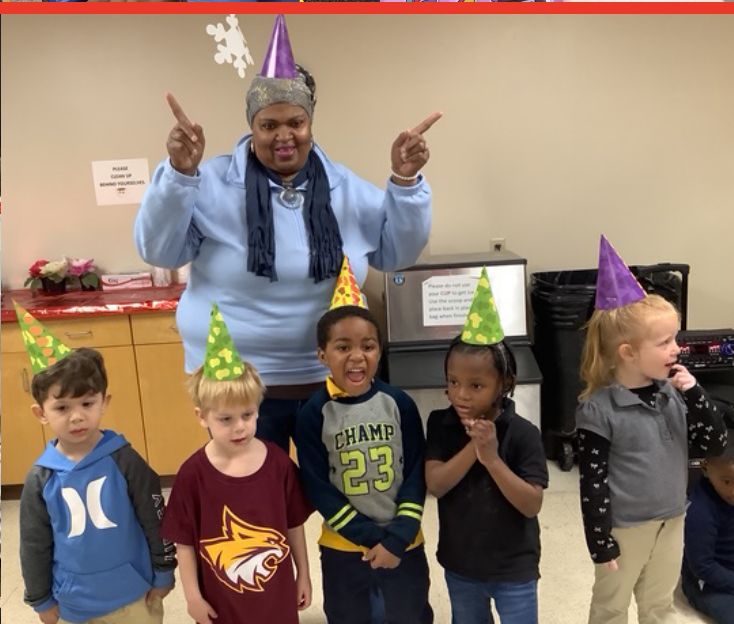




2026 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs



Nicholson Early Head Start



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MARCH

FAMILY SERVICES



Family Service Department JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Picayune Early Head Start
Early Head Start Annual
Mardi Gras Parade
February 13, 2026 9:30 a.m.

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 our family accomplishments and upcoming events at Early Head Start/ Head Start/ CCP.

SPOTLIGHT on Parents

Shout out to **Ms. Holly Hogsten** on her acceptance into the Fall 2026 class at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans! Ms. Holly will be pursuing her bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology, with the goal of becoming a speech therapist upon graduation. Congratulations, Ms. Holly — we are so proud of you!

In-Kinds Per Site (December)	
Site	Amount
Annie's	5,674.85
PRCC	824.97
EHS	13,109.81
NEHS	7,073.91
Picayune Head Start	15,064.49
Poplarville Head Start	2,261.59
Pre-K South Side	3,512.11

Monthly Parent Meetings
NEHS: February 3, 2026 4:00 p.m.
EHS: February 3, 2026 5:00 p.m.
PRC: February 4, 2026 3:30 p.m.
Poplarville Head Start February 4, 2026 4:30 p.m.
Picayune HS / Pre-K: February 5, 2026
Parent Curriculum: February 10, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

EHS/Annie's: Valentine Party: February 12, 2026
Mardi Gras Parade: February 13, 2026
Black History Celebration: February 25, 2026
Story With @ Annie's: February 6, 2026
NEHS: American Heart Awareness (Wear Red):
February 6, 2026
Valentine Parties: February 12, 2026
Mardi Gras Parade: February 13, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Black History Celebration: February 25, 2026
Picayune Head Start: Mardi Gras Float Box are due (February 9, 2026)
Field Trip Bedford (Mardi Gras box Parade) February 11, 2026
Valentine Parties: February 12, 2026
Black History Celebration: February 25, 2026
Poplarville Head Start: Mardi Gras Parade: February 13, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Valentine Activity: February 12, 2026 TBA
Black History Celebration
PRCC: Mardi Gras Parade February 12, 2026
100 days of School February 13, 2026
Valentine Party February 13, 2026



FINANCIAL LITERACY & BUDGETING CLASS

Thank you for joining our Financial Literacy & Budgeting Class!

Your commitment to learning more about managing finances is a powerful step toward building a strong and stable future for your family. We appreciate your participation and look forward to supporting you along your financial journey.

