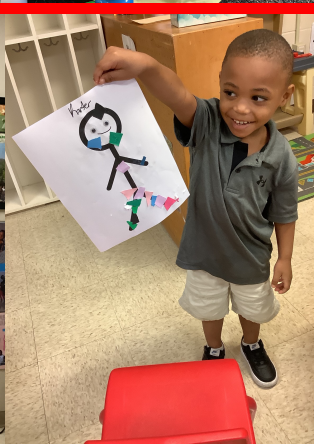
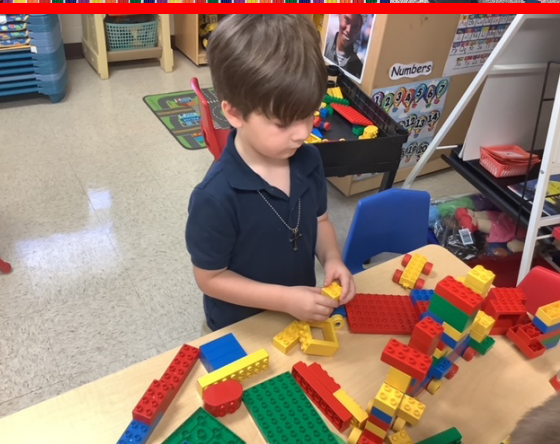
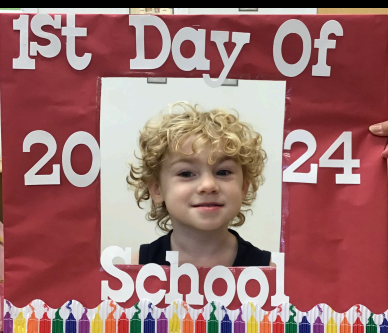


September 2024 NEWSLETTER

Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs



From the Desk of Director

As we welcome September, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful first month we had in August. It has been a joy to see our new children and families transition into our program, and I extend a warm welcome to each of you. Your presence enriches our community, and we are excited to embark on this learning journey together. To our returning families, thank you for your continued commitment and involvement; your support is vital to our success!

This month, we are excited to kick off our **“Together We Grow: Home-School Learning Project.”** This initiative emphasizes the importance of collaboration between home and school as we work together to nurture your child's growth and development. We encourage all families to actively participate in this project by engaging in activities that reinforce what your children are learning in the classroom. Your involvement is key to creating a supportive and enriching environment for our children.

We also want to remind you about the importance of parent involvement. Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities for you to participate in program activities, including our monthly parent meetings. These meetings are a great way to connect with other families, share ideas, and stay informed about our curriculum and events. Your voice matters, and together, we can make a significant impact on your child's educational journey. Please mark your calendars for **“Grandparents Day on September 6”**! This special day is dedicated to honoring the important role grandparents play in our children's lives. We invite all grandparents to join us for a day of celebration and activities designed to create lasting memories with their grandchildren.

Additionally, September will feature our monthly awareness themes, which will focus on various aspects of child development and parenting. We encourage you to engage with these themes at home to further support your child's learning.

Thank you for being a vital part of our Head Start/Early Head Start community. Together, let's make this year a fantastic learning experience for all our children!

Warm regards,
Dr. Pamela Thomas

Family Service Department September, 2024 Newsletter

The Family Community Engagement Services is excited to extend a warm "Welcome Back to School" greeting to each and every one of our families. We focus on keeping our families informed about upcoming events, important dates, and resources to support the child's development, and to enhance family engagement. You can expect to receive this newsletter each month.

The beginning of the year has started with a bang. All Early Head Start, Head Start, and CCP locations have completed their Re-Organization Meeting, and committees are now in place. We are excited to introduce our elected officers, who will be representing each site and playing a key role in the decision-making.

Early Head Start / Annie's
Chairperson: Cecily Wilson
Vice Chairperson: Ashante Everett
Secretary: Ashley Cabanas
Asst. Secretary: Ashley Lankford
Treasurer: Taylor Penton
Parliamentary: Kayla Lewis

Nicholson Early Head Start
Chairperson: Julia Reiter
Vice Chairperson: Haley Crawford
Secretary: Kelli Smith
Asst. Secretary: Amanda Tricoche
Treasurer: Andrea Orgeron
Parliamentary:

Picayune Head Start
Chairperson: Kayla Williams
Vice Chairperson: Marilyn Witaker
Secretary: Natasha Simmons
Asst. Secretary: Rayshawn Ware
Treasurer: Taylor Penton
Parliamentary: Shelby Caze

