



# JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs



# SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and Staff,

As we approach the end of another remarkable year throughout our Early Childhood Programs I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our collective achievements, express my heartfelt gratitude, and share exciting updates for the year ahead.

First and foremost, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all the parents and staff who have been an integral part of our Head Start family. Your unwavering dedication, passion, and support have played a pivotal role in creating a nurturing and thriving learning environment for our children. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and overcome challenges, making a positive impact on the lives of our students.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed incredible growth and development among our children. Their enthusiasm for learning, creativity, and curiosity have been a constant source of inspiration. It is a testament to the love, care, and guidance provided by our exceptional staff who have gone above and beyond to ensure each child's success. Your commitment to their well-being and education is truly commendable.

I am thrilled to share that this year has been filled with numerous accomplishments. Our students have achieved significant academic milestones, demonstrating their progress and readiness for future educational endeavors. We have also successfully implemented innovative programs and initiatives that have enhanced the quality of education and enriched the overall learning experience.

Of course, the journey hasn't been without its challenges. However, it is through our collective efforts and collaborative spirit that we have overcome obstacles, finding solutions that have strengthened our program and propelled us forward. Your resilience, adaptability, and commitment to our mission have been remarkable, and I am immensely proud of each and every one of you.

Looking ahead, I am excited to share some exciting plans for the upcoming year. We are dedicated to continuous improvement and will be implementing new curriculum enhancements and professional development opportunities for our staff. We are committed to staying at the forefront of early childhood education, ensuring our students receive the best possible start in their educational journey.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our incredible parents. Your partnership and involvement in your child's education have been invaluable. Whether through volunteering, attending workshops, or providing feedback, your dedication to your child's growth and development has made a significant impact. We appreciate your trust and collaboration, and we look forward to further strengthening our partnership in the future.

To our exceptional staff, I want to extend my deepest thanks for your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts. Your passion, expertise, and love for our children are truly inspiring. Your dedication to their success and well-being is evident in every interaction, and I am grateful to have such a talented and caring team by my side.

As we conclude this year, let us celebrate the achievements, growth, and milestones we have accomplished together. I am confident that with our collective strength, determination, and shared vision, we will continue to provide the highest quality of education and support for our children and families.

Thank you once again for your incredible contributions and for being a part of the Head Start/Early Head Program family. I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating summer break filled with joy and laughter. We look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting year of growth and success.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Pamela Thomas

## ERSEA

### New students Enrollment

- Early Head Start / CCP all sites from Monday, June 3rd to Friday June 7th, 2024
- Picayune Head Start & SSL: Tuesday June 4th to Thursday 6th, 2024
- Poplarville Head Start Friday 8th, 2024

### Mandatory Parent orientation Meeting at Picayune School District Auditorium

- Tuesday, June 25th Morning Session (9:30 – 11:30) Afternoon session (1:30 – 3:30)
- Wednesday 26th, Morning Session (9:30 – 11:30) Afternoon session (1:30 – 3:30)
- Thursday 27th 9:30 – 11:30 Only Morning session

Attendance is required at only one session

\*\*\*\*\* Please make arrangements for child care during both events \*\*\*\*\*

# EDUCATION – EHS / CCP



Early Childhood Tips from Early Head Start Education Services  
May Edition

**"Play is our brain's favorite way of learning."** "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." "Children have always learned and created places for themselves through play." Children need the freedom and time to play

#### Summer Fun!

Summer is the perfect time of year to engage your little learners with activities that encourage them to explore, move, and learn. There are all sorts of summer fun and learning for infants and toddlers to do—the world is their oyster. When thinking of summer activities for infants and toddlers, remember they don't need fancy to have fun. Infants and toddlers need simple, easy, and open ended activities—they don't need lots of frills. Playing is learning, and they're going to play all summer long.

#### Safety First

Making sure infants' and toddlers' outside environment is safe is an important first step to enjoying the outdoors. Here are some ideas: 1) Avoid the heat of the day, 10am—2pm. 2) Dawn and dusk are mosquito time! 3) Eliminate standing water—mosquitoes and flies love to breed in little pools of water.

#### Keep Babies and Toddlers Cool

Here are some ways you can keep little ones cool during hot summer days. 1) Shade—have plenty of shade. 2) Water—bring water bottles and sippy cups along. 3) Cool cotton clothes—breathe better. 4) Hats—to help cover face and 5) Sunscreen—infant approved sunscreen on arms, legs, and neck only (can get in their eyes)

#### Summertime Playtime Fun

Here are some ways to introduce your little ones to the fun of the outdoors:

- 1) Show all the new textures around them—Let them feel the grass, sand and dirt with their hands and feet. They wash off.
- 2) Bugs! - Show them ants, caterpillars, and other bugs. Give them the impression they are fun, instead of scary.
- 3) Naming Game—Name every new thing they see. This will extend their language and their interest with the outdoors.
- 4) Ball Play—Bring balls of various sizes so you can catch and or kick
- 5) Bubbles—Bubbles are an infant and toddler favorite
- 6) Color Games—Show them all the interesting outdoor colors
- 7) Stop and Smell the Roses—Teach them to experience the sense of smell with fragrant flowers
- 8) Walks—Great time to talk about what they are seeing, and get a little exercise in the process

PSD EHS Education Team,  
EHS ED Manager: Charlotte Nixon, B.S.  
CCP Ed Manager: Robette Watts, M.S.  
Mentor Coach: Kaycee Schielder, B.S.

# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH 2024



## Family Service Department June 2024 Newsletter

Family Service Department would like to express our gratitude for such an awesome 23-24 school year. The school year has come to an end and we would like to express our gratitude for all the hard work that you put into 2023-2024 to make it successful. As we approach the summer months we would like to continue offering resources that can support the child's development and enhance family engagement. We ask that you continue to use learning genie throughout the summer to keep you child engaged in learning. This year the parents showed there support in many ways for their children. It is my honor to update you with the Family Service edition of the newsletter.

#### Spotlight

**We would like to take this opportunity to spotlight our Parents of the Early Head Start / Head Start Program. Thank you for all the support that you have contributed in the 2023-2024 school year. It has been more than a pleasure to serve your children to better their education. Without your support the events, that was held throughout the year would not have been a success without your help. Thank you for everything that you have done within this school year.**

#### In-Kind

Completing your in-kind daily is very important. It is important that you continue to complete you're in-kinds though the summer months, so that I goal will be met at the end of the physical school year. The month of April was another great month for Early Head Start/ Head Start. I am pleased to announce that we had some classrooms & Sites that reached their goals for the month of April.

**Annie's: (Goal) 13,238.68 (Actual)13,758.89**

**Early Head Start Rosa: (Goal) 14,190.27 - (Actual) 27,024.92**

**Pre-K: (Goal) 6,087.59 (Actual) 10,443.80**

**Picayune Head Start: (Goal) 10,642.75 (Actual) 15,407.89**

**Poplarville Head Start: (Goal) 4,561.18 (Actual) 5,160.11**

Thank you for all you have done to accomplish your goals. Lets' continue to work hard and keep the good work up.

#### REMINDERS:

- Please complete your end of the year Survey
- Please continue to complete in-kinds doing the summer months
- Mandatory Parent Orientation (Tuesday) June 25 Session 1 9:30- 11:30 Session 2 1:30 -3:30 (Wednesday) June 26 Session 1 9:30-11:30 Session 2 1:30-3:30 (Thursday) June 27 Session 1 (9:30 – 11:30)

The end of the year is finally here. Family Service would like to extend our gratitude to our parents and say thank you for the support you have shown this year in the Early Head Start / Head Start Program. It is important that our parents take part in their child's early education experience and we appreciate all that you do. Family Service is always available to assist you in any way possible just feel free to stop by the Family Advocate Office or the Family Community Engagement Managers office to express any concerns. We have made it to the end of the stretch for this year so let's continue to complete our in-kind daily. Thank you for all your support and if you have any concern please feel free to contact our department at anytime.

## Sun Safety: Information for Parents About Sunburn & Sunscreen

Warm, sunny days are wonderful. It's good for children to spend time playing and exercising outdoors, and it's important they enjoy it safely. Here are some tips on how to help keep your family safe from too much exposure to the sun's harmful rays.

### Simple rules to protect your family from sunburns

- Keep babies ([English/ages-stages/baby/bathing-skin-care/Pages/Baby-Sunburn-Prevention.aspx](#)) younger than 6 months out of direct sunlight. Find shade under a tree, an umbrella, or the stroller canopy.
- When possible, dress yourself and your children in cool, comfortable clothing that covers the body, such as lightweight cotton pants, long-sleeved shirts, and hats.
- Select clothes made with a tight weave; they protect better than clothes with a looser weave. If you're not sure how tight a fabric's weave is, hold it up to see how much light shines through. The less light, the better. Or you can look for protective clothing labeled with an Ultraviolet Protection Factor (UPF).
- Wear a hat with an all-around 3-inch brim to shield the face, ears, and back of the neck.
- Limit your sun exposure between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm when UV rays are strongest.
- Wear sunglasses with at least 99% UV protection. Look for youth-sized sunglasses with UV protection for your child.
- Use sunscreen.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows how to protect his or her skin and eyes. Remember to set a good example by practicing sun safety yourself.



### Sunscreen

Sunscreen can help protect the skin from sunburn and some skin cancers ([English/health-issues/conditions/cancer/Pages/The-Major-Types-of-Skin-Cancer.aspx](#)) but only if used correctly. Keep in mind that sunscreen should be used for sun protection, not as a reason to stay in the sun longer.

#### How to choose a sunscreen

- Use a sunscreen that says "broad-spectrum" on the label, that means it will screen out both UVB and UVA rays.
- Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 (up to SPF 50). An SPF of 15 or 30 should be fine for most people. More research studies are needed to test if sunscreen with more than SPF 50 offers any extra protection.
- If possible, avoid the sunscreen ingredient oxybenzone because of concerns about mild hormonal properties. Remember, though, that it's important to take steps to prevent sunburn ([English/health-issues/conditions/skin/Pages/sunburn-treatment-and-prevention.aspx](#)), so using any sunscreen is better than not using sunscreen at all.
- For sensitive areas of the body, such as the nose, cheeks, tops of the ears and shoulders, choose a sunscreen with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide. These products may stay visible on the skin even after you rub them in, and some come in fun colors that children enjoy.

