



MAY

# HEAD START NEWS

Osteen Head Start Newsletter



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## FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: Jeamary Garcia

### Going to Kindergarten

It is hard to believe that this is our last newsletter. Our preschool year is winding down and many of our preschoolers will be off to kindergarten in the fall. Remember, going to school is a natural progression for children and most will be very ready to go. To help your child look forward to a new school, be sure to talk positively about attending kindergarten. Talk often about making new friends, learning new things, growing up, and becoming a "big boy or girl." Plan to attend your school's orientation with your child, visit your public library and read, read, read to your child over the summer months. Head Start "transition bags" contain some terrific ideas for learning new things and having big fun.

We thank you for entrusting your child to us this year. We have enjoyed working with all of the children in our care and have seen growth, development and skill acquisition in all of the boys and girls. We have also witnessed how the children have grown in the way they deal with frustration and the care and concern they express for one another.

This time last year we were rapidly getting our heads around life in a COVID-19 world. It's nice to have a little bit more normality this year. Thank you all for being patient with us as we navigate this temporary change to our school routines.

Thank you for being your child's first and most important teacher and working with us on behalf of your child. We thank you for your support throughout the year. We feel a close partnership with our parents and send you our best wishes.

Hoorah for preschoolers!!! We appreciate your support. Have a wonderful and safe summer!



## 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

May 12th (Wednesday) – Parent Meeting

May 19th (Wednesday) – Early Release Day

May 31st (Monday) – Holiday (Memorial Day)



Head Start  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Early Head Start

Let's Get  
Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart

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COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.  
**community  
Action**  
PARTNERSHIP  
ADVANCING COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

## FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

*By: Annette Gregory*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The end of the school year is right around the corner! Now is the time to register. We are currently working on paperwork for our children who will be returning in the fall for VPK. If you have not done your paperwork yet please schedule with Ms. Annette at 407-324-3865 to do so. If your child will be going on to kindergarten be sure to call their zoned school or look them up online to find out about kindergarten registration. Registration is currently in process for the elementary schools.

## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### CLASSROOM 2

Classroom #2 Mrs. Lorraine and Mrs. Olga

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the month of May, we will continue the study of trees. Questions we will be investigating are: What do you think we'll find under the trees on our site visit tomorrow? Have you ever seen a tree like this? (Display a photo of a deciduous tree). Which animal lives in a tree: an alligator or a squirrel? Who might have made this home in a tree? (Display a bird's nest or photo of one). Does this animal live in a tree? (Show an image of an animal that doesn't live in trees). Go outside and look at the trees around your area. Let your child tell you different things they see. Ask them questions and take notes on what they say. Give this information to us so we can add them to their assessments.

Thank you for all that you do with your child.

### CLASSROOM 3

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

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We cannot believe this school year is over, we will be missing everybody. In the month of May, we will study insects. Some of the questions that will be answered are: What are the characteristics of insects? Where do insects live? How do they live? What insects are in our community? We are going to continue reviewing Math concepts, Literacy concepts, Second Step Concepts, Music and Art.

It was a privilege to be the teachers of your children. We are thankful to all the parents that during this school year supported us. Our best wishes to those that begin a new school year in Kindergarten.

We wish you and your family to have a safe, healthy, and happy summer vacation!



## PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Osteen Parent Meeting – April 14th 2021

- Welcome, Meeting came to order at 4:05 p.m.
- We established lack of Quorum with 6 parents
- Ms. Annette introduced guest speaker, Ms. Wanda Lynch with UF Family Nutrition Program.
- Ms. Wanda presented “Cooking Matters”. Discussed how certain foods could be substituted when we do not have all the ingredients or to change up a recipe.
- Classroom #2 is currently studying trees.
- Classroom #3 is currently studying buildings, was not present.
- Family advocate is taking applications for the next school year as well as our rollover VPK children.
- Next parent meeting is scheduled for May 12th, 2021.
- Meeting Adjourned at 4:55 PM

## POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES

The April Policy Council met via Zoom today. The March Minutes were approved. Five proposed staff were approved for hire. The Attendance/Enrollment and Snack reports were Approved. Several policies and procedures were reviewed and accepted. The Bushnell and Holly Hill Parent Activities were approved as were all Center and Service Reports.



## HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### Home Learning Activity:

Same Sounds – Say some pairs of words and let your child tell you if their beginning sounds are the same (as in mouse and mat) or different (as in tall and pan). Through repeated playing, your child may begin to pay more attention to the important sounds that come at the beginnings of words.

Why this is important – By playing this game your child will practice focusing on the beginning sounds in words and she may begin using the words same and different in describing sounds and words. Hearing the beginning sounds of words is an important step in understanding that a word is made up of a series of sounds. The skill of hearing the individual sounds in words will be used later by your child in spelling and reading.

What you do:

- Invite your child to join you in a word game. Say, Listen to these words. Do they sound the same at the beginning? Or do they sound different? Mouse, mat.
- Repeat the words if your child seems unsure. Exaggerate the beginning sound: Listen again. Mmmouse, mmmat.
- Comment positively on your child's successes. Yes, they are the same beginning sound!
- Practice with one sound (such as m) until you feel your child fully understands the game.
- Add more words to the groupings as you play.
- Play this game throughout the day such as while riding in the car, taking a walk through the neighborhood, or while taking a bath.

### Family Engagement Activity:

Planting Together – Create a window garden with your child and talk with him about how you worked together to make the window garden grow. Your child will gain experience in cooperating and taking responsibility.

Why this is important – Completing one part of a group task is an early form of cooperation. By participating in a family project, your child will learn to be a partner in getting the job done. Those roles will carry over into school and, later, into his adult life.

What you do:

- Choose a sunny windowsill to grow a family garden together. If possible, you may create your garden outside.
- Make a list of needed items with your child and other members of the family, and together collect a few things such as seeds, potting soil, water, paper or plastic cups, etc.
- Begin by putting potting soil in each cup. Give your child as many opportunities to help as possible.
- Ask him to put the seeds in the cups. Choose seeds that sprout and grow quickly, such as green peas or any kind of bean. Demonstrate how to push the seed down into the soil.
- Explain to your child that the plant needs time to grow. Talk about how each plant needs soil, light, and water.
- Place a watering schedule near the window. Each person can take turns watering. Let your child check off his name on the schedule after his turn: You watered the plants when it was your turn. When we all remember our turns, the plants get what they need to grow.
- Let your child watch and imitate your care for the plants.
- Talk about how each plant is growing taller. Encourage your child to draw pictures of the plants to document the growth. Create more jobs involving the plants such as making stick supports for the plants.

## CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

[A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEoEEWEnool)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEoEEWEnool>

[I love Bugs by Philemon Sturges and Illustrated by Shari Halpern](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGxI6v-kIOY)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGxI6v-kIOY>