Poplarville Head Start
Chairperson: Max Ducote III
Vice Chairperson: Ashley Jordan
Secretary: Tiffany LeBlanc
Asst. Secretary: Gabrielle St. Philip
Treasurer: Crystal Robinson
Parliamentary: Ariel Ciara White

****PRCC Lab School Committee hasn't been established at this time but will be listed in next month article. ****

In-Kind

Just a reminder to all families to complete their in-kind contributions daily. Each location has a monthly goal, and for the month of August, the goal is as follows. If you encounter any issues with submitting your in-kind contributions, please visit the Family Advocate office for assistance.

EHS Rosa: (14,663.28)	CCP-Annie: (\$13,679.96)	HS- Picayune: (\$10,997.42)
EHS Nicholson: (\$7,331.63)	CCP- PRCC: (\$3,908.55)	HS- Poplarville: (\$6,284.25)

Upcoming Events

September 2, 2024	Labor Day	(No School)
September 6, 2024	Grandparent Day	
	(Nicholson Early Head Start 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)	
	(Early Head Start 8:45am-9:30am and 9:45-10:30am)	
	(Annie's Kindergarten: 9:15 a.m. -10:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. -11:00 am)	
September 19, 2024	(PRCC Lab School 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)	
September 27, 2024	(Picayune & Poplarville HS 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.) 9:30a.m.-11:00)	

Monthly Meeting

Nicholson Early Head Start	(September 3, 2024 4p.m.)
Early Head Start	(September 3, 2024 5pm)
Poplarville Head Start	(September 4, 2024 4pm)
Picayune Head Start	(September 5, 2024 5p.m)
PRCC	* To be Announced *

All parents must attend Parent meetings monthly. If you can't attend, please have someone to represent you. We stress the importance of being involved with the child's early education experience. This is the beginning of the year, so let's start right now and make this year one of the best years ever. Your support is a significant time of your child's life, and working together as a team along with the Early Head Start / Head Start staff, we can make it work. If you have any questions, please get in touch with your Family Advocates, who are here to support you. Thank you for being a part of our team, and we look forward to making 2024-2025 a successful year.

ERSEA

“Ready to make this year amazing!”

We would like to extend a very special welcome to all of our new families as well as a welcome back to all of our returning families. We encourage all families to establish a regular attendance pattern by ensuring that their children attend at least 85% of the time unless they are feeling under the weather. Good attendance is linked to academic success and helps children build important life skills. Attendance Matters. Every student. Every day.

Also families, if you have not completed the required online registration with the Picayune School District, please do so by visiting picayune.activeparent.net and proceed to follow the instructions to register. 12 digit active codes for returning students can be given to you by your ERSEA Coordinator or Family advocate.

We are looking forward to an exciting and awesome school year!

Your ERSEA Coordinators
EHS/CCP: Jhoanny Vargas, M.S.
HS/PreK: Kaylin Richard, B.S



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2024

October 1st, 2024 6-8 PM

Crosby Commons
on Goodyear Blvd.

Contact Ofc. Robert Gere at
601-749-5482 to register a booth

Dear Parents and Teachers,

Welcome to the September edition of our newsletter! As we transition into a new season, we are excited to share valuable information and educational resources that can support our children's growth and development. This year we will be engaging each of our families in *At-Home Projects* this school year and we want each of you to join us this year to make this a successful school to home educational learning experience. So be on the lookout for more information about our new education, "Together We Grow: *"Home-School Learning Project,"* Educational Themes.

This month, we will be exploring the themes of *"Home, Bears and Fall."* Activities will include outdoor explorations, community helper visits, and nature-based learning.

Resource Highlights

Websites

- Zero to Three: [[zerotothree.org](https://www.zerotothree.org)](<https://www.zerotothree.org>)
 - A great resource for child development information, parenting tips, and early education strategies.
- PBS Parents: [[pbs.org/parents](https://www.pbs.org/parents)](<https://www.pbs.org/parents>)
 - Offers a variety of educational games, activities, and articles on child development and parenting.
- Scholastic Parents: [[scholastic.com/parents](https://www.scholastic.com/parents)](<https://www.scholastic.com/parents>)
 - Provides book recommendations, parenting resources, and learning activities to engage children.

