



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Operating Head Start and Early Head Start in Solano and Napa Counties

Newsletter

December 2012
Vol. 3, Issue 1



Child Start's Commitment to Customer Service

From The Executive Director, Debbie Peralez

If you are new to the Head Start program this year, you have been participating in the program for more than a few weeks by now and you may have some questions or concerns that you want to address. At Child Start, we believe we can best impact results for children by working with families. We see parents as valuable partners in the work we do with their children. To support that belief, we offer families multiple ways to communicate with us and encourage you to take advantage so you are fully participating in your child's education and feel confident in the services you and your child are receiving. I can't promise that we'll always agree but I promise we'll listen respectfully and try to meet your needs.

You should feel comfortable talking with your child's teacher or Home Visitor about any questions or suggestions you have for what is occurring in the classroom or during a home visit. There is a Supervisor located at every center and one for every Home Visitor. Those of you who take your child to a Head Start or Early Start classroom have probably met with this person already since the Supervisor provides a lot of the day to day interaction with families while teachers are working in the classroom. This Supervisor is available to answer any questions you have and is responsible for addressing any concerns you have.

Every center also has a Regional Program Manager that oversees several centers. You should feel comfortable contacting the Regional Program Manager that has oversight for your child's center if you feel your concerns have not been addressed at the classroom level or by the Site Supervisor. The Regional Program Managers, and the sites they supervise, are listed below:

Nicole Arocha - Contact Info: (707) 252-8931, ext. 2036

Therapeutic Child Care Center, Virginia, Washington Park, Setterquist, Woolner, Fuller Park, Westwood, Kidder

Laura Schneider – Contact Info: (707) 252-8931, ext. 2851

Mariposa II, Suisun, Sunset Creek, Travis, Vineyard Crossings, North Vallejo, Tabor

Carla Dal Porto – Contact Info: (707) 252-8931, ext. 2009

Fairmont, Larsen, Mariposa I, Markham, Padan, Silveyville, Menlo, Mayacamas

If you receive Home Base Services and have a question or concern, please contact Karen Sanchez at 707-252-8931, ext. 2846 and she can route you to the appropriate person. You can also contact me directly if you are not satisfied with any of the steps listed above. I can be reached at (707) 252-8931, ext. 2849.

We look forward to a wonderful year full of growth and development for your child and we look forward to partnering with you on their behalf!

Menlo 1 Graphing through Voting

In this photo (on November 6th) the Menlo 1 AM class is voting for their favorite color! They only had five colors to choose from so we talked about making the best choice depending on what we had to choose from.



The children stood behind the voting booth, filled in their ballots, then placed it in a box so no one could see. After they voted, they received a sticker just like the adults that said "I voted". It was a tight race but purple won! We also did it in the PM class.

Parent Substitute Program



Ever thought you wanted to be a classroom teacher?

This interactive hands-on class will teach classroom basics, and give you skills in teaching young children. This program is four sessions long, which includes 36 hours of volunteer time in Head Start Classroom. Participants who successfully complete the course, will be eligible to receive a stipend to pay for college course in early childhood development.

Dates: Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24 & 31

Time: 1:00-4:00 PM

Location: Vineyard Crossing Head Start
202 Tapestry Lane, Suite #150
American Canyon, 94503

For more information please contact:

*Robin Rafael, Family Community Partnership Specialist
(707) 252-8931 ext. 2034*

Harvest Time at Silveyville



It was harvest time at the Silveyville site. Children planted pumpkin seeds and are caring for their pumpkin plants daily. They are using rulers and measuring their growth. Our sand box area has changed to a "Pumpkin Patch". We have a variety of pumpkins for children to weigh on the scale and "sell" to their peers. We have numbered leaves hanging and corn stalks all around the sand box poles. There is a large scarecrow on a bale of hay that gets fed daily by all the children. Children are selling, buying, cooking, counting, sorting by size, burying them in the sand and just having a great time. We will have costume day, crazy hair day, and western day this month. Ms. Dawn would also like to say that Raising A Reader is going GREAT!!!! Families are enjoying the program.



Volunteer Opportunities available with Child Start

Come join us



Whether you're interested in sharing a skill, keeping current skills alive, learning and helping out in your community, making new friends, and/or developing job skills, Child Start has many opportunities to meet your needs.

