

April 2017

Program of Excellence

Volume 3—

Fun for Every-Bunny!



Bunny Cake

Bake 2 round layers of your favorite cake mix. Cool. Cut layers as shown below. Decorate with white icing, coconut and candies of your choice!



Using a can of biscuit dough, roll the dough into balls.. Refrigerate or put in freezer for a short time until cold.. With scissors, snip 2 bunny ears. Use the tip of a knife to poke eyes into the dough. Bake according to instructions on can until golden brown. Enjoy your bunny biscuits!

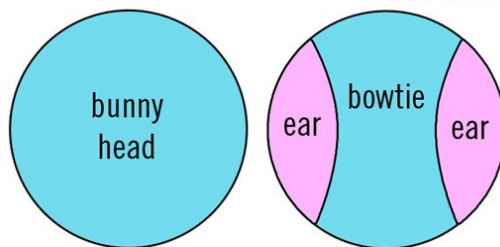


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Easter Bunny Cake Pattern

Adapted from Betty Crocker



Important Dates to Remember

- ⇒ April 12—"It's a Health Thing"
- ⇒ April 14—Parent Mtg.
- ⇒ April 18-22 Superdad Week
- ⇒ April 22—Earth Day
- ⇒ April 23—Passover Begins



From Your CDS

Susan Vega, CDS

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Suspected abuse can now be **reported online** as an alternative to calling the Department of Children and Families Child Abuse Hotline at **800-962-2873**. Both options are available 24 hours every day. Using the online system can save time in providing the department information needed to initiate an investigation quickly. Here is the link:

<https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/>

Statistics are not pretty. The United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations – losing more than four children on average every day to child abuse and neglect.

- ◆ Last year, there were 702,000 child victims of abuse and neglect.
- ◆ 3.2 Million cases of child abuse were investigated last year
- ◆ More than four children die every day as a result of child abuse.
- ◆ Last year 1,580 children died from abuse and neglect in the U.S.
- ◆ 72.3% of the child abuse victims die from neglect.
- ◆ 41.3 of the child abuse victims die from physical abuse.
- ◆ 44.2% of children who die from child abuse are under the age of 1.
- ◆ Over 70% of children who die from child abuse are under the age of 3.
- ◆ 75% of victims were neglected.
- ◆ 17% of victims were physically abused.
- ◆ 8.3 percent were of victims sexually abused.
- ◆ 6% were psychologically maltreated.¹
- ◆ The highest rates of child abuse occur under age one (24.4 per 1,000 children).
- ◆ More than one-quarter (27.4%) of victims were younger than 3 years.
- ◆ 526,744 suffered child abuse in the form of neglect.
- ◆ Over 58,000 reported cases of children being sexually abused.
- ◆ More than 90% of juvenile sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator.
- ◆ Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.
- ◆ It is estimated that between 50-60% of child fatalities due to maltreatment are not recorded as such on death certificates

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, MAKE THE CALL! You may be the child's last chance.

Parent to Parent

From Holly Olmo, classroom 602

Head Start has a wonderful environment for young children. The staff and teachers are very welcoming and always excited to see our children and ready to teach them new things in many ways. If we stop and think about it, our children feel the same way as the teachers and staff, excited and ready to learn.

It reminds me of when I was a little girl and attended Head Start. I remember all the bright colors, shapes, and numbers on the walls. The faces of all the friends I made. I will always have a lot of memories.

My favorite memory is my bond and friendship with my teacher, Rusty. She was a huge part of my childhood all the way up to grade school (3rd grade). We did just about everything together. She taught me how to play piano and was a big influence on me. She was a kind, loving, and caring person just like my son's teacher, Miss Shelley, and I hope they have or build the same bond as I did with my Head Start Teacher, Rusty.

This is why I love Head Start.

Thank you, Rusty!