Books

- "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle
 - A classic children's book that teaches about counting, days of the week, and the life cycle of a caterpillar.
- "All Are Welcome" by Alexandra Penfold
 - A beautiful story that celebrates diversity and inclusion in a school setting.
- "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown
 - A soothing bedtime story that helps children wind down and encourages language development.

Digital Media

- Storyline Online: [[storylineonline.net](https://www.storylineonline.net)](<https://www.storylineonline.net>)
- Features videos of actors reading children's books aloud, promoting literacy and a love for reading.
- GoNoodle: [[gonoodle.com](https://www.gonoodle.com)](<https://www.gonoodle.com>)
- Offers fun videos to get kids moving and learning through interactive activities.

Parent Engagement

We encourage parents to participate in our upcoming workshops on Creating a Learning Environment at Home. Your involvement is crucial in creating a supportive learning environment for our children. (*Parent Meeting-September 3, 2024@ 5:30*)

- Parent Engagement: "Creating a Learning Environment at Home" - September

Theme: Homes

- Build a Cozy Home:
 - Materials: Cardboard boxes, blankets, pillows.
 - Activity: Create a playhouse using cardboard boxes. Encourage children to decorate it with crayons or stickers, creating a cozy space for imaginative play.
- Family Photo Collage:
 - Materials: Old magazines, family photos, glue, and poster board.
 - Activity: Help children cut out images of homes and family members from magazines or use family photos to create a collage that represents their home life.
- Home Sensory Bin:
 - Material: Small toy houses, figures, and textured items (like rice or beans).
 - Activity: Create a sensory bin with toy houses and figures. Children can explore different textures while engaging in imaginative play.

Theme: Bears

- Bear Puppet Craft:
 - Materials: Paper bags, brown construction paper, googly eyes, and markers.
 - Activity: Create bear puppets using paper bags. Children can help decorate their bears and engage in puppet shows.
- Bear Storytime:
 - Materials: A selection of bear-themed books (e.g., "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?").
 - Activity: Set aside time for story sessions focused on bear stories, promoting language development and comprehension.
- Bear Footprint Art:
 - Materials: Brown paint, paper, and brushes.
 - Activity: Use brown paint to create bear footprints on paper. Children can dip their feet or use brushes to make prints, learning about shapes and patterns.

Theme: Fall

- Leaf Collage:
 - Materials: Colorful leaves (real or artificial), glue, and construction paper.
 - Activity: Take a nature walk to collect leaves. Once home, help children create a collage by gluing leaves onto construction paper.
- Harvest Sensory Bin:
 - Materials: Dried corn, small pumpkins, and other fall items.
 - Activity: Create a sensory bin filled with harvested items. Children can explore textures and practice fine motor skills by sorting and transferring items.
- Fall Color Hunt:
 - Materials: Color cards (red, orange, yellow, brown).
 - Activity: Go on a fall color hunt around the home or yard, searching for items that match the colors of autumn. This encourages observation and color recognition.

We hope this newsletter serves as a helpful guide to enrich your child's early learning experience. Together, let's create a nurturing environment that fosters curiosity and growth. If you have any questions or would like to share your experiences, please feel free to reach out.

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

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH



Cherielyn Dannemiller, CDA
Ms. Annie's



Shelley Reed, A.A.
Picayune Head Start



Tiffani Brewer, CDA
EHS Nicholson

Dear Families,

As we welcome September, we are excited to share important updates, resources, and insights to support your children's education journey. This month, we want to briefly introduce our curriculums and support resources that your children will be using to enhance their education development throughout the year and stress the vital role of parental involvement in fostering a rich learning environment from school to home.

Curriculum Highlights

1. Creative Curriculum: Our foundation for early childhood education, the Creative Curriculum, is designed to promote exploration and discovery through hands-on learning experiences. Your child will engage in activities that not only encourage critical thinking and creativity but also provide a solid foundation for their future learning.

2. Cognitive Toybox: This innovative resource offers interactive games and activities that support children's cognitive development. It's not just a tool for your child, but also a resource that empowers you as a parent to reinforce learning at home, making you an integral part of your child's educational journey.

3. Math Shelf: With a focus on math skills, this curriculum introduces fundamental concepts through engaging activities that make learning fun. Explore the provided resources to help your child build confidence in math and enjoy the learning process.

4. **AI's Pals:** This program emphasizes social and emotional development, teaching children how to navigate their feelings and build positive relationships. It's essential for laying the groundwork for their future interactions.

