



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. Barbara

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Parent Meeting **February 8th at 8:00am**
- No school February 19th
- **Perfect attendance**



Liliana Hamilton
Tailyah Knight
Cole Lengyal
Mekhi Redding



From Your CDS

Pamela Fennett

Child Development Specialist



Hey mom and dad!!! Raising a smart child is easy!! According to the University of Melbourne Department of Early Childhood Development online article, one of the biggest things you can do to help your preschooler is to read to them. The frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment. Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e., language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life. Reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age 4-5 as being six months older. Reading to them 67 days per year has the same effect as being almost 12 months older. Children read to more frequently at age 4-5 achieve higher scores on the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for both Reading and Numeracy in Year 3 (age 8 to 9). · These differences in reading and cognitive skills are not related to the child's family background or home environment but are the direct result of how frequently they have been read to prior to starting school. You can read the online article at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/readtoyoungchild.pdf>

Help Your Child Become A Reader

Source: Readingrockets.com

Parents, who limit television, choose child care that is literacy-rich, and read and talk to their children often can help their children become readers. Learn about steps parents can take to promote reading in their children's lives.

1. Talk to your child
2. Read Aloud
3. Test your child's eyes and ears
4. Choose child care carefully
5. Ask the teacher about your child's reading
6. Limit TV watching
7. Create a reading corner
8. Visit the library
9. Show that you read
10. Join a family literacy program
11. Give books
12. Tap relatives
13. Attend book activities

Policy Council Update – January 2018

The January Policy Council Meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 25th at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg. Twelve policy council members, including MFCS Board Liaison, Evone Jackson, were present. Eight staff members were present.

Heidi Rand, Director of Early Learning Programs, stated that the Head Start budget information indicates no concerns.

Jeff Heyne, Quality Assurance Manager reported the overall attendance percentage for last month was 84.91%.

The following reports were approved: *Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers. Parent Activity requests* for Brooksville/Hernando and Coleman were approved. New hires for the following positions were approved:

Hernando: Teacher in Brooksville/Hernando ; Hernando: Substitute Teacher ; Hernando: Teacher in Spring Hill; Volusia: Extended day staff at Oakridge center ; Volusia: Substitute at Jo Sheppard ; Volusia: EHS Teacher at Malloy; Volusia: Family Advocate at Port Orange center ; Volusia: Center Aide in Volusia County ; Volusia: Teacher Assistant at EVEC ; Volusia: Teacher Assistant at Blue Lake ; Volusia: Nutrition Services Coordinator in Volusia County

Amy Thomas, Deputy Director of Children's Services, presented the Disability Services Policy and Procedures which were amended to reference the Early Head Start children. Jeff Heyne led a review of the new Selection Policy and Procedures and spoke about the Project Spotlight Policy and Procedures. A project spotlight ensures that all identified needs are met before a child is placed in a classroom. Every department signs off stating that the child is ready to start. Lastly, Heidi Rand presented the Impasse Procedure. The procedure is established to resolve any internal disputes.

Amy Thomas presented the updated School Readiness Goals. The updates include the addition of Language and Literacy Development, to support our ESL (English as a second language) children. A Spanish version of the goal sheet is available.

Amy Thomas conducted training on the Second Step Curriculum. This curriculum teaches children how to explain their emotions, control their behavior, listen, pay attention and get along with others. One of our classrooms is featured in the Second Step marketing video. Our Head Start classrooms have a weekly lesson from Second Step.

Heidi Rand facilitated eligibility training. The training included a review of eligibility types, the eligibility verification process, being sensitive to families and disciplinary action for unacceptable conduct from staff.

Carol Coffie, Deputy Director of Program Services, presented a PowerPoint on the Community Wide Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment. The review included the purpose of and process for conducting the assessment, assessment highlights and a summary of the assessment recommendations.

The top 3 needs identified by parents are Child Care, Employment and Housing. The top 3 needs of families identified by community partners are Housing, Employment and Medical Care.

The grant application for Early Head Start funding was reviewed by the council.

New EHS Classrooms will be opening soon at the Malloy site in DeLeon Springs, Hernando site in Brooksville and Chisholm site in New Smyrna.

The federal review is scheduled for the week of February 12th. Several guests will be visiting sites during this week.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd at 10am and will be conducted via video conference. Members will meet in the conference room at the administrative office in their county.

From the desk of Joseline Couto

Family Advocate (386) 774-1520

Coleman #2 and Blue Lake / Blended Classroom

Greeting to all my parents and children:

Let talk a little bit about February National Children's Dental Health. It is an important concept to encourage children to develop.

There are a lot of books that you can read with your child to teach children about their teeth and the importance of brushing; for example, Arthur's Tooth by Marc Brown and The Tooth Fairy by Kirsten Hall. There more books that you can look at the library, also activities in the web side DLTKs Crafts for Kids.

If you have referral for your child to go to the dentist, don't forget to make an appointment. Your child dental health is important to us. If you need help, I'm more tan welcome to assist you for. Thank you, and enjoy this month of International Friendship.

Saludos a todos mis padres y ninos:

Voy a hablarles un poquito sobre la celebracion de la Salud Dental de los ninos en febrero. Es un concepto que debemos estimular su desarrollo.

Hay una variedad de libros que pueden compartir con sus ninos(as) para ensenarles sobre los dientes y como cepillarse los dientes apropiadamente; por ejemplo, Arthur's Tooth by Marc Brown, y The Tooth Fairy by Kirsten Hall. Pueden buscar mas libros en la bibliteca o ir al web side DLTK's Crafts para nino (as)..

Si su nino(a) tiene un referido al dentista, no olvide hacer su cita. La salud dental de su nino (a) es importante para nosotros. Si necesita ayuda estoy mas que dispuesta en ayudarles. Gracias, y disfrute este mes de la Amistad Internacional.