. Look for books with three wishes, three tasks, three fairies, etc.

Family Engagement Activity:

Copy Each Other

Play an imitation game with your child, saying your actions as you do them. Your child will have an opportunity to say words that help her/him lead or follow.

Why this is important: Children like to try new ways to move, and they like to do what you do. You can make it fun to practice the following and leading skills of cooperation. Knowing the names for her/his actions allows her/him to better explain what is happening. When she/he can describe what she/he is doing, she/he can take the leader's role in many games.

What you do:

- Perform an action as you say or sing a verse. I can, you can. Hop, hop, hop.
- Use motions you have noticed your child learning, such as hopping on one foot, skipping a step, jumping with both feet, etc.
- Use a single word to describe each action so that she can easily repeat the word. Try nod, tap, clap, jump, bend, or march. She/he will interpret the word by watching your actions.
- Change the game by inviting her/him to lead and choose the action.
- Encourage your child to play this game with siblings or other family members. Everyone has a turn as the leader, and each child chooses the motion when she/he leads.



PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Osteen Parent Meeting – January 13th, 2021

- Called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm
- We established quorum was not present
- Policy Council Representative was not present
- Tentative date was decided on February 24th for Parent Activity. Policy Council will have to give the final approval of the activity.
- Reminded parents that face masks must be worn at all times while on the property.
- Parents were also reminded not to leave small children in their cars when picking up their preschooler.
- Teachers request that parents be sure children have a change of clothes in the classroom and appropriate for the weather.
- January 18th No School
- January 25th No School
- Next Parent meeting February 10, 2021 at 4:00.
- Service Area Reports
- Teachers – Children are learning how to copy their name, count, and about recycling.
- Family Advocate – Ms. Annette is calling parents to assess family's needs and review goals.
- CDS – Discussed early release 1 time a month and VPK Pilot program.
- No Announcements from parents and staff
- Adjourned at 4:27pm

POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES

Policy Council met via Zoom today. The December PC minutes were approved. Eight pending hires were approved to proceed in the hiring process. FCP Manager Jaclyn Citarella provided ERSEA training with the Policy Council. Additionally the Updated Selection Criteria was presented and approved by the Policy Council. Jaclyn highlighted and reviewed the confidentiality of our Selection Criteria and personnel conduct policy regarding fraudulent documentation. I provided an overview of our 2020 Community Assessment and recommendations made. This was accepted. Brooksville and Spring Hill Parent Activities were accepted; as were the service area and center reports.

CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

The Mitten, Adapted and Illustrated by Jan Brett
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_bSw47XbK0&feature=youtu.be
My Neighbors and Their Simple Machines, Written by Erin Seagraves & Heather Baker
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNK92viWlms&t=51s>