5. STEAM XPRESS: Integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, this curriculum encourages children to think critically and problem-solve. Look out for family activities that prompt STEAM exploration at home! For instance, you can build a simple machine together, conduct a kitchen science experiment, or create an art project inspired by nature.

6. **Owl:** This literacy program focuses on developing early reading skills through storytelling and interactive reading sessions. Reading together at home can significantly enhance your child's literacy development. (PreK- 4 SSL) Only 7. Renaissance Star Early Literacy: A comprehensive assessment tool, Renaissance Star is designed to accurately track your child's progress in literacy, allowing us to tailor learning experiences to their needs. You can trust in its effectiveness to guide your child's learning journey.

Supporting your child's "Learning at Home" We encourage you to engage with your child using the resources mentioned above. Here are some practical tips:

Share your observations with your child's teacher. Collaboration between home and school is key to your child's success.

Building a strong relationship between teachers and parents is essential for your child's development.

Regular communication through newsletters, parent-teacher meetings, and workshops will help us work together effectively. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Together, we can create a nurturing environment for our children to thrive.

Research consistently shows that parental involvement significantly predicts a child's academic success. According to the National Education Association, "When parents are involved in their children's education, students achieve more, exhibit improved behavior, and have a better chance of graduating.

As we embark on this educational journey, remember: **"**Together, we can build a brighter future for our children.**"** Your involvement is invaluable, and we look forward to an exciting and productive Year ahead!

Sincerely, The Education Team
 Ashley Veerkamp, Education Manager
 Dinah Thanars, Mentor Coach
 LaKeshia Price, Mentor Coach

HEALTH

Greetings Parents from the Health Team!

We are off to a great start! However, we have some illnesses going around that you should be aware of.

- Strep throat which may or may not present with a rash all over the body
- COVID-19
- Flu
- Hands, mouth and foot which may or may not present with a rash all over the body.

Please know that if your child is diagnosed with these illnesses or any illness that is on our exclusion policy they will have to be removed from the school setting and cannot return without a doctor's excuse. If your child is running fever, you cannot give them medicine and send them to school! They cannot attend school and they have to be fever free for 24 hours without medication before they return. As a parent if you are diagnosed with COVID-19, anyone in your household or your child was exposed to COVID-19. Please let us know.

If your child has allergies, please give them their medication on schedule or if your child has a common cold, please give them medicine for their symptoms. Example: if they are coughing, get a medication that soothes cough, if they have a runny nose, get them a medication that relieves runny nose. If your child has not had their age appropriate check-up or dental exam, please get them schedule. Prevention is the key!

When you take your child to the doctor and they give you a doctor's note, please read the date they can return and bring them back on that date if they are better. If they are not better let us know and keep them home. Our first priority is keeping EVERYONE safe and healthy! We need your help in order to have a successful year.

Thank you!

Your Health Team
 EHS/CCP Manager: Neterior McCormick, BS, RMA
 HS/PRE-K Manager: Pamela Frazier, RN
 Site Nurses: Rosa/Annie's: Yvette Burton, LPN
 Nicholson/ PRCC: Chelsea Dennis, LPN

MENTAL HEALTH

Preparing for student's mental health in the upcoming year!!

The Mental Health Team would like to welcome everyone into the new school year with open arms and minds. We are here to support a program wide culture that promotes children's mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, and overall health. We will be the support for our positive learning environment with strategies for supporting children with challenging behaviors and other social, emotional, and mental health needs. Also, we will be working with Licensed Therapists to assist with meeting the children and family's needs.

What Is Children's Mental Health?

Being mentally healthy during childhood means reaching developmental and emotional milestones and learning healthy social skills and how to cope when there are problems. Mentally healthy children have a positive quality of life and can function well at home, in school, and in their communities.

What are common childhood mental disorders?

Among the more common mental disorders that can be diagnosed in childhood are attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety (fears or worries), and behavior disorders.

Other childhood disorders and concerns that affect how children learn, behave, or handle their emotions can include learning and developmental disabilities, autism, and risk factors like substance use and self-harm.

What are the symptoms of childhood mental disorders?

Symptoms of mental disorders change over time as a child grows, and may include difficulties with how a child plays, learns, speaks, and acts, or how the child handles their emotions. Symptoms often start in early childhood, although some disorders may develop during the teenage years. The diagnosis is often made in the school years and sometimes earlier; however, some children with a mental disorder may not be recognized or diagnosed as having one.

Can childhood mental disorders be treated?