For more information on getting started as a volunteer, please contact Robin Rafael, Family Community Partnership Specialist at (707) 252-8931 Ext.2034



Who is in control at your house?



Learn the basic reasons for misbehavior, and help your child achieve self-discipline and improve self-esteem

Positive Parenting Classes in Spanish
(2) different sessions offered

- Dates:** Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23 & 29
Dates: Wednesdays, February 27, March 6, 13, & 20
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Location: Von Brandt Neighborhood Center
 1042 Von Brandt Street, Napa 94559

Light meal & child care provided

Please call Angelina at Cope Family Center to register (707) 252-1123

Financial Education Classes

Loads of Ideas and Money Saving Tips

Take control of your finances, increase income, learn tips to save money, improve credit scores, build assets, and access available resources

- Dates:** Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24 & 31
Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Location: Tabor Head Start
 83 Tabor Avenue, Fairfield 94533



Light meal & child care provided

*For more information please contact:
 Robin Rafael, Family Community Partnership Specialist
 (707) 252-8931 ext. 2034*

Site Closure Information December 2012 - February 2013

The following sites will be closed December 24th-January 4th & February 28th:

Fuller Park, Kidder 1-2-3, Larsen, Mariposa 1, Markham, Mayacamas, Menlo 1-2-3, North Vallejo 1-2, Padan, Silveyville, Suisun, Sunset Creek, Tabor 1-2, Travis, Vineyard Crossing 1-2, Virginia 1-2, Washington Park & Westwood

The following sites will be closed & Home Visitors will not be providing Home Visits December 24th & 25th, January 1st & January 18th:

Mariposa 2, Woolner, Therapeutic Child Care Center, Menlo 4, Setterquist, & Fairmont 1-2-3-4

All sites will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King

Monday, February 18th in observance of Presidents Day

Sunset Creek's Events and Activities

By: Kathy Rood, Site Supervisor

Sunset Creek's veteran teacher, Izetta Jackson, known officially as Ms. Jackson, is always going out into the community to bring resources to the children that she teaches! This year Ms. Jackson has already gotten each child at Sunset Creek a new jacket. Even though the program that had previously given coats to the children was unable to do it this year, Ms. Jackson contacted them and asked if they had coats left over from previous years. After checking on sizes and comparing with what was indeed left from previous years, she received enough jackets for all but six children. Do you think that stopped Ms. Jackson? No, of course not! She obtained a donation from fellow teacher Emeline Ladeau and then on her own time, went shopping for the other six jackets!

During the summer, Ms. Jackson met a police officer at an event and told her she would be calling her after the new school started.



Ms. Jackson with Joseph Miller



Ms. Jackson contacted Officer Asia from the Fairfield Police Department. She came out for both our AM and PM classes to fingerprint and photograph each child and printed out a card for the parents to keep as an identifier of their child.

From the left:
Rosemarie James,
Ms. Jackson and
Alonda Miles

While that was happening, the children were taught about "Stranger Danger" and how each fingerprint is unique. Officer Asia even gave each child their very own police badge!

Ms. Jackson then headed to Larry's Produce and received donations of pumpkins for the children. Her lesson plans revolved around Harvest Time. The pumpkins were displayed, touched, drawn, painted, decorated and cut open to find the surprise inside! The children dug out the seeds, placed them in the pan and later enjoyed the taste of roasted pumpkin seeds, yum!

Thank you Ms. Jackson for all you do, in giving of yourself for so many years to the children in our Head Start Program.

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

By: Vinita Sepolen, Policy Council Chair

I took the workshop called "Opening Doors" at Child Start for nine weeks with Robin Rafael and Cecilia Olmedo.

The workshop has opened many doors for me. It gave me effective tools to put into practice in my everyday life. I found it to be very informative, exciting, and delightful. The main thing I got from the workshop is that we as parents are leaders in our own rights, in our home, with our family and in our community. I am my child's first teacher. Parents like myself, who advocate for their children have a greater impact on their children's success than they realize. We as parents help to create support systems that open doors to opportunities for our children's road to college. Our children are special in their own ways; they need acceptance, fun, patience, respect, security and love.

For more information on the next class in the Spring, please contact:

*Robin Rafael, Family Community Partnership Specialist
(707) 252-8931 ext. 2034*



From the left: Ana Castañeda, Gerardo Reyna,
Vinita Sepolen and Sonia Perez
(Missing: Margurite Pariani)