



11.23.2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Coshocton County Head Start is committed to the safety and health of our students and staff. We hope that you and your family are well despite ongoing concerns over our current health pandemic. Due to the wide spread of the COVID-19 virus in our community, we have decided to take the following steps:

- Extending Thanksgiving break to include Monday, November 30th
- Going to virtual learning beginning on Tuesday, December 1st until further notice.

During this time of uncertainty, we would like you to know that we will be continuing to offer educational experiences and at home activity bags for students to work on at home. Here is a summary of what you may expect.

- Provide engaging online lessons via “CLASS TAG”.
- Offline Hands-on activities and experiences.
- Provide opportunities for students to hear their teacher’s voice, see their face, and connect.
- Weekly phone contacts.

Thank you for your continued support as we partner together to make continued educational progress during this closure. You can expect additional communication from me during the closure to provide additional information as it becomes available.

Well Wishes,

Susan Craddock

Executive Director



FROM THE DESK OF KENDRA LANGDON, EHS/HS FAMILY ADVOCATE

How to Share Books with Your Preschooler

Even children in preschool can enjoy books and learn from sharing books with parents. Sharing books with your children can help them learn to talk better and get them ready to listen and learn in school.

Making Books A Part of Your Child's Bedtime Routine

Set aside 20 to 30 minutes with the TV off for sharing books as part of your regular bedtime routine. Regular bedtime routines started when children are young help prevent future bedtime struggles. Teaching your children how to fall asleep alone by putting them in bed awake helps prevent future night wakings.

4 Year Olds Can:

- Tell you which books they want to share with you.
- Pretend to read a favorite book aloud to you.
- Tell you how a story is like things they have seen or done.
- Ask you questions about books you are enjoying together.
- “Correct” you if you skip a word or page in a favorite book.
- Tell you the story in a favorite book in their own words.
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What Parents Can Do:

- Find a quiet, comfortable place for book sharing.
- Ask your child to tell you about the pictures and the story.
- Respond with enthusiasm to your child's questions and comments.
- Ask your child to show you all the things in a picture that are alike in some way. You can say: “*Can you find all the blue things?*” or “*Show me all the things that can fly.*”
- Point out colors, shapes, numbers and letters in their books.
- Take your child to your local public library to borrow books or to enjoy *Story Time*.

(<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/preschool/Pages/How-to-Share-Books-with-Your-Preschooler.aspx>)



From the Desk of Debora Wolfe

Many parents this year have asked questions about speech and have expressed concerns about their child's speech. Therefore, I felt it necessary to explain the process in determining when a child should be referred to school districts or to the child's physician.

At the beginning of the year, each child receives an Early Screening Inventory, Devereux Early Childhood Assessment and an Articulation Screen. The Early Screening Inventory or as we call it 'ESI' screens for fine and gross motor, number concepts, verbal and auditory memory sequential, verbal expression and verbal reasoning. The Devereux Early Childhood or 'DECA' assesses a child social emotional resilience. How does a child handle disappointment? Does he or she try new activities or avoid them? Are they able to self-regulate or are there behavioral concerns? The Articulation Screen indicates whether a child pronounces a word correctly, omits sounds or substitutes sounds.

The Education Manager and I review the ESI's, while I also review the DECA's and Articulation Screens. Unfortunately, when a child does not pass the ESI or the Articulation Screen, it doesn't necessarily mean a child will qualify for IEP services. To qualify for an IEP, scores must be -2 deviations from the norm, which is a major delay. Therefore, more information must be gathered such as through observations additional screenings and teacher and parent concerns to name a few. During this time, children are placed in a monitoring status.

Children who are referred to the school districts will need additional information. A Family Advocate will contact families to go over information gathered, reason for further evaluation and address parental concerns. We will also need social security cards, birth certificates, custody papers, physicals, shot records and a signed consent form. This portion of the process can take many weeks if contact is not made with parents. Once all the information has been received and consent signed, it is scanned and emailed to the designated person at the school district. Myself or a family advocate will notify you that the referral was sent. Parents who do not want their children referred, they will be asked to sign a Denial Form, when they feel a referral is not warranted.

Children who have delays but not enough to qualify for IEP services can be referred to their physician. The physician can prescribe services for a speech evaluation, hearing assessment, physical therapy and/or occupational therapy.