Childhood mental disorders can be treated and managed. There are many treatment options based on the best and most current medical evidence. Parents and doctors should work closely with everyone involved in the child's treatment—teachers, coaches, therapists, and other family members. Taking advantage of all the resources available will help parents, health professionals, and educators guide the child towards success. Early diagnosis and appropriate services for children and their families can make a difference in the lives of children with mental disorders.

Warm regards,
 Your Mental Health Team:
 HS/PreK: Ashley Benson, M.S. & Bianca Pierce, M.S.
 EHS/CCP: Rewa Haralson, M.S.

DISABILITY

All children are special including children with disabilities. Early Head Start is designed to fully include all children. Each child will be carefully assessed to note suspected delays in speech and language, cognition, motor, or social skills. With parent permission we refer to First Steps for the coordination of an evaluation. With the help of the nurses, we also monitor and intervene for health needs.

Children's readiness for school and beyond is fostered through individualized learning experiences. Through relationships with adults, play, and planned and spontaneous instruction, children grow in many aspects of development. Children progress in social skills and emotional well-being, along with language and literacy learning, and concept development.

Our staff consists of well qualified professionals. The Office of Head Start requires a minimum of 15 clock hours of professional development per year for all staff. It encompasses all types of learning opportunities, ranging from formal coursework in college, workshops, and conferences to more informal learning opportunities that might occur within the Head Start, child care, and other early education settings.

Family engagement is a collaborative and strengths-based process through which early childhood professionals, families, and children build positive and goal-oriented relationships. It is a shared responsibility of families and staff at all levels that requires mutual respect for the roles and strengths each has to offer.

We have community partnerships with different agencies to serve our children with disabilities: First Steps Early Intervention, Local School Districts, therapy providers, & special education consultants. This year we have posted a copy of First Steps Child and Family Rights Procedural Safeguards Booklet and a copy of the Procedure Safeguards Booklet: Your Family's Special Education Rights. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Disability Coordinator.

Disabilities Services Team:
 Ann Brock, Disability Coordinator for Early Head Start
 abrock@pcu.k12.ms.us, 601-749-3306
 Sonya Lather, Disability Coordinator for Head Start
 slather@pcu.k12.ms.us, 601-798-2537

FEBRUARY 2023 (Head Start / Early Head Start Center-Based Menu)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>2.</p> <p>Labor Day</p>	<p>3. Breakfast: French Toast, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Macroni and Cheese, Mixed Veggies, Freshed Baked Roll, Madarin Oranges, Milk, Water</p>	<p>4. Breakfast: Cheese Grits, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Hamburger on bun, Steamed Carrots, Blueberries, Milk, Water</p>	<p>5. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Yam Patty, Blueberries, Milk, Water</p>	<p>6. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon, Cereal, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Yam Patty, Blueberries, Milk, Water</p>
<p>9. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Applesauce, Milk, Water</p>	<p>10. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Hamburger Steak w/Gravy, Green Peas, Fresh Baked Roll, Strawberry Milk, Water</p>	<p>11. Breakfast: Rice Chex Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</p>	<p>12. Breakfast: Grits, Applesauce, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Steamed Carrots, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</p>	<p>13. Breakfast: Waffle, Kiwi, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Sweet Potato fries, Applesauce, Milk, Water</p>
<p>16. Breakfast: Cheese Toast, Applesauce, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Chili on Bun, Yam Patty, Strawberries, Milk, Water</p>	<p>17. Breakfast: Grits, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Cheesy Chicken w/ Rice, Turnip Greens, Corn Bread, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</p>	<p>18. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: BBQ Chicken on Bun, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water</p>	<p>19. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Hamburger, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</p>	<p>20. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Baked Chicken Tenders, Fresh Baked Roll, Steamed Carrots, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</p>
<p>23. Breakfast: French Toast, Applesauce, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Baked Sliced Potatoes, Strawberries, Milk, Water</p>	<p>24. Breakfast: Cheesy Grits, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Red Beans & Rice, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</p>	<p>25. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Steamed Carrots, Fresh Baked Roll, Blueberries, Milk, Water</p>	<p>26. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Baked Beans, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</p>	<p>27. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</p> <p>Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Strawberries, Milk, Water</p>

Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs - (601) 799-4702

- Early Head Start - Rosa ● Early Head Start – Nicholson ● EHS CCP – Annie's Kindergarten & Daycare
- EHS CCP – Pearl River Community College Child Development Lab School ● PSD Pre-K Program ● PSD Head Start – Picayune ● PSD Head Start – Poplarville