



## Want to praise your child's teacher?

You can contact us via our website <https://www.midfloridaheadstart.com/> or by calling us: 1-888-277-0010

Director of Early Learning Services, Tanya Hall (THall@MFCS.US.com) Please also feel free to reach out to us should you have concerns about your child(ren)'s program.

## Phone Numbers

**Site Supervisor:** Jeamary Garcia

(352) 279-2420

**Family Advocate:** Cassandra Givens

(386) 681-7662

**Classroom Cellphone Number**

(386)-523-4287

**Teachers:**

Aida Tua- [atua@mfcs.us.com](mailto:atua@mfcs.us.com)

Katherine Santana – [ksantana@mfcs.us.com](mailto:ksantana@mfcs.us.com)

## From the Desk of your Interim Site Supervisor:

The safety of your children is always the most important aspect. We are super excited to have your children attending daily in the classrooms here at Mid Florida Community Service, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start. The education of your child is very important and you ensuring your child's attendance to school daily; helps to prove how important it is to you. Here at Head Start/Early Head Start we thrive on the education of your child and feel it is important that these first years of school for your child are stimulating and happy. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you might have so that we may know your child better and work with him/her more effectively. I especially want to assure families that phone calls to the school are always welcomed. You may call at any time to check on your child, especially if he/she had a difficult time separating from you. Just be aware that the teachers are busy interacting with the children and may not answer the phone right off. Please follow the prompts and leave a message, they will get back to you as soon as they can. Thank you again and welcome to the Head Start/Early Head Start Family. I would like to share that September is "Baby Safety" month.

*~ Pamela Fennett*



Head Start  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Early Head Start

MID FLORIDA  
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

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**community  
Action**  
PARTNERSHIP  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

## Message from your Family Advocate

A Message from Ms. Cassandra, FA *Welcome Back to School!!!*

I hope that each and every one had a wonderful summer. We missed the sounds of laughter and learning from our students! We had our 1st Parent Meeting for Woodward Ave. Elem. HS on August 25th. Many THANKS to the parents and staff that were in attendance and helped with making decisions on the day and times of future parent meetings. Parents, your participation is SOOOO APPRECIATED!!! THANK YOU-THANK YOU-THANK YOU!!! We are in NEED of CENTER OFFICERS for our monthly parent meetings. OFFICERS such as the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary and for the POLICY COUNCIL the POLICY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE. Please read over the flyers (sent by email) that describe the duties of each position and come to our September Parent Meeting. PARENTS, We Need You and Your Voice to represent —Woodward Ave. Head Start at our monthly meetings. Our next meeting will be on September 19th at 3:00 pm. Our meetings will be VIRTUALLY and I hope that you are able to attend. Please join us and make this year for our families and staff a whole lot of fun.

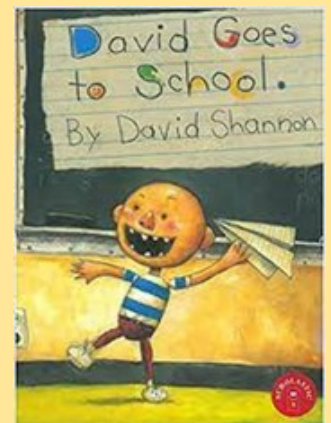
## Classroom News

On the Month of September, we are introducing different feelings to the children, Happy, Excited! Sad, and Angry. How to identify them and how to identify our feelings to feel better. The student will draw faces to show their feeling. We are introduced absent child by singing “We Wish You Well and “Welcome Back” when those they are absent came back to school. We are continuing the use of Second Step songs reinforcing the use of Listening rules and calming techniques from Conscious Discipline.

All the children enjoying getting know us better. They enjoy play with other peers, going to different areas. We continue working identify how many peers on each area, cleaning when you are done to move to another transition.