Community Events

Blueberry Festival

<https://www.floridablueberryfestival.org/Florida%20Blueberry%20Festival%20Events.php>

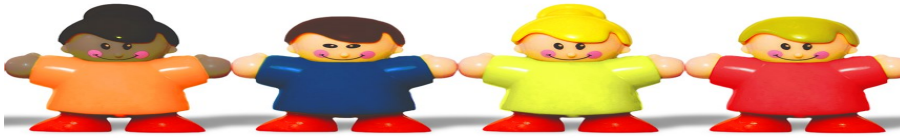
- Live Music Entertainment
- Street Entertainment
- Blueberry Kids Zone w/Curious George
- Artisans
- Food Concessions
- Beer Garden
- And more!



HOP 'N GLOW 2017

Saturday, Apr 15 Hernando County/Easter Event

Anderson Snow Park, 5:30-9P, \$3, At Gate \$5, Ages 3



Classroom News

301 In April classroom 301 have been enjoying watching the caterpillars turn into butterflies and making their own painted lady butterflies! Our USDA lesson this month will be about peaches. We will be having a Fun Father's day related Family involvement. We are also getting ready for Easter and our last few months of school. Please be sure to get home activities done and let's have a great month!

Ms. Nancy and Ms. Salyna

302 Happy April!! We are almost finished with the school year. The children are reviewing Second Step skills. Children are working on identifying letters of the alphabet and finding letters in simple words. The children are also working on identifying numbers and counting how many are in a group. The children will have two field trips this month. The 5th we will be going to Weeki Wachee and on the 17th to Whispering Pines water park.

Ms. Theresa & Ms. Maney

401 For the month of April our Class will be learning sight words, reviewing the alphabet, and continuing to prepare for Kindergarten. April 5th was

our trip to Weeki Wachee Springs. Thank you to the parents who joined us. Our class will be coloring eggs on April 12 at 1:30 with parent meeting to follow at 2:30. Parents I would like to remind you that drop off time is 8:15-8:30 and pick up from 2:15-2:30, aftercare starting at 2:45-5:30. Thanks parents for all you do!

Ms. Ericka & Ms. Olena

402 During the month of April we will be learning about peaches, Water and Rain, Counting, and Sports and Exercise. Our Parent Activity will be April 12th @ 1. We will be coloring eggs. We hope to see you there. On April 19th we will be going to Whispering Pines.

Ms. Maggie & Ms. Natalie

501 During the month of April we will be talking about different themes: Water and Rain, Let's Count and Sports and Exercise. We will be focusing on the letters: X, Y, Z, U, Q, E and K. I will like to say thank to all my parents for the support in the Male Involvement Activity and Parents Meeting.

Reminders: April 24 Inverness Whispering Pines /Field Trip

Ms. Samantha & Ms. Jackie

502 April will be another busy month in our classroom. We have a wonderful Egg Hunt planned for our

Male Involvement. Please do the homework, which is creating your child's basket for the hunt. This is a great opportunity for you to work with your child, to enhance their creativity and learn some new experiences. Nothing is better than one on one time with mom and dad. This month we will be starting off the lesson with a fun and edible activity with peaches. Let's count and sports and exercise our two additional themes. Our color is yellow and we will learning X, Y, Z and review some of our past letters.

Ms. Jeannie & Ms. Talia

601 School year is almost over but we still have a lot to learn. This month will be talking about water and rain, sports and exercise and how to take care of our planet Earth. We will be focusing on the letters U, X, Y, Z and K. Parents please remember that drop off time is 8:15-8:30 and pick up from 2:15-2:30, aftercare starting at 2:45-5:30. Thank you.

Ms. Costa & Ms. Rossi

602 Spring is in full swing! Our theme in April is "Let's Move". We will be learning about ways we can move our bodies and how exercise keeps us healthy and strong. In Second Step we will be reviewing our problem solving skills and The Fair Ways to Play. In our Nutrition curriculum we will be learning all about peaches and how they grow. We will be taking our final field trip to Whispering Pines Park "Puddle in the Pines" on April 12th. Hope to see you all there!

