



MARCH 2021

# HEAD START NEWS

Spring Hill Head Start Newsletter



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## FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

**By: Ronjaneen Harris**

Parents, family members, and friends, thanks for all your involvement in the program. Last month was Black History Month and I constantly was reminded of a quote I heard so much as a child. It is "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste". This quote made me think about the minds of our children we serve daily. This is the time of their lives that their brain absorbs information like a sponge. First, we must understand that child development refers to the changes that occur as a child grows and develops in relation to being physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally sound, socially competent and ready to learn. According to research, the first five years of a child's life are fundamentally important. They are the foundation that shapes children's future health, happiness, growth, development and learning achievement at school, in the family and community, and in life in general. So, it is vital that we provide our children these early experiences. These experiences will then provide the base for their brain's organizational development and functioning throughout life. Research proves this has a direct impact on how children develop learning skills as well as social and emotional abilities. So, read with your child daily. Talk with him/her daily. Do the educational home activities with your child. Ask your child's teacher for suggestions. Call me, Ronjaneen Harris, for suggestions. Whatever you decide, make sure you give your child the gift of learning that keeps on giving. Visit your local library and ask their reference clerk what resources are available for your child. Also, make sure you check out the preschool reading programs they offer. Please visit <http://www.factsforlifeglobal.org/03/development.html> to help you better understand how children develop.



## CONTACT US!

CDS: Ronjaneen Harris 352-279-1599, Ext. 209  
Family Advocates: (352) 556-4800  
Lynda Kersey Ext. 2105 | Lynn Woerner Ext. 2203 | Nitza Jerez Ext. 2204

### Classroom Phone Number & Extensions

**(352) 556-4800**

Classroom 501 Shelley Mott and Olena McCumsey Ext. 2501  
Classroom 502 Jennifer Orlandi and Stefanie Cegar Ext. 2502  
Classroom 601 Theresa Nunez and Wanda Pagan Ext. 2601  
Classroom 602 Norma Padro and Lucia Quiles Ext. 2602  
Classroom 701 Sherry Harris and Mariani Suarez Ext. 2701  
Classroom 702 Zulma Colon and Diante Martin Ext. 2702  
Classroom 901 Amy French and Janet Thomas Ext. 2901  
Classroom 902 Shannon Farrell and Theresa Scott Ext. 2902



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dr. Seuss Birthday/Read Across America is March 2.  
Parent Meeting and Parent Activity is March 11 at 11:00am.  
Daylight Savings Day is March 14.  
March 15 -19 is Spring Break.  
Early release day is March 31 at 1:00pm.



Head Start  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Early Head Start

Let's Get  
Connected!



# FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

*By: Lynda Kersey, Lynn Woerner, and Nitza Jerez*

We thank everyone who attended our Parent Committee Meeting on February 16. We thank you for your support and patience as we all learn together and get use to technology! We want to remind you that our Parent Activity and parent meeting will be on March 11 at 11:00 a.m. We will soon send you a link and information for the zoom meeting. We will have a speaker doing a presentation about the importance of affirmations. You will also have the opportunity to pick up a small magnet board in the morning and decorate it before the meeting and show us your work. The board will be used for you to write affirmations words for your children. We are excited to see all of them! See you soon!



## CLASSROOM 502

This month, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. We will be working with letters V,Y, and X. Please work with your child on recognizing and spelling his/her name. We are working on rhyming words, writing and spelling the children's names (every morning), and numbers from 1-50. We have also introduced patterns using rhythm sticks. Please practice at home with your children. For the children that will be transitioning to kindergarten next school year, please work on letter sounds (especially the ones in their names), and number recognition. This month, we are starting a new lesson on gardening. There will be a letter that explains the study. ~Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stefanie

## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### CLASSROOM 501

This month, we will begin to cultivate our class garden and continue with the Garden Study. We will learn how to grow our own food and about healthy foods for our bodies. We will also learn about how flowers grow and the benefits flowers have on the environment. We will learn about the spring season and its attributes. In Second Step, we will be learning about the Fair Ways to Play which are: Play together (share), take turns, and trade toys and material. We will use these as solutions to help solve problems when conflicts arise. We hope everyone has a wonderful spring break and comes back refreshed and ready to continue learning. Thank you.