As you can see, this process can be lengthy even when all goes well. It takes time to secure social security cards and other needed information required for further evaluation. It would help greatly to keep your phone numbers up-to-date with Head Start, so a staff member can reach you. We also have a text application that can be used as well.

I hope this article has been helpful with some of your questions and/or concerns. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me or your family advocate. Our goal for children is to be ready for Kindergarten academically and socially.

I wish you and your family well.

Debora J. Wolfe
Disabilities/Mental Health Manager



Hello Families,

Each of our preschool classrooms will be using Class Tag this school year. This program allows us to coordinate and communicate as we keep on top of deadlines, messages, get updates, and much more. You can receive messages from your child's teachers and send messages as well. We are beginning to use Class Tag now. If our program would need to go virtual, the teachers will be posting information and activities to keep you and your child(ren) engaged through distance learning. If you have not yet joined, be on the lookout for an invitation from your child's teachers. We feel this will allow us to have simple, open communication. As always, we appreciate all you do, especially during these challenging times.

We Wish You Well!

The Preschool Education Team



The Importance of a Dental Home

I'm sure you have noticed that Head Start feels it is very important for children to have a dental home. To have a dental home means to have an ongoing relationship with a dentist whom you go to every 6 months for cleanings and exams. A dentist needs to be on your child's health care team. It is important to start this relationship early in the child's life so they will be used to the procedures at the dentist. It is recommended that you take the child around their first birthday to a dentist for an exam and follow up for a cleaning and exam every six months.

It may be difficult to find a dentist who will see your child so young; but, we have a working relationship with MVHC Dental Clinic and they will see them and any pediatric dentist will see them. Part of my job as a Family Advocate is to help families keep on track with those visits. We often have dental days where we can schedule dental appointments with MVHC Dental Clinic for our Head Start children.

Sometimes MVHC will refer children to a pediatric dentist. A pediatric dentist has 2 years of schooling with children where a typical dentist only has 2 weeks of schooling with children. They are also able to do sedation for children who need dental treatments beyond what MVHC Dental Clinic can complete. Make sure to schedule them an appointment and take them as soon as possible if they give you a referral to get your child's dental treatments completed. If you need a list of pediatric dentists I do have a list of them available. Call me at 740-622-8665 if you would like to have one.

Mary McCune
Family Advocate
South Lawn



Take Care of you and your mental health

You may experience increased stress during this pandemic not to mention the holidays. Fear and anxiety can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions.

Get immediate help in a crisis

- Call 911
- Disaster Distress Hotline: 1-800-985-5990 (press 2 for Spanish), or text TalkWithUs for English or Hablanos for Spanish to 66746. Spanish speakers from Puerto Rico can text Hablanos to 1-787-339-2663.
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for English, 1-888-628-9454 for Spanish
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522
- National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4AChild (1-800-422-4453) or text 1-800-422-4453
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or Online
- Veteran's Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or Crisis Chat Text 8388255

It's more important than ever with all the isolation due to COVID- 19 that we keep in contact with our friends and family. Make a point to call and check on your loved ones. Video chat or Zoom can be a good way to stay in contact. Try to keep active by doing exercises that your child can do with you. Take a walk if the weather permits and bundle up. Just remember that self-care is very important for us all during the holidays and during this pandemic.



Policy Council

Policy Council is made up of Early Head Start and Head Start parents and community representatives, and may include parents of children previously enrolled in the program who are familiar with resources and services for Early Head Start and Head Start families. Policy Council is responsible for assisting in the direction of the program, in compliance with Head Start Performance Standards, and the Head Start Act (as amended December 12, 2007).

Policy Council generally meets at 5:00 PM on the **third Thursday** of each month. All parents are welcome to attend, but elected representatives are the only persons with voting privileges.

Due to COVID, the Policy Council meetings have been virtual meetings and will continue to be held virtually until further notice. The Link to the Monthly meeting is posted on Facebook.

Elections for new officers will be held in January. Information will be sent home to all family members.

Policy Council Schedule

December 17 th , 2020	Canceled
January 21 st , 2021	Zoom Meeting 5 pm
February 18 th , 2021	Zoom Meeting 5 pm
March 18 th , 2021	Zoom Meeting 5 pm
April 15 th , 2021	Zoom Meeting 5 pm
May 20 th , 2021	Zoom Meeting 5 pm
June 17 th , 2021	Zoom Meeting 5 pm
July 15 th , 2021	Zoom Meeting 5 pm
August 18 th , 2021	Zoom Meeting 5 pm