



JANUARY 2022

HEAD START NEWS

Indian River 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!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 4 (Tuesday) – Classes Resume

Early Release days – 5, 12, 19, 26

January 17 (Monday) Martin Luther King Day – School closed



Head Start
Mid Florida Community Services
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Connected!



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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)



A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

CLASSROOM 210

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the month of January, we will begin with learning the color blue the shape of a rectangle and the concepts of big and little. We will introduce the numbers 6&7 and review 0-5. We will also be introducing the letter J, K, L and reviewing letters A-I. We continue to work on learning and writing letters, numbers and our feelings at school. We are working on taking turns and how to manage feelings not to get upset. We will be studying Animals such as Artic, Zoo and pets.



HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Home Learning Activity: Ask questions that will encourage your child to create a detailed person from playdough and craft materials. Your child will practice using his fine motor skills while thinking about the parts of a whole. Why is this important: Playing with playdough will increase your child's skills in using his fingers. Building a person helps him remember which parts make up a whole. This game supports your child's fine motor development while increasing his awareness of how the body is put together

What you do:

What you do Invite your child to make a person with playdough by offering a box of supplies such as popsicle sticks, toothpicks, buttons, and a variety of other small items. Make sure that younger children do not have access to the small parts that could be a choking hazard.

Ask your child, Which of these could you use to make a person? If needed, prompt him with questions such as, What could you use for the legs?

Notice how he selects items and attaches them in various ways to make a body.

Make encouraging comments to your child, but do not participate in the game. Let him choose and create his way: Those buttons make round black eyes. I see you're using popsicle sticks for legs. What a creative way to make a nose!

Family Engagement Activity: What's it for

As you look at various objects and pictures with your child, ask a question about the purpose of the item. Your child will practice grouping objects by thinking about what they are used for.

Why this is important Classifying items into groups is a basic way to organize our knowledge. Your child will have the chance to practice sorting as she hears the names of categories that explain the uses and functions of objects. By guiding your child to focus on items one at a time, you are showing her how to deal with big tasks slowly and systematically

What you do:

- Gather several objects or pictures of objects. Spread the objects out in front of your child and invite her to play.

- Start by saying, Some of these are things we can wear. Let's find out which ones.

- Let your child examine each object as you talk about it.

- Keep your questions age-appropriate. Use Yes/No questions if your child is unable to say more about an item. Confirm her answers to let her know that you understand her: You're right, I can't imagine anyone wearing a crayon! Let's put that over here in a pile of things you can't wear.

- Challenge your child to use each object, even if her first guess at classifying is incorrect. Can you wear that book on your head? No, I guess it goes in the other pile, right?

- Continue the game until all the objects are classified. Try categories such as things we ride, things we use to eat, things we read, etc.

PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Our next parent meeting will be January 12, 2022.
Please attend.

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.

[What Pet Should I Get by Dr. Seuss - Read Aloud Books for Children - YouTube](#)

[Kids Book Read Aloud: THE RAINBOW FISH by Marcus Pfister - YouTube](#)

CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION