



JANUARY 2022

# HEAD START NEWS

Port Orange Head Start & Early Head Start Newsletter



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## FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: Pamela Fennett

It is amazing how quickly the New Year comes and goes. I hope you had a wonderful break! We are already beginning to plan for next year! We are happy to see all your smiling faces back at 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.

Last year, an estimated 226,100 children were treated in the U.S. hospital emergency rooms after toy-related incidents and 17 children died.

Ms. Pam



## CONTACT US!

CDS: Pamela Fennett C- 386-868-6609

Family Advocates:

Yvette Altman: C-386-523-7781

Office: 386-788-1088 Ext 110 & 111

Classroom Phone 386-788-1088

Extensions

1: 101 2: 102 3: 103 5: 105



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 4th – Classes Resume

January 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th - Early Release for H.S

January 5th - Parent Meeting @ 2:30 pm

January 12th – Early Release for EHS.

January 17th – No School/Martin Luther King Birthday



Head Start  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Early Head Start

Let's Get  
Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart



## FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

**By: Yvette Altman**



Welcome back: We hope that you enjoyed your Winter Break. We thank you for continuing to participate within our Head Start and Early Head start Program. We also would like to thank you for your understanding during these trying times. We encourage you to please join our parent meetings, via Teams. Dates will be provided. We do ask that you continue to update phone numbers and addresses if something has changed. We ask that you work on obtaining Shots, Physicals, and Dental exams if needed. If you need any assistance Please let me know as I will be more than happy to assist. Thank you, Yvette, Family Advocate for Head Start Early Head Start. 386-788-1088 Ext. 110

## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### HS CLASSROOM 1

**MS. BRIANNA & MS. APRIL**

We hope you had a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year! We are continuing our tree study in observing and comparing trees as we learn about what lives in them, what they're made from, and who cares for them. We encourage you to talk with your children about trees as they are all around us. If you can take a tree walk and talk about the leaves, bark, twigs, and flowers, you may see. As we investigate the learning of trees, we ask for your support in collecting things that have fallen from a tree, such as acorns, leaves, and cones or flowers and bringing them in to explore the items. Thank you so much for being so supportive as we continue to partner in achieving your child's educational goals.

### HS CLASSROOM 2

**MS. LYNN & MS. ARELIS**

Welcome Back!! We hope everyone enjoyed their Holiday. We are going to jump right back in and continue our lessons on Trees. We will also be working diligently on learning our name and how to write it, counting to 25, and expecting more responsibility. The children will be working on problem solving techniques, using our words, and being more independent and using self-help skills. The children will also continue working on letters, numbers, rhyming words, compound words, Winter, and number association. We plan to keep very busy. Also, change out your child's clothing that is in their cubby, the weather is getting cooler.

### EHS CLASSROOM 3

**MS. KASANE & MS. DI'SHENDA**

Welcome to the NEW YEAR!

I am happy to see everyone here and well, hoping you all enjoyed your holidays together. In this month of January, we are learning about lights. What are they used for, how do they work and how do you turn them on and off. This is something we all use every day and will always be important. This also ties into learning about dark and light. There will be activities sent home so you can do with each other.



### EHS CLASSROOM 5

**MS. JUANITA & MS. JESSICA**

The month of January signifies a New Beginning. We will explore this through planting seeds. Using technology to watch worms become butterflies. And mark our growth on a wall once a week to see how we grew over the month. We will experiment with mixing two colors to make a new one and we will have individual art projects that change as we add things or do something to them to make it a new work of art.

## HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

This is a game that you and your child can do together. Materials: plastic cups – red solo cups work great. Have your child build using the cups, stacking one on top of another, making different things. Your child can build and you copy it or reverse. You can also race and see who can stack the cups faster.

## 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.



## PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Parent meeting Minutes for Dec 9th 2021. Meeting opened at 3.05 PM. We had four parents in attendance. Items discussed were Ms. Pam updated us on our Playground. She states that things are starting to come in slowly but they are working on it. She also talked about the need of staff and she explained which positions were open and what was needed. We briefly touched on policy council and why they are needed and what they do. Yvette Spoke about getting child's dental updated if they have not done so. I also asked if they can update address and phone number as many families will be moving over the winter break. I also spoke about Changing out the clothing in the child's cubbies. I reminded parents about when we go out for Winter break, and when we return. We did also speak about what we wanted to do about our Parent Activity and provided some previous ideas so they will have an idea of what has been done and maybe a suggestion. We asked for volunteers to help clean out our garden on the side. Ms. Lynn spoke about what they are doing in the class. She has encouraged families to work with their children on a continuous basis as this really helps the children. Ms. Pam spoke about getting a grant for some soil, and plants for our garden. Parents have volunteered to work on the garden, and Ms. Lynn has also offered to send some kids with her or Mrs. Arelis to assist. We thanked all parents for their time, wished them a Happy Winter break and the Meeting was adjourned at 3. 20 PM.



## CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

Froggy's Best Christmas – By: Jonathan London

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFMroSB4Nas>

How to catch an Elf – By: Adam Wallace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lv9-e-8ftT>

