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The AWARE

Grand.NET Graduates!

Concerted Services, Inc. Child Development Services completed the second class of the **Grand.Net Project** "Lunch and Learn" sessions. This is the second year of a three year innovative grant project which was awarded to CSI to provide training to grandparents raising their grandchildren. Letta Cox, Resource Specialist, and Carol Clarke, Training/Literacy Coordinator, conducted the training sessions based on the "Going To School" curriculum. The "Going To School" series is based on the research of Drs. Craig and Sharon Ramsey and is designed for parents, guardians, grandparents and teachers of children ages 3-5 and has been featured on Georgia Public Television. Both Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Clarke are certified trainers for this curriculum.

Topics covered in the series included: How to Prepare Children for Big School; Your Unique Child; Stress and Wellness; Language and Literacy; Mentoring; the Academic and Social Sides of School; How to Protect, Guide and Limit; Your Unique Child and Child Safety.

Guest speakers included Zina Ponsell from Satilla Advocacy who spoke to the group about internet safety. Betty Bennett, Licensed Professional Counselor and Mental Health Consultant, spoke to the group about the importance of their mental health and the unique stresses to grandparents who are helping to raise their grandchildren.

Graduating were: Lorraine Drake, Renee Eason, Brenda Edenfield, Anthony Howard, Barbara Ivey, Sarah Jackson, Bettie Miller, Laura Roberts, Betty Reagin, Louvenia Smile and Mae Wright. Perfect Attendance Certificates were presented to: Renee Eason, Brenda Edenfield, Sarah Jackson, Bettie Miller, Louvenia Smiley, Mae Wright and Glenn Cox. Also attending were Laura Roberts, Belinda Reynolds and Evelyn Williams.

Ophelia Gaines, CSI Executive Director stated, "We are all very proud of the commitment of our grandparents in attending the training sessions and our program for receiving this innovative grant."

H1N1 Vaccine

The H1N1 vaccine (shots and nasal spray) was made available to children and staff at many of the sites. Children whose parents signed consent forms were able to receive the vaccine. In addition a number of staff received the vaccine.

Shannyia Moore Holds her friend, Destiny Blaine 's hand as Ms. Sharron from the Appling County Health Department administer the vaccine. "Don't be scared," Shannyia said, "I did it!"

MISSION:

TO PROVIDE A QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT TO MEET THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN TO ENSURE FUTURE EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS.

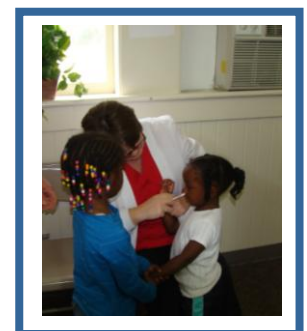


Participants pose for their official Grand.NET graduation photo.

Word of the Month:

Beginning

A starting or commencing.



Family Advocate Staff

Family Advocate staff work hard all during the year. In almost all cases they are the first contact families have with the program. They assist families with goal setting, community crisis management, referrals and more. During the holidays they work even harder as they assist parents through the holidays - by securing food baskets and/or gifts for the children.

Staff include: Joyce Mooney, Family Advocate Specialist and Gail Aldrich, Jessica Bacon, Joann Beecher, Rollace Burton, Angela Carr, LaGaye Carver, Jessica Crews, Kimberly Colson, Denise Darley, Ashli Davis, Lakeisha Edwards, Killeen Gonzalez, Janice Griffis, Demetria Holmes, Debra Howell, Tonya Jones, Patricia Jordan, Tracy Lomax, Angela McCauley, Reba McCuller, Rhonda McLeod, Diane Moore, Jennifer O'Driscoll, Belinda Reynolds and Lauren Simpson.



Family Advocate Staff work hard to assist our families all during the year.

Life on the Farm

Quack Quack - "What did you say." The children from the Coffee County Head Start center recently had some very special visitors. The Fort Valley State College Agriculture Department brought a number of animals to the center as part of "Farm Day." The children learned that animals live on farms, what they eat, and how the college students care for them.

The children enjoyed meeting their new friends and had a chance to pet a number of them. Geraldine Johnson, Center Manager, thanked Fort Valley State College for making the trip to visit the children.



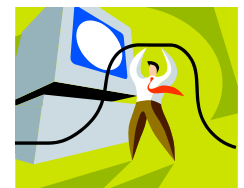
Chris Sanders from Fort Valley State College introduces his duck to the children.

