



# OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs



# EDUCATION -EHS/CCP

Greetings, Early Head Start and Head Start Families,

As we move into the fall months, we are looking forward to all the wonderful learning experiences that come with this time of year.

During October, both Early Head Start and Head Start children will explore a variety of topics. Early Head Start children will explore different kinds of rocks and bags, while Head Start children will learn about fall, buildings, and clothing.

All Creative Curriculum investigations start with a topic the children have some background knowledge in, which can be further developed through conversations and experiences at school, at home and in the community. You can help your child develop so many skills just by discussing topics they are learning at school. Here are a few ideas:

- **Talk about learning topics:** take a "field trip" to your child's closet to discuss colors, textures, and functions of clothing. You can also talk about how clothes protect us, keep us warm, and can be used to celebrate holidays or identify workers. Discuss the functions of different buildings, such as a house being for a family to live in and a grocery store being where we buy food.
- **Use descriptive words:** When discussing clothing or buildings, talk about their shapes, colors, and textures. Use words like "compare," "count," "more," and "less" to help your child with mathematical thinking in real-world situations.
- **Visit the library:** Check out books related to the topics your child is learning in school. Reading with young children is a great way to help them learn and get ready for school.

In October, we will focus on the importance of fine motor skills. As children master tasks using their hands, they are able to make more cognitive connections and gain independence and confidence. You can help your child by practicing tasks like using markers or child-safe scissors, dressing dolls, playing with Legos, and grasping and sorting small objects like cereal.

Playing with playdoh is a fun way to strengthen the muscles and dexterity in a child's hands. You can find recipes to make playdoh at home to enjoy with your child at <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/oct2018/preschool-play-plan-playdough>

We are excited to share that Head Start children have begun using GoldFinch, a fun, interactive digital tool that tracks progress in math, literacy, and cognitive skills. They are also learning with AI's Pals, a social-emotional curriculum, which helps our children to identify feelings, resolve conflicts, and develop healthy relationships.

Our Head Start classroom of the month is Room 1 at Picayune Head Start! Congratulations to Mrs. Shelley and Ms. Heidi! In EHS, the teacher of the month is Ms. Paula Hulsey at PRCC. These hard-working teachers have shown incredible teamwork and dedication! We are so proud of them and thank them for all that they do. Khamaya Harvey is the teacher from Rosa. This young lady is very soft spoken and eager to learn. She is receptive to professional advice that is offered to her.

We are very grateful for our partnership with all our families, and we wish everyone a "spooktacular" October!

Sincerely,  
 Jessica Stubbs, Education Director  
 Charlotte Nixon, Education Manager, Rosa EHS and Nicholson EHS  
 Ashely Veerkamp, Education Manager, Picayune HS and Poplarville HS  
 Robette Watts, Education Manager, Annie's & PRCC  
 LaKeshia Price, Mentor Coach  
 Dinah Thanars, Mentor Coach

# FAMILY SERVICES

Family Service Department  
 Newsletter  
 September

*Family Service department thrive to keep our families informed of upcoming events, important dates and resources that can support the child's development and enhance family engagement. It is my privilege to update you with the Family Service edition of the newsletter.*



**Poplarville Male Involvement:** A huge thank you to the men who stepped up to spread mulch on our playground! Because of your hard work, our kids have a safe, fresh, and fun space to enjoy. We appreciate your time, strength, and willingness to serve. Left to right: Eric Henry, Donal...



**Big Congratulations to Mrs. Sam Heiser:** She has been accepted into college to study "Herbal Science" and on the amazing boom in business at her boat reupholster company! If someone you know are looking to freshen up your boat, be sure to check out "Remix Worx", for all boating reupholster. *Way to go we are so proud of you!*  
 Early Head Start Rosa



**Congratulation Mrs Hailey Crawford :** We would like to congratulate Mrs. Crawford on passing her state board test. She is now an "Occupational Therapy Tech". Nicholson Early Head Start honors your accomplishment and we are so proud of you.