Ms. Shelley & Ms. Wanda

Where the Wild Things Are

On March 25th, the Wild Things were at Crews Lake Park in the Storybook Forest where MFCS Head Start and many other agencies and community partners set up very creative displays to celebrate their favorite children's book. Children and adults enjoyed making crafts and gathering "freebies" at all the booths. Ms. Jackie, F & CP manager, dressed up as Max! Thanks to all staff who worked so hard to make this a success and thank you to all parents who came out to enjoy the festivities and support Head Start!

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK





Fruit and Cheese Kabobs

Kids love helping out in the kitchen, and this recipe is easy enough for you and your child to do together.



You will need:

- * cheese cubes,
- * fruit cubes such as strawberries, pineapple, bananas, grapes, melon cubes,



April 6th was Beckwith Wiedmann Syndrome (BWS) Awareness Day and classroom 402 shone bright in their yellow t-shirts! The children also painted rocks and left the green and yellow rocks around the campus to help raise awareness.



Family Engagement

April is already here! Can you believe the year has gone by so fast.

Let me encourage you to help your child finish the school year strong.

Ask your teachers for ways to help at home. Reading books to your children always helps them build their vocabulary and shows them an interest in reading.

Play math games by counting items together.

Whatever you do just make school FUN!

**We will be looking for Super Dad this month so
be on the lookout!
Have a Great month!**

BE THE DIFFERENCE!

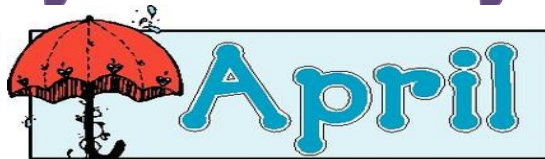
School Readiness/Parent Advocate

Luis Leon

Head Start Family Engagement Coordinator



News from your Family Advocates



We would like to thank our parents who attended our Spring Festival and give a huge thanks to the parents who cooked and provided food and drinks for parents and staff. Your hard work and generosity was greatly appreciated. Please share with your family and friends that we are now taking applications for the next school year. We are also taking applications for Early Head Start for ages six weeks old to three years old. Early Head Start will be at the Hernando Head Start location beginning in June and will be a year-round program.

Things to Remember

Don't forget to **call** if you are going to be absent (Family Advocate) or late (Teaching Team). The phone number for the center is 352-556-4800.

Room 301.....Ext. 2301
 Room 302.....Ext. 2302
 Room 401Ext. 2401
 Room 402.....Ext. 2402
 Room 501.....Ext. 2501
 Room 502.....Ext. 2502
 Room 601.....Ext. 2601
 Room 602.....Ext. 2602

Child Development Specialist:

Susan VegaExt. 2105

The phone number for the Family Advocate's office is 352-556-4800.

The extension for your advocate is:

301 and 302	Lynn Woerner	2203
401 and 402	Nitza Jerez	2204
501 and 502	Joanne Roth	2201
601	Joanne Roth	2201
602	Nitza Jerez	2204



Please reserve the disabled parking spaces for those with disabilities.

Please put litter in its place!
 Receptacles are located throughout the campus!



Dates to Remember

4/6/17.....Kindergarten Transition Meeting
 4/12/17.....Parent Committee Meeting at 2:00
 4/13/17...Wear Blue for Child Abuse Prevention
 4/14/17- Good Friday: NO SCHOOL
 4/17-4/21 Super Dad's Week

Spring Festival



Arrive before 8:30....

Don't be late!!! Pick up at 2:30

***Please note** Extended Care children **MUST** be picked up by 5:30 PM!!

NO Exceptions!!

March Parent Meeting Minutes



Meeting started with a welcome from Chairperson-Nicholas LoCicero.

Mr. Locicero reminded parents about upcoming events:

- *Spring Break- March 13-17
- *Spring Festival – March 24th
- *Story Book Forest Event – March 25th
- *Early Release day – March 29th
- *Next Parent Meeting –April 12th

Mr. Locicero introduced Ms. Vanessa Santiago and Sherry Fangio, case managers, from the CSBG Program at Mid Florida Community Services. They introduced their electric assistance program at Mid Florida and how they received new funds. They asked parents to stop by and request an appointment.