## eBook Suggestion

David Goes to School  
[https://  
www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=Qk7zCs-PaU4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qk7zCs-PaU4)





## Family Activities

### What should we do if we get sad or scared?

- Feeling Sad
- Show your child one of her dolls or stuffed animals and say, Oh no, I see that (Benny the Bunny) is frowning. He looks sad. What can we do to help him?
- Ask your child what helps her feel better when she feels strong emotions, e.g., asking for help, taking deep breaths, finding a toy that makes her feel better, or sharing how she feels with others.
- Encourage your child to choose a strategy that helps and practice using it with the doll or stuffed animal. You gave Benny a hug. It looks like he feels a little better now.

~What strategies did your child share that help her feel better when she is feeling strong emotions?

## Mark Your Calendar

- Labor Day School is closed—September/4
- Open House—September/21 - @ 5:30 -6:15
- Early Release Days: September/6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th



Robert John Jensen  
PHOTOGRAPHY

## Parent Connect Minutes

August 24, 2023

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Virtual for First Meeting

Information on Selecting Center Officers, Policy Council Representatives and Center Meeting

Times and Date

Staff: Cassandra Givens Hajj-Mak, Family Advocate

Site Supervisor: Pamela Fernet, Interim Site Supervisor

Educational Staff: Mrs. Aida Tua & Ms. Katherine Santana

Parents in Attendance: Carlene Lopez, Rachel Reed

### Welcome and Introduction:

Ms. Cassandra welcomed and thanked parents in attendance for coming to the 1<sup>st</sup> Parent meeting at Woodward Ave. Head Start. The parents that were able to attend virtually and FA thanked them for their time and willingness to participate. Due to technical difficulties, the parent made their responses by text/chat format. Ms. Cassandra thanked them for their willingness to be flexible and patient with our format. The parents in attendance stated that they would like to change meeting time, date and format of meetings. A majority of the parents in attendance stated that they would be open to having the parent meeting between the hours of 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm. The parents in attendance stated that they liked the Virtual meeting format due to the scheduling of other family obligations. Each parents typed in their viewpoint and agreed about the style of meetings. The center meetings will be held virtually on the third Tuesday of each month at 3 PM. The FA stated that she would be willing to send notice of agreed meeting day (ie: Tuesday) and time (ie: 2:30 pm) to the center parents by email. Due to the small number of parents attending the first meeting, Ms. Cassandra explained the process of selecting officers for the center and stated that if anyone is interested in any of the positions--Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Policy Council Representative. No positions were selected at this meeting. However, the FA encouraged parents to please reach out to her by the next parent meeting in order to think about being involved with the officers and select the rest of the center representatives. FA stated that she would have a duties list for them to review and encouraged them to become involved in our operation and understanding of Head Start at the center.

FA thanked the parents in attendance for turning in requested health information and other paperwork in a timely fashion and she stated that she will always try to inform them of items that are needed in plenty of time so that their children will not miss out on their time in school. FA stated that she sent out Parent Handbooks by email to those in attendance and encouraged them to read it. Ms. Cassandra gave a brief bio about herself, and invited the staff and parents to introduce themselves. Mrs. Aida and Ms. Katherine gave short bios of themselves. Ms. Pam, Site Supervisor, introduced herself, and stated that she would be available to them if they had any questions. The parents that tuned in also participated in the "Getting to know you" exercise. FA asked parents if they had any questions, comments or concerns about the center, or how their child was doing in class. The parents stated that they had no other questions. Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

# Policy Council Notes

**Meeting Date August 24th, 2023**

August Policy Council met via Zoom on August 24, 2023. Quorum was established with (9) policy council representatives present.

June 2023 Policy Council minutes were approved.

Welcome and Introductions presented by Tanya Hall, Director of Early Learning Programs. Michelle Hann, Education Manager for Hernando and Sumter County was introduced.

Budget and Credit Card reports reviewed by Tanya Hall. All approved.

Enrollment and attendance report reviewed by Jennifer Fowler, ERSEA Manager. All approved.

Meal & Snack reports for May & June 2023 reviewed by Seth Williams, Program Manager. All approved.

Information Memorandum reviewed by Tanya Hall. All approved.

Policies and Producers reviewed by Tanya Hall. All approved.

Staffing Reports & Acceptance of Service Area Reports reviewed by Tanya Hall.

Next Policy Council meeting is Thursday, September 28, 2023.