## In-Kind

EHS	Amount	Head Start	Amount	CCP	Amount
Early Head Start	18,536.20	Picayune HS	16,961.27	Annie's	10,992.27
Nicholson	8,938.23	Poplarville HS	4,308.25	PRCC	726.53
		Pre-K	4,964.05		

## Upcoming Events

**Wear Pink Every Friday (Breast Cancer Awareness)**

**King & Queen sign up October 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> / King & Queen Drive Begin Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> @noon.**

Early Head Start/Annie's -NEHS	Head Start Picayune, Head Start Poplarville	PRCC Lab School
October 3, 2025 (Hispanic Heritage)	October 31 <sup>st</sup> (Fall Festival)	October 20 <sup>th</sup> (Spirit Week)
October 17, 2025 (Fall Festival)	October 24 <sup>th</sup> (Head Start Awareness)	October 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Fall Festival)
October 21, 2025 (Head Start Awareness)		October 31 <sup>st</sup> (Trunk r Treat)
October 30, 2025 (Trunk r Treat)		

## Parent Meeting

October 7<sup>th</sup> (NEHS - 4p.m.) (EHS - 5 p.m.) October 1<sup>st</sup> PRCC- 3:30 p.m.) - (Poplarville HS 4:30 p.m.)  
 October 2<sup>nd</sup> (Picayune Head Start - 4 p.m.) Fatherhood Initiative Meeting (October 23<sup>rd</sup> 4 p.m.)

# ERSEA

SEPTEMBER  
 2025

## \* COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN POPLARVILLE \*

HEAD START HAS BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING IN POPLARVILLE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF OUR SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. TO ENSURE WE FOLLOWED THE PROPER PROCEDURES, WE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH CITY OFFICIALS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. CITY HALL EVEN OFFERED TO POST OUR FLYERS ON THEIR WEBSITE TO HELP US REACH MORE RESIDENTS. WE ALSO PLACED NEW YARD SIGNS IN KEY COMMUNITY LOCATIONS TO MAKE OUR PRESENCE MORE VISIBLE AND DISTRIBUTED THEM IN PLACES WHERE FAMILIES OFTEN GATHER.



IN ADDITION TO OUR PLANNED ACTIVITIES, WE HAVE SUBMITTED A VISIT REQUEST TO THE PRCC CAFETERIA IN POPLARVILLE TO DISTRIBUTE FLYERS DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS. WE HAVE ALSO FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT THE PRCC MARKETING DEPARTMENT CONTINUE PROMOTING OUR SERVICES THROUGH THEIR OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS TO ENSURE MAXIMUM VISIBILITY AMONG THE STUDENT BODY AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.



# TEACHERS OF THE MONTH



**Khamaya Harvey,**  
 EHS Rosa Site



**Paula Hulsey,**  
 PRCC Site.

## HEALTH

### HUGE SMILES! South Mississippi Smiles Mobile Dentistry Visits Our Center!

We are absolutely thrilled to share the amazing success of the South Mississippi Smiles Mobile Dentistry program's recent visit! Our children of all ages received top-notch preventive dental care right here in the comfort and familiarity of our school environment.

This fantastic program is designed to knock down barriers for our busy families. No need to worry about transportation, taking time off work, or scheduling conflicts—the dentist came to us!

#### What Our Children Received:

- **Comprehensive Dental Exam:** Including necessary radiographs for a full picture of their oral health.
- **Professional Cleaning:** A sparkling clean smile for everyone!
- **Preventative Treatments:** Fluoride Varnish and Sealant Application to protect those precious teeth.

After their visit, every child went home with a detailed **Dental Report Card** outlining the services provided and any follow-up information needed. They also received a great **Dental Goodie Bag** packed with a new brush, toothpaste, and dental floss.

And, of course, the highlight for our Health Team was watching the children get to **pick a fun toy** from the toy box! Big smiles all around!

We are so proud to offer this convenient and vital health service to our families. If you missed out and would like your child to participate in the next visit, please don't hesitate! **Contact a member of our Health Team today** to sign up and secure their spot!

## DISABILITY

### Head Start and Early Head Start "Disability Service Area" OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS!

#### Dear Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you well! We are excited to share updates and accomplishments from the Disability Services department for the month of October. Here are some key highlights:

#### 1. Fall Inclusion Initiatives

- This October, we focused on enhancing inclusive practices in our classrooms. Staff will participate in seasonal activities designed to promote accessibility, such as adapting fall-themed lessons with sensory supports and incorporating visual aids to engage all learners. We also will introduce new tools to strengthen individualized support plans for children with disabilities.

#### 2. Strengthening Community Partnerships

- Our partnerships with local organizations remain a vital part of our work. This month, we collaborated with early intervention providers, speech and occupational therapists, and community health agencies to connect families with specialized services. Through these partnerships, families gained access to developmental screenings, therapy consultations, and family support networks. These connections not only strengthen the services we offer but also create a community of care around every child.

#### 3. Parent & Family Engagement

- October will feature in-person and virtual parent workshops centered on strategies for supporting children at home. Topics will include fostering independence in daily routines, preparing for parent-teacher conferences, and navigating community resources. We are grateful for the strong participation and continuous feedback from families.

