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NHSA Program of Achievement
November, 2010
VOLUME # 139

The AWARE

ERSEA Meeting

Performance Standard: 1305.6: (a) Each Head Start program must utilize a formal process for establishing selection criteria and for selecting children and families that considers all eligible applicants for Head Start services. The selection criteria must be based on those contained in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

Do you know what ERSEA stands for? It is Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance. Each year the ERSEA Committee meets to review and recommend the Selection Criteria Grid that will be used for the selection of the children for the next program year. The ERSEA Committee is made up of parents, staff, Policy Council, Governing Board members, as well as individuals from the community.

Letta Cox, Resource Specialist, reviewed the 2010 Community Assessment at the ERSEA Committee meeting on November 2, 2010. Joyce Mooney, Family Advocate Specialist, shared how the selection criteria grid is used; what determines eligibility; the recruitment process; the application process; attendance guidelines; and a review of last's year's eligibility grid. The committee made their recommendations for the 2011-2012 Selection Criteria grid and they will be taking it to the Policy Council and Governing Board for review and approval.

Governing Board members attending were: Wayne Crawford, Rose Bailey and Rev. Andy Velie. Policy Council Members: Shanna Hall (parent); George Nall (former Head Start guardian); Lisa Rigdon (Candler County Family Connections); and Mae Wright (grandparent). Community Partners attending were Jason Lefevre, Pierce County Family Connections; and Brandi Threat, Pierce County Department of Family & Children Services. Staff attending: Ophelia Gaines, Executive Director; Bonnie Gaskins, Child Development Services Director; Linda Steedley; Letta Cox; Joyce Mooney; Reba McCuller; Arlene Howard; Belinda Reynolds; Jessica Crews; LaKeisha Edwards and Carol Clarke. Pictured below left: Joyce Mooney presents information on the Selection Criteria Grid. Below right: Committee members review documents.

Concerted Services, Inc.
Child Development Services

Mission Statement:

to provide quality teaching and learning environments to meet the developmental needs of all children to ensure future educational success.

Vision Statement:

to be a national leader in childcare education and services.

Word of the
Month:

Grateful

Appreciative and
thankful.

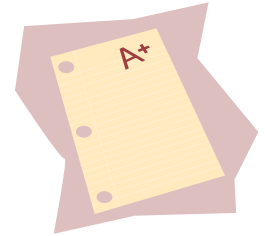



THE DREAM LIVES ON
CELEBRATING 45 Years of HEAD START

DECAL Licensing Visit

Congratulations to Toombs County Head Start. They received 100% on their November 5, 2010 visit from DECAL (Department of Early Care and Learning) licensing.

Great job Toombs County!



Save the Date - In-Service Training

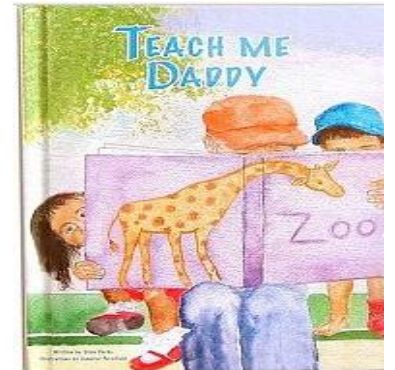


On Monday, January 3, 2011, the majority of staff will be attending in-service training. There will be a special Early Head Start track which will be held in Alma at the ABC Child Development Center. Topics will include: Ages and Stages; E-LAP (Early Learning Accomplishment Profile); and the ITERS (Infant and Toddler Environment Rating Scale).

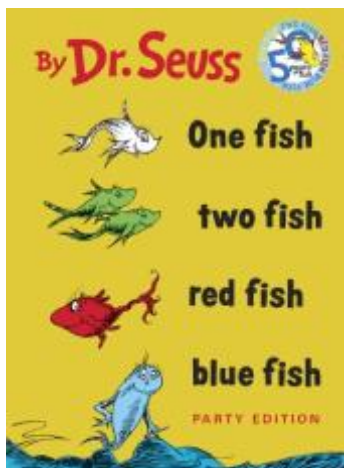
Head Start staff will attend training in Douglas at the Central Square Complex. Topics will include: Cultural Diversity; Transitions; and Outdoor Play. Bus Drivers, Bus Monitors and Family Advocates will also be attending training. Custodian and lunchroom staff will be working on the sites preparing for the centers to reopen from the holiday break.

Teach Me Daddy

All pre-school classrooms will participate in the "Teach Me Daddy" event on December 10th. The significant male in the child's life will be invited to spend time with their child in the classroom. All children will receive a free hardcover copy of the book, "Teach Me Daddy," by Steve Parks, which is a fun story written in rhyme. It talks about what fathers can teach their children through such topics as the stars, firemen, graduation as well as the special love between a child and their dad. There are also interactive activities for them to participate in. Please encourage the dads, granddads, uncles and step-dads to come and volunteer at the center that day and participate in the "Teach Me Daddy" event.