Technology Committee

CSI Child Development Services Technology Committee meet regularly to review and make recommendations on security, purchases, hardware, inventory, software, and program updates. "Technology is every changing and we have to be prepared," reports Charlie Dial, Systems Specialist. CSI is looking into web conferencing and other ways for staff to communicate and streamline travel costs.



Technology Committee members: Suzanne Manning, Donald Griffin, Letta Cox, Phyllis Perry, Jessica Crews, Charlie Dial, Mary Fogle and Bonnie Gaskins.



Staff attending school are reminded to turn in their grades for the fall quarter/semester to Carol Clarke, Training Coordinator. Those who are registered for the winter quarter/semester are also required to provide documentation of the classes they are registered for to the Training Coordinator.

Santa's Helpers

CSI Child Development Services is proud of the collaborative partnerships with civic clubs, businesses, groups and organizations. During the holiday season many of these groups donated gifts to Head Start and Early Head Start children and families. Because of their generosity, many children woke up with smiles because they had something extra underneath the tree.

Children chosen to receive gifts were identified by the Family Advocate staff based on home visits and documented need. Thanks to the many individuals and groups that gave so generously to make the holidays brighter for our families.



Members of Leadership Waycross Alumni collected gifts at their annual Christmas Party. They have donated gifts to Head Start for over 10 years!



PEO, a philanthropic group, took time out of the holidays to donate gifts. Dot Hopkins and Leigh Ratliff posed for a picture at their annual Christmas party.



The Waycross Bar Association adopted 20 children - including siblings of our Head Start and Early Head families. Staff enjoyed assisting wrapping gifts.



Robin O'Mara, community volunteer, collected gifts for children in need by setting up collection barrels at local businesses.



The Eason family received a large food basket generously donated by Jones Medical Equipment Company. Pictured is grandmother, Renee Mason, dad, Moses Mason, and Head Start child, Malachi Eason. Mr. Mason's family experienced a recent fire in their home.

"The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving."
~ Albert Einstein

Jingle Bell Jog

A number of centers participated in the "Jingle Bell Jog." Children walked and "jogged" as they sang "Jingle Bells." Activities such as these enhance the "I Am Moving, I Am Learning" curriculum which helps to curtail childhood obesity. Centers had the children dress up and invited community volunteers and parents to participate.



On the left is Brandon Smith and Ian Martinez as they get ready for the "Jingle Bell Jog" at A.V. Kennedy Early Head Start. On the right is Taylor Lee of Jeff Davis County Head Start. Taylor won "Best Dressed" as she jogged around the track in her tree costume.

Turkey Trot

A number of the centers participated in events during the Thanksgiving holiday. Children and their parents participated in such events as the “Turkey Race,” “Turkey Jump” and the “Turkey Bean Bag Toss.” There was some healthy competition as parents tried to outrun each other in the “Turkey Trot.”

CSI Child Development Services incorporates physical activity and parent involvement as part of the “I am Moving, I Am Learning curriculum.”



Parents race to the finish line during the “Turkey Trot” held at the Appling County Head Start Center.

“Lack of activity destroys the good condition of every human being, while movement and methodical physical exercise save it and preserve it.”

~Plato

And the Winner is.....



Te'erra Lattimore and her entire family participated and attended the Derby Race.

It was a dash for the finish line. Competitors at Ware County Head Start Center lined up to race their hand painted wooden derby cars. Donald Griffin, Male Involvement Specialist assisted the children as they paired off to race at the starter gate of the two-laned track. E.S. Manning, Assistant Specialist, called the winner of each race. Parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends lined the track to cheer the racers on. It was a double elimination race, so the children were able to race their cars at least twice.

This event was planned to encourage fathers and families to spend time together preparing their child's car for the race. The children chose their racer from four different models. The children painted and decorated their cars at the center. Originality was evident when the cars were displayed at the beginning of the race. Cars were judged for the “Best Overall Appearance” before the races began. The winner of this category was Te'erra Lattimore with Simon Howell being the first runner-up. When the last lap of the race was run, Te'erra Lattimore came out victorious as the winner of the Head Start Racers Derby for the center. Steve Barnett came in a close second place. Additional derby races are planned at other sites this year.

CSI: A Part of the Community at the Heart of the Community



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