~Miss Shelley and Miss Olena

### CLASSROOM 601

Happy March! This month, our study is pets. We have started working with creating AB and ABC patterns. Please work with your child at home and point them out with your child when you see them! We also have been practicing rhyming in the classroom. In our Second Step, we are still working on using our words, but now speaking up and thinking of solutions to solve problems with peers. Please make sure to check dates posted on the classroom door of days off and activities we are doing in the classroom. We are encouraging all children to bring in their favorite books to the classroom to share. Please make sure to turn in home activities before the end of each month. Please talk to your teachers if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks! ~Mrs. Theresa and Mrs. Wanda

### CLASSROOM 602

March brings us wonderful projects. We enjoy the changing of the weather. This all ties right into the coming of spring. Our unit of study this month is "Wheels - Exploring the Topic: What do we know about wheels? What do we want to find out? And we will continue with our curriculum Second Step, learning to be better learners, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, and ask for help. Also, we are learning about Dr. Seuss. Not only are Dr. Seuss' books loved by children around the world, but they help to introduce the fundamentals of reading. With Dr. Seuss' simple word repetition and rhyming words, a child can easily begin to hear it, learn it, and read it. Thank you. ~Mrs. Norma and Mrs. Lucia

## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### CLASSROOM 701

We have started our study on Pets. We will find out what we know about pets, what kind of animals are pets, what are some of the characteristic of pets, where do pets live and what do pets eat. We will continue going over our letters and letter sounds. We will continue counting 1-25 and recognizing the numbers. Spring break is approaching fast. Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday the first week of March. Have fun and stay safe.

~Ms. Sherry & Ms. Mariani



### CLASSROOM 702

Greetings. This month, our study is about gardening. Gardening provides children with different skills and appreciation for the environment. The children will learn to recognize different gardening tools. They will have the opportunity to plant their favorite vegetables and see and appreciate how they grow. Furthermore, they will learn the importance of sunlight, water, and soil to make flowers and fruits grow. In the Second Step, we wait to take turns while waiting in line. We are working on primary colors, compound words, and recognizing upper and lowercase letters. ~Mrs. Zulma and Mr. Diante

### CLASSROOM 901

Hello. This month, we will continue working on the signs study in Creative Curriculum. We will be discussing where we see signs, how they help us, and who works with them. In Second Step, we will be discussing fair ways to play, having fun with our friends, inviting friends to play, and ways to join in with play. The children continue working on writing their names. Some of our friends are writing their first and last name. Also, we continue working on letter and number recognition and letter sounds. Please continue working on your child's learning skills at home. ~Mrs. Amy and Mrs. Janet

### CLASSROOM 902

Spring is here! This month, we will be studying insects. We will be learning about the different type of insects, where they live, what they eat, and how they change. After spring break, we will be getting caterpillars in our classroom to observe the life cycle. Once they turn into butterflies, we will release them as a class. We will also be planting a flower garden next to the ramp by our classroom the first week in March. The children will help water it and watch the flowers grow. We are working hard on writing our names and letters of the alphabet. Please have your child practice writing their name at home. ~Miss Shannon and Miss Theresa





## HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

How to make a Dr. Seuss Cat in the Hat.

Materials needed: \* Red and white construction paper, scissors, glue, pencil  
Cat in the Hat instructions:

Step 1. Take a large piece of red construction paper and make sure that it will fit around your child's head.

Step 2. With the scissors, cut the white construction paper into 1-inch strips and glue them onto the red construction paper. Make sure to leave a space on the red construction paper, so that it is red and white.

Step 3. Make a tube that will fit around the head and glue the edges together.

Step 4. Take a piece of white construction paper and trace the tube around it.

Step 5. Draw four tabs on the inside of the circle. Cut the circle out and the area in the circle avoiding the tabs that were drawn.

Step 6. Now cut out the outer rim...a bigger circle than what you traced and cut out.

Step 7. Glue the tabs to the inside of the red and white tube, so you can wear as a hat.



## CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

## PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Family Advocate Lynn Woerner welcomed the 13 parents and called the meeting to order.

- What's going on in the classroom was presented by Teacher Theresa Nunez from classroom 601
- Parent Eniebel Garcia ran and was voted in as Vice Chairperson.
- Family Advocate Lynn Woerner went over all the early release days and upcoming holidays.
- Family Advocate Nitza Jerez spoke about the upcoming Parent Activity and how we will be doing it via Zoom.
- Family Advocate Nitza Jerez also spoke about Summer VPK for the age eligible children.
- Nitza also introduced our Policy Council rep so the parents can go to her with ideas and concerns also.
- Family Advocate Lynn Woerner went over the Parent Curriculum Module 1 handouts.
- Family Advocates Nitza & Lynn presented their perfect attendance certificates.
- Family Advocate Lynn Woerner explained about the blue comment cards and where the parents can find them to fill out.
- Family Advocate Nitza Jerez went over questions & concerns and ended the meeting.

## 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.

Grandpa's Garden by Stella Fry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18cG0p0wEho>