#### How to apply sunscreen

- Use enough sunscreen to cover all exposed areas, especially the face, nose, ears, feet, hands and even backs of the knees. Rub it in well.
- Put sunscreen on 15 to 30 minutes before going outdoors. It needs time to absorb into the skin.
- Use sunscreen any time you or your child spend time outdoors. Remember that you can get sunburn even on cloudy days because up to 80% of the sun's UV rays can get through the clouds. Also, UV rays can bounce back off water, sand, snow, and concrete, so make sure you're protected.

- Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours and after swimming ([English/healthy-living/sports/Pages/Swimming.aspx](#)), sweating or drying off with a towel. Because most people use too little sunscreen, make sure to apply a generous amount.

### Sunscreen for babies

- For babies younger than 6 months: Use sunscreen on small areas of the body, such as the face, if protective clothing and shade are not available.
- For babies older than 6 months: Apply to all areas of the body, but be careful around the eyes. If your baby rubs sunscreen into their eyes, wipe their eyes and hands clean with a damp cloth. If the sunscreen irritates their skin, try a different brand or sunscreen with titanium dioxide or zinc oxide. If your baby develops a rash, talk with their doctor.

### Sunburns

#### When to call the doctor

If your baby is younger than 1 year old and gets sunburn, call your their doctor right away. For older children, call your child's doctor if there is blistering, pain or fever ([English/health-issues/conditions/fever/Pages/When-to-Call-the-Pediatrician.aspx](#)).

#### How to soothe the sunburn

Here are 5 ways to relieve discomfort from mild sunburn:

- Give your child water ([English/healthy-living/nutrition/Pages/Choose-Water-for-Healthy-Hydration.aspx](#)) or milk to replace lost fluids.
- Use cool water to help your child's skin feel better.
- Give your child pain medicine ([English/safety-prevention/at-home/medication-safety/Pages/Fever-and-Pain-Medicines-How-Much-to-Give.aspx](#)) to relieve painful sunburns. (For a baby 6 months or younger, give acetaminophen. For a child older than 6 months, give either acetaminophen or ibuprofen.)
- Only use medicated lotions if your child's doctor says it is OK.
- Keep your child out of the sun until the sunburn is fully healed.

### Remember

The sun gives energy to all living things on earth, but it can also harm us. Its ultraviolet (UV) rays can damage skin and eyes and cause skin cancer. One-quarter of our lifetime sun exposure happens during childhood and adolescence.

Since children spend a lot of time outdoors, especially in the summer, it's important to protect them from the sun. Talk with your pediatrician if you have any questions about sun protection for your child.

### More information

- Tanning and Tanning Salon Safety Tips for Young People ([English/ages-stages/teen/Pages/Teens-Tanning-Safety-Information-for-Parents.aspx](#))
  - Baby Sunburn Prevention ([English/ages-stages/baby/bathing-skin-care/Pages/Baby-Sunburn-Prevention.aspx](#))
  - Sunburn: Treatment and Prevention ([English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Sunburn-Treatment-And-Prevention.aspx](#))
  - Protecting Children from Extreme Heat ([English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Protecting-Children-from-Extreme-Heat-Information-for-Parents.aspx](#))
  - Ultraviolet Radiation: a Hazard to Children and Adolescents (<http://pediatrics.appublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/peds.2010-3501v1>) (AAP Policy Statement) *dated 11/20/2023*
- Source: Fun in the Sun: Keep Your Family Safe (Copyright © 2019 American Academy of Pediatrics)

# DISABILITIES SERVICES

## From the Disabilities Services Team

**At the end of the school year, the disability services for Head Start and Early Head Start have made a significant impact on the children and families they serve. Throughout the year, these services have provided comprehensive support to children with disabilities, ensuring their access to quality education and developmental opportunities.**

**The dedicated team of professionals in disability services has worked tirelessly to identify and address the unique needs of each child. They have collaborated with families, teachers, and other specialists to develop individualized plans that promote the child's growth and success.**

**Through inclusive practices and specialized interventions, disability services have fostered an environment of acceptance and support. They have facilitated the inclusion of children with disabilities in classrooms, encouraging social interaction and positive**

**Additionally, disability services have offered training and resources to teachers and staff members, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to effectively meet the diverse needs of all children. This collaborative approach has helped create an inclusive and welcoming school community.**

**As the school year comes to a close, the impact of disability services is evident in the progress and achievements of the children. They have reached important developmental milestones, improved their academic skills, and gained confidence in their abilities. The support provided by disability services has not only benefited the children but also their families, who have received guidance and assistance in navigating the challenges associated with their child's disability.**

**In conclusion, the end of the school year marks a time of celebration and recognition for the disability services in Head Start and Early Head Start. Their dedication and commitment have made a lasting impact on the lives of children with disabilities, ensuring they have the opportunity to thrive and succeed in their educational journey.**

### Disabilities Services Team:

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