Mardi Gras Holiday
February 16 – 17
NO SCHOOL



EDUCATION -EHS/CCP

Hello February! This is a very busy, but short month with many wonderful things to learn about and celebrate together. We will celebrate Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and Mardi Gras! Your children will engage in exciting activities designed to help them learn all about these topics and why they themselves are important as full participants in our cultural events, celebrations, and shared history. Valentines' Day is a perfect time to reinforce that our children are loved and cherished, and that they are also people who love and show kindness to others. In all interactions, we work to help our children develop healthy social/emotional skills and develop early friendships. As your child's first and most important teacher, you are essential in helping your child become a good friend to others. This link is a great resource when thinking about your child's growth in social/emotional health:

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/mar2018/promoting-social-and-emotional-health>

Curriculum investigations for this month focus on paper in Early Head Start, and pets in Head Start. Children love learning about animals, and we strongly encourage you to read books about animals that appeal to your child. Visit a pet shop and talk with your child about the care and shelter that our pets need. If you have a family pet, your child can help provide food, water, a soft place to rest, and the attention and affection they need to thrive. Early Head Start children can use a variety of paper types and colors to create a collage. This is a wonderful way to discuss patterns, textures, shapes and subjects as you plan a picture together.

When our curriculum topics and themes are extended at home through rich conversation and shared experiences, your child's learning, memory, and background knowledge will become stronger and more extensive, and he or she will be better prepared for future learning in school!

Finally, please join me in celebrating and showing appreciation for our February Teachers of the Month. Our teachers truly make learning come to life for our little ones, and we are so grateful to them for all that they do.

- Picayune Head Start: Lilianna Delgado Corona and Jasmine Lopez
- Poplarville Head Start: Ola Faye Kendrick
- EHS Rosa: Lilianna Caves and Keanna Mitchell
- CCP: Amy Stevens
- EHS Nicholson: Michelle Henry

The Education Team sends all of our families a big "Head Start Helping" of Valentine Cheer and Mardi Gras Joy to all of our children and families. We are grateful for you all.

Sincerely,

Jessica Stubbs, Education Director
Charlotte Nixon, EHS Education Manager
Robette Watts, CCP Education Manager
Ashley Veerkamp, Head Start Education Manager
LaKeshia Price, Head Start Mentor Coach
Dinah Thanars, Head Start Mentor Coach

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

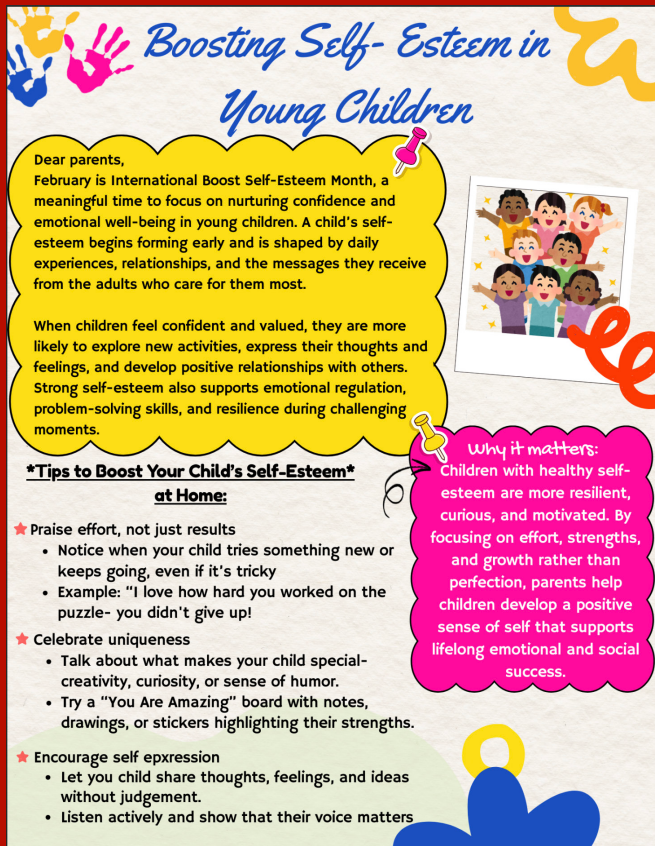


Amy Stevens
PRCC Site



Michelle Henry, CDA
EHS Nicholson Site

MENTAL HEALTH



Boosting Self-Esteem in Young Children

Dear parents,
February is International Boost Self-Esteem Month, a meaningful time to focus on nurturing confidence and emotional well-being in young children. A child's self-esteem begins forming early and is shaped by daily experiences, relationships, and the messages they receive from the adults who care for them most.

