



Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.

**HEAD START**

*A National Head Start Association Program of Excellence*

**Mission Statement**

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. is a partner in which low-income people are supported in their efforts to become self-sufficient.

# *Welcome*

## *Deltona Lakes/Head Start*



We wish you a stocking full of  
Happiness this Holiday Season

# *Newsletter*

*December, 2016*



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## Mission Statement

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Dear Parents,

November was a very busy month for us! We discussed the four seasons and observed all the changes this time of year brings. Children explored, observed, and described the seasonal changes.

December is finally here and it's a month full of wonderful holiday traditions from around the world. As this month zips by us, we will be discussing toy safety. The children will be singing holiday songs and participating in many multicultural activities. We will learn about the different ways the holidays are celebrated around the world through stories, crafts, cooking, and sharing our own traditions. There is a difference between *celebrating* a holiday and *teaching* about the different holidays. Our goal is to expose children to the many holidays that exist in order to encourage an understanding of diversity and a respect for others. The Head Start program teaches likenesses as well as differences. We look forward to seeing you in the classroom.

Happy Holiday  
Everybody!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 2016</b>				1	2	3
4	5	6 Field trip/ Parent Meeting 2:15pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 In-service Student Holiday	<b>Winter Break</b>		
25	26 <b>Winter</b>	27 <b>Break</b>	28	29	30	31
Notes:						

December 2016 Calendar Template available from [www.quickcalendartemplate.com](http://www.quickcalendartemplate.com)





## Family Advocate news

Hi parents,

On November 16, we held our annual health training: It's a Healthy Thing. First of all, thank you to all who attended. I'm sure you would agree that it was very informative as well as an awesome experience. As always, we were able to learn, grow and really enjoy the company of all other parents along with Head Start staff. Please stay tuned as we will inform you of other future parent trainings, events and meetings.

I also want to thank all those who have updated their family contacts and set family goals. If you have not yet completed these steps, please reach out to me as soon as possible, so we can better serve you as a family. I wish you all lots of joy and peace this coming holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 2017.

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

Dear Parents,

I am very happy to be working at Head Start! I worked for Head Start many years ago as a classroom teacher and Education Director. I truly believe that Head Start is an outstanding program, and children and families grow from their participation. So don't be LATE and don't be a NO SHOW. Help your child get to school every day on time and ready to learn.

As I have been observing in the classrooms, I have noticed the types of play that children are engaging in. You more than likely have heard that children learn through play. They learn different things with different types of play. For example, they learn about math with the building blocks: two squares are equal to one long block. Children learn science when they play with or use in art projects different objects from nature: feathers, pine cones, shells, seeds and nuts, leaves, etc. However, the most important play of all is pretend play. In pretend play children learn and practice language, they learn about self-control and turn-taking, and they learn about different roles and the rules that govern that role. For example, the receptionist makes the appointments and the nurses and doctors give the shots. Another important benefit of pretend play is how it helps the child cope with stress. Have you ever seen a child spank a baby doll or give the baby a shot? Help your child pretend play by taking a role yourself. Encourage your child to pretend.

For more about play, please talk to your child's teachers or your center/classroom CDS. In the meantime, Happy Holidays from all of us in Head Start!!





### Policy Council update for November 2016

The November Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am via video conference. Fifteen policy council members were present. A special welcome was extended to a new community policy council member, Carolyn Casler. Ms. Casler is employed by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco/Hernando counties.

The following persons were approved for hire:

**Jessyal Acevedo**, Teacher's Assistant - Hernando Head Start

**Megan Golembieski**, Program Substitute -Hernando/Sumter counties

**Jeamary Garcia**, Teacher - Horizon Head Start -Volusia County

**Brittany Jackson**, Extended Day Teacher - EVEC - Volusia County

**Juliette Santiago**, Family Advocate - Chisholm Head Start – Volusia County

Budget report training was conducted by Kris Bates, Chief Financial Officer of Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.

The following reports were approved: Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Staff will be asked to decrease the number of pictures included in center reports and increase the size of any pictures that are included in these reports.

An Information Memorandum recently issued by the Office of Head Start was reviewed. The memorandum highlighted new requirements in the Head Start Performance Standards. As a result of the memorandum, programs are prohibited from expelling or suspending a child due to the child's behavior.

A presentation on the Galileo curriculum was provided Child Development Specialist, Karen Bourbonnais. The twelve learning domains were reviewed. Additionally, information related to how the Galileo data can be easily accessed by parents and utilized by teachers and administrators to support the development of children in the program.

A series of changes to the Policy Council By laws were reviewed and approved during the meeting. The specific areas affected by these changes included:

*Family and Community Partnership*

*Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance - ERSEA*

*Health*

*Oral health*



The following **announcements** were made:

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. has purchased a new location at 233 Oakridge Street in Holly Hill, Florida.

The goal is to open the location at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. However, if we are awarded the Early Head Start grant, efforts will be made to open the new location in April 2017.

A large room at the Hernando Head Start building is currently being renovated to become a Training Room for use by Head Start staff and possibly community partners.





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# Field Trip



Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

@ 9:00 a.m.

35317 Huff Road Eustis, FL