Mr. Locicero introducee the speaker from the Hernando Health Department, Valerie Cullum, Rd, LD/N who did a presentation about "Stretching your Food Dollar in Hard Economic Times" recognizing National Nutrition Month.

Mr. Locicero shared with parents about the classroom perfect attendance competition going on March. He shared with parents that the class with highest attendance will get a book for each child.

Mrs. Jerez spoke about the Spring Festival to take place on March 24th and what are the plans. She reminded parents the hours are 12:00 – 2p.m and other agencies that will be present with resources information. She explained classroom's need volunteers to help with the activities on the tables.

Mr. Locicero proceeds to share with parents about handouts attached to agenda with excellent information:

- Kindergarten Round Up – Reminded parent to attend the registration day scheduled for each school.
- Step Up For Students-Private Free Scholarship. Information was included about Income qualification and how to apply online
- Vita free income tax preparation

Mrs. Kim Frewin, Policy Council Representative, gave updates on attendance percentage from previous months.

Ms. Susan Vega reminded parent about the next Kindergarten Transition Meeting on March 28th.

Mr. Locicero reminded parents about how to find the school zoning from their kindergarten school by looking at infofinder.com

Parents were reminded to check Head Start Web page www.midfloridaheadstart.com

Ms. Marlene Perez spoke to parents about what is going on in the classroom.

Mrs. Jerez reminded parents that blue survey cards are available at the office if they have suggestions for management.

Children performed a song on the playground.



The March Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, March 23rd at 10:00 am. It was a video conference meeting. Policy Council members from Volusia County met at the Volusia Administration Conference Room in Deland. Policy Council members from Hernando and Sumter counties met at the Hernando Head Start Conference Room in Brooksville. Thirteen policy council members (9 parents and 4 community partner members) were present.

Two persons were approved for hire.

The following reports were approved/accepted: January 2017 Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center.

An overview of the *Second Step Curriculum* was provided by Damaris Conner, Education Manager. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about the puppets in their classroom.

Our Quality Assurance Manager - Jeff Heyne, presented the proposed Early Head Start program selection criteria. He explained the additional points available for foster care, homelessness and sibling in Head Start.

Heidi Rand announced that the program has been notified of its selection as an Early Head Start Grant Recipient. The grant will allow us to provide quality child care services to 112 children between birth and 3 years old. This funding will allow for new positions. The first phase of the program expansion will include opening 3 classrooms in Hernando and two classrooms in Volusia.

The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th at 10 am. It will be a face to face meeting at Holiday Inn Express in Leesburg, Florida.



April Birthdays



STAR PARENTS!!



301: None

302: 4/15 Izaiah
4/19 Dominique

401: None

402: 4/9 Nathan
4/24 Corderia



501: 4/16 Ah'Liyah

502: None

601: 4/17 Mason

602: 4/4 Ana
4/7 Kiyah

301: Louis Taylor, Crystal Farrell, Melissa MacTough, and Thressa Scott- Thank you For all your help!!!

302: Thank you to Mairiliz and Desiree for helping with the face painting during our spring festival!!

401: Yuliana Capo Rodriguez, Rene Carlton, Maria Rodriguez capo, Christy Rodgers, Lenette Torres, Milagros velez -Thanks for all the help and cooperation!

402: Thank you to Wendy Tittle for helping with our game for the Spring Fling. Thank you to Brian Benson, and Christy Bush for helping keep our class safe and together during the Spring Fling.

501: Thanks to Evelyn Pellot, Jahaira Hernandez, & Dominic Weddy!

502: Thank you to Nick and Raquel for helping with the spring festival Nick and Francisco helping with field day. Thank you to all the parents who participated in the field day for male Involvement.

601: Glenn Schoenmetz (Natalia's Grandfather) for helping set up the classroom in the morning.

602: Andrea Malave, mother of Antonio. She always has a positive attitude and comes to as many events as she can. She is very supportive and makes sure her boy always does a terrific job on his Home Activities. ☺