#### 4. Professional Development Opportunities

- Our team will facilitate training sessions on inclusive classroom strategies, de-escalation techniques, and best practices for supporting children with sensory processing needs. Our Staff will also engage in reflective discussions on how to integrate inclusive practices into seasonal activities and celebrations.

#### 5. Celebrating Growth & Achievements

- We proudly celebrate the progress of children in our program. From improved communication skills to new milestones in social interactions, the growth we've witnessed this fall reflects the dedication of both our staff and families. These successes remind us why our shared commitment to inclusion matters.

We remain committed to creating an inclusive, supportive, and nurturing environment for every child. If you have questions, suggestions, or success stories to share, please reach out—we'd love to hear from you.

- Sonya Lather-NewKirk, Disability Manager for Early Head Start and Head Start  
Email: [Slather@psd.k12.ms.us](mailto:Slather@psd.k12.ms.us)  
Phone: 601-799-1716

## MENTAL HEALTH



OCTOBER IS  
**domestic violence awareness month**

### Domestic Violence and How it Mentally Effects Adults and Young Children

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used to gain power and control over another individual. People who experience domestic violence are often hit, coerced, manipulated, threatened, and isolated. According to BreakTheCycle.Org, every 32 minutes someone in the United States is abused by their partner and more than 16 million people suffer from domestic abuse yearly. The ratios among men and women experiencing abuse are 1 in 2 for women and 2 in 5 for men.

Adults in abusive situations usually lack self-esteem and won't stand up for themselves or leave because they fear physical pain from their abusers and their brains have been conditioned to believe false remarks that are meant to intimidate and humiliate them. Young children are also at risk when exposed to domestic violence because throughout child development the most crucial stages are the infant, toddler, and preschool stage. These stages are critical because they involve important factors such as secure attachment and emotional regulation. Characteristics of children exposed to violence include developmental delay in language, poor self-regulation skills, aggressive/violent behaviors, and withdrawal.

People often wonder why victims won't simply leave their abusers. For most people, leaving isn't always easy especially when you've been isolated from loved ones, financially controlled, or physically threatened. It's even more complicated when children are involved because abusers may use threats against children as a way to maintain control over someone. In order to escape domestic abuse, it's important to practice safe planning. Information on safe planning can be obtained from local domestic assault programs or via the nation-wide Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233.

References for additional information: [healthline.com](http://healthline.com), [dvis.org](http://dvis.org), [breakthecycle.org](http://breakthecycle.org), [aavts.org](http://aavts.org), & [helpguide.org](http://helpguide.org)

## October 2025 (Head Start / Early Head Start Center-Based Menu)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>29. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Spaghetti &amp; Meat Sauce, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Milk, Water</b>  6	<b>30. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Hamburger Steak w/ Gravy, Green Peas, Fresh Baked Roll, Strawberries, Milk, Water</b>  7	<b>1. Breakfast: Rice Chex Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</b>  8	<b>2. Breakfast: Grits, Applesauce, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Steamed Carrots, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</b>  9	<b>3. Breakfast: Waffle, Kiwi, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Sweet Potato Fries, Applesauce, Milk, Water</b>  10
<h1>Fall Break</h1>				
<b>13. Breakfast: French Toast, Applesauce, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Baked Sliced Potatoes, Strawberries, Milk, Water</b>	<b>14. Breakfast: Cheesy Grits, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Red Beans and Rice, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</b>	<b>15. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Spaghetti &amp; Meat Sauce, Steamed Carrots, Fresh Baked Roll, Blueberries, Milk, Water</b>	<b>16. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Baked Beans, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</b>	<b>17. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Strawberries, Milk, Water</b>
<b>20. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Spaghetti &amp; Meat Sauce, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Milk, Water</b>	<b>21. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Hamburger Steak w/ Gravy, Green Peas, Fresh Baked Roll, Strawberries, Milk, Water</b>	<b>22. Breakfast: Rice Chex Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</b>	<b>23. Breakfast: Grits, Applesauce, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Steamed Carrots, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</b>	<b>24. Breakfast: Waffle, Kiwi, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Sweet Potato Fries, Applesauce, Milk, Water</b>
<b>27. Breakfast: Cheese Toast, Apple Sauce, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Chili on Bun, Yam Patty, Strawberries, Milk, Water</b>	<b>28. Breakfast: Grits, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Cheesy Chicken w/Rice, Turnip Greens, Corn Bread, Diced Pears, Applesauce, Milk, Water</b>	<b>29. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: BBQ Chicken on Bun, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water</b>	<b>30. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water</b>	<b>31. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Pears, Milk, Water</b>  <b>Lunch: Baked Chicken Tenders, Fresh Baked Roll, Steamed Carrots, Mandarin Oranges Milk, Water</b>

### 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**