Happy Birthday "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish"



All pre-school classrooms will recognize the 50th birthday of the famed Dr. Seuss book, "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," on January 18th. For the last fifty years, this simple yet utterly silly book has beguiled beginning readers with exuberant illustration and easy-to-decode words. The book exercises a child's phonetic skills while sending the most important message of all - that reading is the most fun a person can possibly have!!!!

Each pre-school classroom will be receiving a special birthday edition of "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" for the event and to add to their classroom library.

Remember: "From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere!"

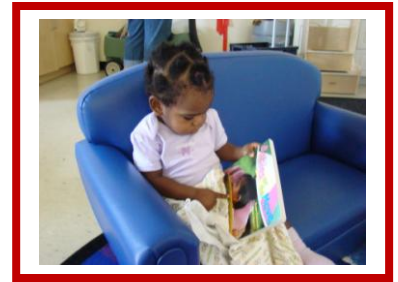
Reading Is Fundamental

The first RIF book distribution of the program year was a great success. Children had the opportunity to choose a free book to take home to start or add to their home library. Many thanks to all the centers for planning such great events.

On November 3, 2010 RIF celebrated 44 years of providing millions of books to millions of children. Our program's next book distribution will be held in January/February 2011. Keep up the good work!!!



Above: members of the Charlton County High School Early Childhood Education class volunteered for RIF. Below: Carol Clarke reads the "Plumpty Dumpty Pumpkin" in Clinch County.



Above: Mariah Sallett, from Pierce County Early Head Start is looking at her new book. Below: Cameron Sheets from Brantley County Early Head Start is all smiles with her teacher, Jena Hulett.



Kyndal Spencer and Justin McGowen, Jr. dress up as "leaves" at A.V. Kennedy Early Head Start.



Ronald McDonald

A number of sites had a special guest for the first Reading Is Fundamental book distribution - Ronald McDonald. "I'm Loving It with RIF" was the theme for the Appling, Bacon, Candler, Jeff Davis and Toombs counties, as Ronald read to the children "The Pout-Pout Fish in the Big-Big Dark," by Deborah Diesen.

"I Love To Read" were the magic words Ronald used whenever he did his magic tricks, which the children loved. The program teaches children about how much fun it is to read, encourages them to find time to read every day, and the importance of visiting your library. Ronald's entire performance for each event was underwritten by McDonald's owner, Tom Findlay, of Vidalia.

"We were especially excited to include the staff and children from the Jeff Davis Pre-K program and the ABC Child Development Center in the event," noted Carol Clarke, Literacy Coordinator. Mrs. Clarke will be arranging similar programs for other counties which are scheduled for later in the program year.



Above: children in Jeff Davis enjoyed a "ball toss." Below: Phyllis McClary, parent from Toombs County, was Ronald's assistant.



Above: Blake Thomas from Bacon County, was Ronald's "Official Page Turner." Below: Cedric Reynolds from Appling County, became a "bunny" during one of Ronald's magic tricks.



Campbells' Labels for Education

Campbell's Labels for Education has added a new partner to the long list of products that carry the "Labels for Education" code. Post Cereal such as Alpha Bits, Coco Puffs, and Shredded Wheat, just to name a few, have been added to the eligible products list. For a complete list of eligible products, and other important information, check out the web-site at: www.labelsforeducation.com.



Updated Eligible Product Flyers (in English and Spanish) are being sent to all the centers for posting. Remember to encourage all staff and families to keep turning in those labels. The more labels we collect, the more FREE merchandise we can order for the classrooms!

Fire Safety Training



Daryl Perritt, State certified trainer, puts the staff through their paces.

A number of staff attended Fire Safety Training on Monday, November 22, 2010. Daryl Perritt, State Certified Trainer, and member of the Waycross Fire Department, conducted the five-hour training. "We take seriously the health and safety of the children in our care," noted Bonnie Gaskins, Child Development Services Director. Fire Safety training is a DECAL licensing requirement and we mandate that all staff, including teaching, lunchroom, custodial and transportation staff, complete the training and pass the exam.

Thanksgiving Baskets

The Waycross Kiwanis Club, as part of the Young Children: Priority One Project, donated Thanksgiving baskets to four families in the Head Start/Early Head Start programs. The baskets contained fruit, vegetables, potatoes, rice, beans, cranberry sauce, stuffing, oatmeal, grits and other items which should feed each family for about a week. In addition, each family received a \$50 gift card to purchase a turkey and meat. Families chosen were identified by family advocate staff during home visits. The Waycross Kiwanis Club is a great supporter of the Head Start program. Due to their generosity four families will be able to have a special holiday.



