



JANUARY 2022

HEAD START NEWS

Woodward Head Start Newsletter



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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

Phone #:(352) 279-2420

E-mail: jgarcia@mfc.us.com

Family Advocate(s): Anna Triplett (386)-337-4820

Classroom Phone Number and Extension:

PreK ESE/Head Start Blended

(386)740-7910 ext. 21534



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

School will be resuming classes on January 4, 2022.

January 17- Holiday Martin Luther King



Head Start
Mid Florida Community Services
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FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

By: Anna Triplett

Christmas with toddlers

1. Keep your routines: If at all possible, keep your routines the same during the holiday season. It may not be a big deal to you, but a wacky schedule can wreak havoc on your little people and their sense of peace. Whether you are at home or away, try to have regular naps and bedtimes.
2. Stay home: Try not to drag your kids all over Kingdom Come. They'll do better if they're in calm, quiet surroundings. Be willing to say, "no," to one too many Christmas parties or other holiday events.
3. Lower the volume: Christmas can be noisy. Make an effort to keep noises low. Avoid the noises that will make your holiday less peaceful for you and your children.
4. Limit the presents: Most children don't need half of the presents that they get at the holidays. Too many toys make it hard for them to choose. It adds confusion to their minds.

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

CLASSROOM 1030

I hope everyone has enjoyed the Winter Break and ready for what this year 2022 has to bring to us. This month we will be talking about Awesome Animals! We will pay attention to what they look like, how they move, and where they live.

Ask children to think about the animals that they know. What animals live around you? Do you have any pets? What are they like?

Students will also work on retelling the sequence of the story.

We will continue to work on phonological awareness and alphabet knowledge to build a rich vocabulary and reinforce the Social and Emotional Curriculum emphasis on the theme, Counting games and name and sort by length.

We have been reading to the children's book "Your Mama is a Llama" so they understand more about the story and how the animals feel.

Together we can make a difference, Thank you! Juntos Podemos hacer la diferencia, Gracias!

Mrs. Aida Tua-Aviles Teacher /Mrs. Lidia Gonzalez Teacher Assistant



PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Greeting: FA Anna Triplett

Classroom update: Aida and Lydia

- We've been learning about community helpers. What they look like and what types of jobs they do. We've also been learning about recycling and the children have made a fun village using items from their lunch such as milk cartons and aluminum foil. The children have also made reindeer using their hand prints.

Lesson: Anna Triplet

- Topic: Traditions help bond us to those we love: traditions create positive memories for children. Children crave the warmth and promise that comes with traditions. They anchor family members to each other and provide a sense of belonging.



HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

We send home a literacy activity for the month of January. Student will read a book about animals and they tell the sequence of the story on their own words.

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.

CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION



Is your Mama a Llama? By Deborah Guarino/ Illustrated by Steven Kellogg

English Version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft0j76plrHQ>

Ingles con subtitles in Spanish <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhxiMzfWt9A>