



JANUARY 2022

# HEAD START NEWS

Chisholm Early 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*

It is amazing how quickly the New Year comes and goes. I hope you had a wonderful break! I hope you all take time to be with your families and enjoy some sort of normalcy during this unusual time. We are already beginning to plan for next year! We are happy to see all your smiling faces back school. We wish you all a Happy 2022 and look forward to all the exciting events to come throughout the school year. As studies show it is important for children to stick to a routine, see the helpful information below.

Toy Safety Shopping Tips:

Buy the right toy for the right age child

Ages 3 through 5

Avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.

Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation "ASTM D-4236." This means the product has been reviewed by a toxicologist and, if necessary, labeled with cautionary information.

Teach older children to keep their toys away from their younger brothers and sisters.

READ THE LABEL....

Shopping for toys during the holidays can be exciting and fun, but it can also be frustrating. There can be thousands of toys to choose from in one store, and it's important to choose the right toy for the right age child. Toys that are meant for older children can be dangerous for younger children.



## CONTACT US!

CDS: Jeamary Garcia-(352) 279- 2420

Family Advocate: Denise Stratton Ext. 110

Office-(407)324-3865

Chisholm Center:

(386) 427- 8131

CL 1 Ext. 101, CL 3 Ext. 103



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 12th Parent Meeting at 1pm

Early Release Days: Head Start- January 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Dismissal at 1 pm and Early Head Start- January 12th at 1pm

No School: January 17th is Martin Luther King Day

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



Head Start  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Early Head Start

Let's Get  
Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart



## FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

*By: Denise Stratton*

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe we are starting a new year. As the school year is coming to an end we need to ensure your child's acceptance for the 2022-2023 school year. Please make sure to call and schedule an appointment to submit your applications. At this appointment we will need current proof of residency (current utility bill), proof of income (2021 W2 or tax return) and any updated physical and shot record documentation. As always, If I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to reach out.

Denise Stratton (FA)



### CLASSROOM 3

Welcome 2022! Hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and enjoyed this special time off with your families. This month we will be starting a new topic on Buildings. We still will be reviewing classroom rules. We will be focusing on letters L, H, I and T. The shapes we will be focusing on are circle, square and triangle shapes and the 3D shapes we will focus on the sphere and cylinder. The colors we will be learning/reviewing are purple, green, yellow and red. In Second Step we will be concentrating on following directions at school and being able to ask for what you need and want. We have enjoyed learning about your children and forming bonds with them. Thank you so much for sharing them with us!

Ms. Britnie and Mrs. Vicky



## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### CLASSROOM 1

Chisholm Early Head Start.

Happy Holidays everyone!!

Time to celebrate with our families and friends. While this happens, we can keep learning about SHOES at home. Our study will continue all the way until January 21, 2022. The children will be home for 2 weeks for Winter Break. During this Break we invite you to share with your child about many reasons why people wear shoes: Shoes help protect people's feet when they are outdoors, make it more comfortable to run and play sports. Talk to your child how bare feet feel different than wearing shoes, you can even explore walking with your child in Bare Feet. Create a sensory walk by filling several shallow bins or trays with different textured items, such as smooth rocks, pom-poms, a shaggy carpet square, leaves, and sponges. Invite your child to take off his shoes and socks. Say, we're not wearing any shoes. We're both barefoot! Demonstrate how to walk through the sensory walk, using self-talk to describe your actions: I'm going to step into each container gently. Oh, this pillow feels so soft on my bare feet! The carpet feels fuzzy. Invite your child to walk through the sensory walk and describe what you see him/her doing: You are stepping on the rocks. How do they feel? Always, communicate with your child. Explain what is happening? Keep the sensory walk materials nearby to use again, have fun and enjoy your holidays.

Ms. Amber and Ms. Maria Desko



## PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Introductions of teachers (Ms. Britnie and Ms. Amber). Policy counselor members that were interested in serving were Jill Coleman EHS and Kyle Phillabaum HS. We reminded them of dental status and informed them of Jeans Closet and Pantry. Meeting Minutes 1:15 pm to 1:25pm. Next meeting January 12th at 1pm.



## CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

## HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

**Early Head Start Families:** Create a sensory walk by filling several shallow bins or trays with different textured items, such as smooth rocks, pom-poms, a shaggy carpet square, leaves, and sponges. Allow you child to explain how they feel.

**Head Start Families: Count and Sort:** Sort household items with you children and then count each item in that group. You can even have you child name each group by the characteristics the possess.

## POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES

December Policy Council met via Zoom on December 16, 2021. Quorum was established with 13 community reps present. Heidi Rand, requested a change to the agenda to place Denise Mercado, Inclusion Coordinator on the agenda to present a training on Inclusion. Denise explained the process of the Inclusion Team reviewing every screening conducted on children and then reviewed with families and referred when needed. The inclusion team educates parents on the entire referral process to empower them to advocate for their child. If a child is under 3 they are referred to our partner Early Steps. If the child is over 3 they are referred to our partner Fiddlers on the Hernando County side and Child Time in Volusia. These partners come directly onsite and work with the teachers and child in the Head Start classroom. The Inclusion team also goes directly into the classrooms to observe students and work with teachers to assist with strategies and material usage through modeling. Denise mentioned that a higher number of children on the autism spectrum are being seen and due to this the inclusion team is being proactive and going through an autism spectrum navigator training through UCF to provide the highest quality support. The November meeting minutes were approved. Amy Thomas, Deputy Director of Children's Services, introduced Michelle Hann the new Education Manager for Hernando/Sumter County. The Budget and Credit Card statements were approved. The Enrollment, Attendance and Snack reports were approved. Tanya Hall, Deputy Director of Program Services, presented the Recruitment Action Plan and was passed. Heidi Rand presented and discussed the Temporary COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing, and Face Covering Policy. She stressed that this is a temporary plan and subject to change and be put on hold based on any changes from the Office of Head Start. Following an open discussion the vote was 8 yes and 6 no. The majority passed the temporary policy. Seth Williams, Health Manager, stressed that all of our regular health prevention strategies and our procedures with students currently in place would not change if the temporary COVID-19 policy is to be implemented or put on hold. Heidi Rand presented the Criteria for Selection of Children for 2022-2023 program year and was passed. Staffing Reports were presented for information purposes.

All Service Area and Center Reports were presented and approved. Next Policy Council meeting is Thursday, January 27, 2022.

[PETE THE CAT SAVES CHRISTMAS Read Aloud ~ Christmas Story ~ Christmas Books for Kids - YouTube](#)

[Elmo Five Senses Read Aloud - YouTube](#)