



February Newsletter Head Start Blended @ Blue Lake Elementary School

For the month of February, we will begin with the theme “Construction Zone”. We will talk about the tools we know and the tools that are used in different jobs. The children will learn safety rules using tools and why it is important to have rules. We will review what **is** a community and what is **in** a community. In math, the children will be measuring and comparing height and length (long and short).

The letters we will focus on this month are B, M and R. We will use such words as build, construct, tools, machine, and size. Help your child find and share letters he/she knows when reading together and then practice the sounds.

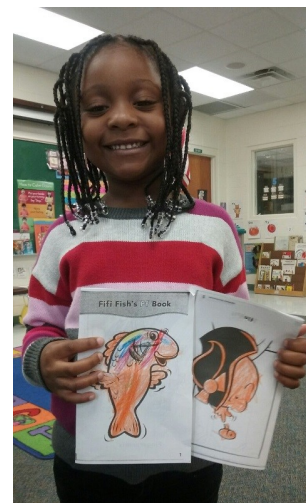
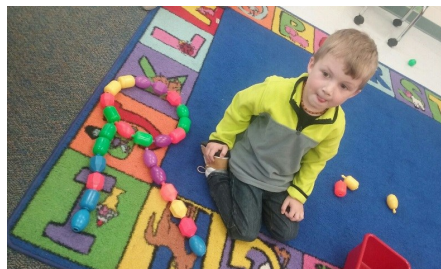
In Second Step, the topics will be all about play. The children will be learning how to invite others to play and how to join with a friend or in a group.

If you are going to be late or if your child is going to be absent, you can contact the teachers by calling 386-248-5883.

Ms. Marilyn and Ms. Anita

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Parent Meeting **February 7th at 8:00am**
- Parent Activity **February 15th at 11:15am**
- School make-up day **February 20th**



**PERFECT
ATTENDANCE**

for the month of:

December

Aidan C.

Amara L.

Karelis N.

Lexiel S.

Kevin V.

January

Ryan R.

Kevin V.



Hi Parents!

This month I would like to share with you some financial tips!

Hope they can help you!



Emergency Cash Options from Banks

If you find that you must borrow money, beware of alternative financial services providers that may promise quick cash; e.g., payday or car title loans come at a steep price and can trap you in debt.

Many banks offer reasonably priced, small loans that enable you to borrow money and repay the money (plus interest) later.

- * Talk to financial institutes in your community to see what options they may offer.
- * One example is a *line of credit*, which you can use to borrow money for a short period of time.
- * It is best to work with your bank to set up this type of account in advance instead of waiting until you are in a rush for cash.
- * As with any other line of credit, you will be told the APR (*annual percentage rate*) in advance of signing a formal agreement.
- * Be cautious of using fee-based overdraft programs to deliberately overdraw your account if you need cash quickly. The costs can quickly add up depending on the number of transactions covered. To learn more, read the interagency brochure *Protecting Yourself from Overdraft and Bounced-Check Fees*, available online at:

www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/bounce/default.htm.

Remember the parent meeting on the 1st Tuesday each month at 8:00am in the classroom, see you soon!

Nelir Ann Pagán

Family Advocate

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From the Desk of Dr. Marcy Guddemi, Child Development Specialist

Did you know that research shows when a child enters Kindergarten, there is a 30 Million Word Gap between children from more affluent homes and children from lower income homes? Children from lower income families heard about 616 words per hour, while those from working class families heard around 1,251 words per hour, and those from professional families heard roughly 2,153 words per hour. This Gap makes a profound difference in future school success.

Children need to be in a language rich environment and hear and use language. That is how they learn words and concepts. One technique to use at home and in the classroom is called Parallel Talk. This is simply narrating what you are doing for your child. "Today for breakfast we are having Cheerio's. First I need to get the bowl and spoon. I open the drawer to find the spoon. I am pouring the cereal into your bowl and now I am pouring the milk on top. I am going to sit down now so we can talk about what is going to happen today..." "Let's clean up. We are putting all the toys in the bucket for now; so that later, we can find them and play with them. One, two, three dolls; one, two, three trucks; etc, into the bucket we go." "Let's go for a walk. First we have to put on our coats. Let's button up; one, two, three, big round buttons. Now, Mommy is putting on her sweatshirt but I have a zipper and I have a hood. It is different from yours." It is so easy to just talk while you are doing things.

The study also pointed out that lower income children did not receive as much praise. Let your child know when he/she has done a good job. "I like the way you helped me set the table. Thank you so much!" "Good job on brushing your teeth. Now you have chased the bacteria away!" "I love you! You are the best son in the world."

Since Valentine's Day is coming up soon, fall in love with words and talk, talk, talk!





Policy Council

Policy Council update for January 2017

The January Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, January 26th at 10:00 am. It was a face to face meeting that was held in Leesburg. Thirteen policy council members (11 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

The following persons were approved for hire:

- Ivy Sebastian, Family Advocate (Volusia County)
- Tony Broxton, Family Advocate (Volusia County)
- Amanda Phillips, Teacher (Volusia County)
- Ja'kera Peterson, Program Substitute (Volusia County)
- Elizabeth Witt, Child Development Specialist (Volusia County)
- Kaitlin Burton, Teacher's Assistant (Volusia County)
- Lillie Shells, Program Substitute (Sumter County)
- Carlie Nelson, Teacher's Assistant (Sumter County)

The following reports were approved: Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Parent activity requests for the following sites were approved: Bushnell, Brooksville, Horizon, Westside, Pathways Port Orange, and Malloy.

Policy council members were advised of the update to the program's Selection Criteria which included an increase in the points for the following risk factors: homelessness, foster care, and having a family member in the household with a current IFSP or IEP. An updated Head Start Public Relations Plan was reviewed and approved. Materials for an age appropriate home safety program titled "Eddie the Eagle" were distributed following introduction and discussion of the program at a previous policy council meeting.

Our Disability Services Coordinator, Denise Thompson, led a training for policy council attendees. She explained the developmental screening process and how the program works with parents to make referrals to support children.

The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd at 10 am. It will be a video conference meeting.