Carol Clarke accepts food baskets from Kiwanis Club President, Toni Nelson. Carol is also a member of the Kiwanis Club.

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn;
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight;
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy;
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty;
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient;
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence;
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate;
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice;
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith;
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself;
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

---Dorothy Law Holte

The Early Edition

Potty Training

Want to know if the toddler in your care is ready to potty train? Here are some points to look for from About.com: Toddlers

- The child is staying dry for longer periods of time (often two hours or more). This indicates that her bladder capacity is increasing;
- The child recognizes when they are in the process of urinating. If you try to potty train before this time, you'll likely run into trouble, since the child isn't really aware of what she's doing and so is unable to control something they can't understand;
- The child is able to easily pull her pants up and down. She may not have had any reason to do so in the past, but luckily, of all the readiness factors, this skill is easily learned;
- The child can follow simple instructions. There are many steps to using the toilet that we take for granted as adults. For example-- go to the bathroom, turn on the light, pull down your pants and underwear, sit on the potty, wipe your bottom, flush the toilet, wash your hands-- the list goes on, so this is a very important skill;
- The child is able to sit and engage in an activity for several minutes without becoming distracted or irritable;
- The child is walking and running well. Because the urge to potty is often sudden in toddlers, and because a potty isn't always steps away, it's important for your child to be able to make it to the toilet before an accident occurs; and
- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, your child shows interest and desire. Interest in keeping dry or clean. Interest in wearing "big kid" underwear. Interest in what you're doing when you go potty and a desire to do what you're doing.



Remember, age is not the most important factor. Potty training will be best accomplished when your child's physical and emotional development are taken into account as well.

On The Move

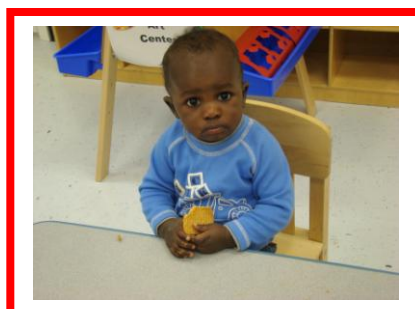


Moving has begun at the Hazzard Hill Early Head Start Center. "We are so excited to be moving in," noted Bonnie Gaskins, Director. "Moving should be completed over the Christmas holidays and we look forward to inviting everyone to the new site."

The contact information for the new location is:

1403 Pendergast Street
Waycross, Georgia 31501
(912)490-0201

Pictured above is eight month old Akeem Jenkins, as he is greeted by his teacher, Amber Edwards. Akeem is enjoying his new classroom at Hazzard Hill. His mom, Shanandria Jenkins, is a senior at Ware County High School. "Because of the Early Head Start Program I have been able to stay in school," reports Ms. Jenkins. Ms. Jenkins plans on studying cosmetology after she graduates.



Braylen Hall is adjusting to his new classroom at Hazzard Hill.

Resource Information

Training On Demand

CSI Child Development Services has the option of providing Early Childhood Training on Demand. The courses are two hours each and each course has a test that must be taken at the end of the session. Each course costs \$15.00 for the certificate. The trainings are DECAL and CEU approved. There are CDs available for staff to check out, the software can be downloaded on the lab computers, or courses can be taken online. Staff members interested in taking any of these training sessions, should contact Letta Cox, Resource Specialist, so necessary arrangements can be made. Lead Teachers/Center Coordinators have a full listing of the topics available, some of which include: Developmental Ages and Stages; Autism; SIDS; ADHD; Bullying; Food Safety; Essential Communication Skills; Shaken Baby Syndrome; and Working with Parents.

On-Line Classes

A number of staff have been requesting information on programs that can be completed on-line. Check out the Georgia Virtual Technical College at: www.gvtc.org. All of the Technical Colleges of Georgia that offer programs, totally on-line, are listed there. And best of all they are HOPE eligible! In addition, if you work for a DECAL licensed site and attend any of those schools you may be eligible for scholarships through Care Solutions. Please contact Carol Clarke for additional information.

All staff that are attending school are reminded that they are **REQUIRED** to provide documentation of what program/classes they are currently taking as well as copies of their final grades to Carol Clarke, Training Coordinator.

Concerted Services, Inc. Mission:

To empower people to become self-sufficient by instilling hope through advocacy, partnerships, and services that promote economic and family stability.

Concerted Services, Inc. Vision:

Concerted Services, Inc. will become Southeast Georgia's leader in helping people achieve self sufficiency.

Concerted Services, Inc.
A Part of your Community at the
Heart of your Community



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