



MARCH

HEAD START NEWS

Osteen Head Start Newsletter



CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

- FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS
- CONTACT INFORMATION
- MARK YOUR CALENDARS
- FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER
- A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS
- HOME LEARNING & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
- PARENT MEETING MINUTES
- POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES



FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: Jeamary Garcia

Can't believe March is already upon us. It seems like the months are flying by much too quickly. February was a flash and I am sure summer will be here in the blink of an eye. We had lots of exciting events that occurred in February and have much more to come in March. We are delighted with the progress of all our children at this point of the school year. All have totally excelled in all their preschool activities. Our staff feels so fortunate to have such delightful, bright and beautiful children. We also appreciate all of our parents' efforts on our behalf. Your participation and communication makes our job so much easier. Thank you for taking the time to allow the teachers to complete the home visits. March presents another fun filled and busy month in our center. We will continue to fill the student's days with a combination of fun activities, educational games and many other events.

Don't forget Daylight Savings Time starts on March 14, 2021. Set those clocks ahead one hour.



CONTACT US!

CDS: Jeamary Garcia (352) 279-2420

Family Advocate:

Annette Gregory (407) 324-3865

Cell: 386-956-3677

Classroom Phone Number

(407) 324-3865



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 3rd (Wednesday) – Early Release Day

March 19th (Friday) – In-Service / Student Holiday

March 22nd – 26th (Monday – Friday) – Spring Break

March 29th (Monday) – Classes Resume



Head Start
Mid Florida Community Services
Early Head Start

Let's Get
Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart



FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

By: Annette Gregory

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This time of year as many are getting their tax money back predatory lenders are looking for ways to help you spend it. A predatory lender is someone who uses unfair or abusive loan terms. They prey on the elderly, low income, and minorities. They look for people who are desperate. They can sometimes take the form of payday loans, car loans, tax refund anticipation loans or any type of consumer debt. So, how can you protect yourself against predatory lenders? The best way is to educate yourself against these practices. Stay clear of lenders who promise you an approved loan no matter what your credit and question fees and high interest rates. Do not sign any documents with blank spaces. These types of lenders prey on those that will have trouble repaying their loan because they will make their money off the additional late fees. Please, always check carefully into everything and never feel forced into a contract you are not sure about.

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

CLASSROOM 2

Classroom #2 Mrs. Lorraine and Mrs. Olga

Dear Parents/Guardians: In the month of March, we are continuing the study of Insects. Your children have been exploring the outside and investigating 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 an insect. 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.

CLASSROOM 3

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

Dear Parents/Guardians: Spring is the season of new beginnings, the earliest, usually the most attractive, period of the existence of something. Let's continue to set goals to achieve a positive change in our life. It's time to march right in to March! Throughout this month we will be studying Simple Machines (something that help you do work). They will learn how Simple Machines make our work easier and quicker. We will be exploring the six Simple Machines: Inclined Planes, Screws, Wedges, Wheels with Axles, Pulleys and Levers. We would also like to remind that Head Start hours are Monday – Friday from 7:45 AM to 2:00 PM. PLEASE have your child at school EVERYDAY.



PARENT MEETING MINUTES

No Parent Meeting during February, Family Advocate was sick.



POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES

On Thursday, February 25, 2021, MFCS HS/EHS Policy Council met via Zoom. New elections were held for the Chair and Vice Chair positions; these were filled. The Policy Council approved the January PC Minutes. Six prospective staff were approved to proceed with hiring. The following reports were approved: budgets, attendance, enrollment, and snack reports. Lastly, the following Parent Activities were approved: Osteen, Westside, and Easter Seals.



HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Home Learning Activity:

Props for Pretending - Stock a box with supplies that encourage your child to imagine herself in different roles. Your child's thinking may expand as she dresses up to play various parts. Why this is important: You can encourage your child to use pretending as a way of trying out situations she/he has not yet experienced. Pretending with props lets her practice future situations and make decisions as well as expand her creativity. What you do:

- Help your child gather and store the props she needs to play different roles. If possible, store each set of props in a separate box.
 - Keep the boxes where she can easily reach them on her own.
 - Try a few of these examples to get started: A box with dolls, cloths, baby bottle, aprons, pans, spoons, book bag, notepad, keys, tools, measuring tape, safety goggles, bandages, blanket, toy thermometer, etc.
- To be a parent, cook, office worker, builder, doctor or nurse, etc.
- Limit the contents of each box so that your child is not overwhelmed.
 - Add to or change the items in the box as you find more appropriate props.
 - Help your child get started: Can you think of a person who would use these pans and spoons?
 - Another idea: At cleanup time, ask your child to help put each item back in the appropriate box. She/he will need to think about what each object is used for in order to determine where it belongs.

Family Engagement Activity:

Our Story - Tell a story to your child, pausing at several points to let him/her add some parts. Your child's creativity will blossom as he/she thinks of new ideas and tries them out in storytelling. Why this is important - Creative storytelling provides a safe opportunity for your child to try out new ideas. When he/she adds ideas, he/she can use his/her imagination to change the outcome of the story. Telling a story is good preparation for the later task of creative writing.

What you do:

- Invite your child to join you in telling a story. For the first few times, you may need to tell the majority of the story, only pausing occasionally to encourage him to add a word or sentence.
- Begin a story with simple details: Once upon a time, a little rabbit was hopping down the forest path. He looked up in an oak tree, and he saw...
- Pause for your child's idea, then continue with the details he provides: Down came the squirrel and said, "Let's go to the...." Continue the story this way.
- Tell short stories until he feels comfortable and confident with this storytelling format.
- Wait for him/her to offer more information about the characters and plot. He/she may provide more than just a one- or two-word answer after several practice stories. Prompt him by asking, Did anything else happen?
- Use this game with your child and other family members by letting them take turns adding to the story.

CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! By Bob Barner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6HKKXuzOIk>

The Three Billy Goats Gruff By Neil Whitmann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4kdZTnizG4>