When children feel confident and valued, they are more likely to explore new activities, express their thoughts and feelings, and develop positive relationships with others. Strong self-esteem also supports emotional regulation, problem-solving skills, and resilience during challenging moments.

***Tips to Boost Your Child's Self-Esteem* at Home:**

- ★ Praise effort, not just results
 - Notice when your child tries something new or keeps going, even if it's tricky
 - Example: "I love how hard you worked on the puzzle- you didn't give up!"
- ★ Celebrate uniqueness
 - Talk about what makes your child special-creativity, curiosity, or sense of humor.
 - Try a "You Are Amazing" board with notes, drawings, or stickers highlighting their strengths.
- ★ Encourage self expression
 - Let you child share thoughts, feelings, and ideas without judgement.
 - Listen actively and show that their voice matters

Why it matters:
Children with healthy self-esteem are more resilient, curious, and motivated. By focusing on effort, strengths, and growth rather than perfection, parents help children develop a positive sense of self that supports lifelong emotional and social success.

DISABILITY SERVICES

A Message from the Disability Services Manager

February is a wonderful time to focus on growth, inclusion, and partnership. Our Disability Services team remains committed to supporting every child's development and ensuring families feel informed, empowered, and supported throughout the referral and evaluation process. Thank you for your continued collaboration and trust.

— Sonya Lather-Newkirk
Disability Services Manager

February Focus: Development & Inclusion

- Promoting inclusive learning environments for all children
- Monitoring developmental progress through ongoing observations and screenings
- Partnering with families and community providers to support each child's unique needs

Referrals & Evaluations

- Early Head Start (Birth–3): Referrals support the IFSP process when developmental concerns are identified.
- Head Start (Ages 3–5): Referrals support the IEP process in collaboration with the local school district.
- Referrals are made with parent consent and families are involved every step of the way.

Parent Corner: Supporting Development at Home

Families can support learning and development by:

- Reading with your child daily
- Encouraging play that builds fine and gross motor skills
- Talking, singing, and listening to your child
- Keeping regular communication with teachers and staff

If you ever have concerns about your child's development, please reach out—we are here to help.

Important Reminders

- Developmental screenings are completed within the first 45 days of enrollment.
- Parent participation and consent are required for all referrals.
- Early intervention makes a meaningful difference—the sooner we work together, the better the outcomes.

We're Here for You

If you have questions about disability services, referrals, or evaluations, please contact:

Sonya Lather-Newkirk
Disability Services Manager
Picayune School District Head Start / Early Head Start
Phone: 601-799-1716 | 601-795-1402
Email: slather@pcu.k12.ms.us

February 2026 (Head Start / Early Head Start Center-Based Menu)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2. Breakfast: Cheese Toast, Apple Sauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Chili on Bun, Yam Patty, Strawberries, Milk, Water	3. Breakfast: Grits, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheesy Chicken w/Rice, Turnip Greens, Corn Bread, Diced Pears, Applesauce, Milk, Water	4. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: BBQ Chicken on Bun, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water	5. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water	6. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Pears, Milk, Water Lunch: Baked Chicken Tenders, Fresh Baked Roll, Steamed Carrots, Mandarin Oranges Milk, Water
9. French Toast, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Chili on Bun, Yam Patty, Strawberries, Milk, Water	10. Breakfast: Cheesy Grits, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Red Beans and Rice, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Mandarin Oranges Milk, Water	11. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water Lunch: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Steamed Carrots, Fresh Baked Roll, Blueberries, Milk, Water	12. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Baked Beans, Diced Pears, Milk, Water	13. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Strawberries, Milk, Water
Mardi Gras Holiday		18. Breakfast: Rice Chex Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Pears, Milk, Water	19. Breakfast: Grits, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Steamed Carrots, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water	20. Breakfast: Waffle, Kiwi, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Sweet Potato Fries, Applesauce, Milk, Water
23. Breakfast: Cheese Toast, Apple Sauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Chili on Bun, Yam Patty, Strawberries, Milk, Water	24. Breakfast: Grits, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheesy Chicken w/Rice, Turnip Greens, Corn Bread, Diced Pears, Applesauce, Milk, Water	25. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: BBQ Chicken on Bun, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water	26. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water	27. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Pears, Milk, Water Lunch: Baked Chicken Tenders, Fresh Baked Roll, Steamed Carrots, Mandarin Oranges Milk, Water

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