



CESA 11

Head Start

Communication Link

25 YEARS TEACHING CHILDREN ~ SERVING FAMILIES

Mission:

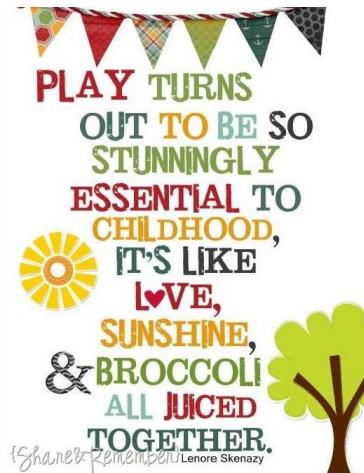
*Empower, Support,
Educate, and Lead*

Vision:

To create a healthy environment that will enable staff, parents, and children to learn and grow in order to make a positive impact within their communities.

From the Directors . . .

"Parents create the environments and experiences in which learning happens, which makes them the first teachers their child will ever have" (author unknown). Head Start recognizes the important role parents play in their child's learning. A special thank you to all of our parents this year for supporting your child's learning through reading, talking, and playing!



May 18th is Head Start's 53rd birthday! Centers across the service area have invited State Representatives and Senators to visit and spend some time with children and parents. Take a look at some of these activities included in this newsletter. We appreciate our local legislatures taking the time to visit our centers and learn more about how Head Start & Early Head Start impact children, families, and communities.

While our Head Start center-based classrooms are ending, Early Head Start home visits continue year round. In either case, children's learning continues and is expanded on by summer activities and opportunities. We wish our parents, children, and staff the best summer possible! Take advantage of community experiences and time with family.

Warm Regards, Beth & Sheri

"Happy 53rd Birthday Head Start"

and

"Happy 25th for CESA 11 Head Start!"

State of WI Legislative Visits & Visitors!



Head Start Policy Council members made the placemats given to State Representatives in Madison! There is currently a display of this beautiful artwork in the Head Start office in Turtle Lake!

In April, staff and parents from CESA 11 Head Start & Early Head Start spent an afternoon visiting with state legislatures in Madison. Erin Cronquist and Danielle Johnson, Policy Council parents, shared their Head Start stories with the legislators and/or their staffers.

May 18th was Head Start's 53rd birthday and CESA 11 celebrated by inviting some of those same senators and representatives to visit centers in their districts. These visits were scheduled throughout the month of May. Legislatures spent time in the classrooms with children reading stories, listening to questions, and playing! Staff gave tours of the centers and shared some of the joys and challenges parents face locally.

We want to give a big shout out to all these legislatures who took time out of their busy schedule to listen and visit! **"Thank You!!"**





Thank you **Representatives Romaine Quinn and Rob Stafsholt, and State Senator Patty Schachtner** for taking the time to meet with Head Start Directors Sheri Norgard and Beth Tilleson.

"Thank you Representative Rob Stafsholt for your time and energy visiting the Menomonie center on Tuesday, May 22nd." He came to read "Shark in the Park" to the classrooms, got a tour of the facility, and learned about the mission/vision of Head Start.



State Representatives Visit Our Head Start Centers



"Thank you Representative Rob Somerfield for your time and energy visiting the Cornell Head Start Center." The children really enjoyed the story he read and the time on the playground.



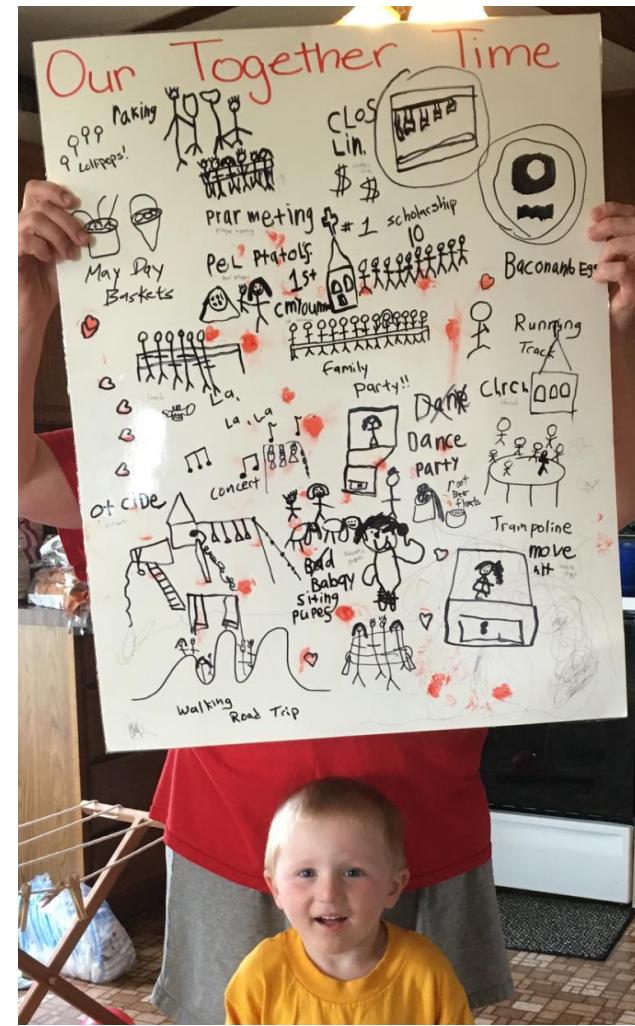
Thank you **Representative Romaine Quinn** for visiting the Rice Lake Head Start Center on May 17 to help celebrate Head Start's birthday and taken the time to read a book to the children in Ms. Molly's room.

Positive Solutions Parent Training

"I just wanted to take a moment and express my gratitude to CESA and the staff at the Colfax Head Start for offering trainings on positive parenting. I learned some new information and the assignments to try at home were helpful. The activities we completed gave our family new insights on how we interact with each other. The group sharing at the center was also helpful and it gave me support in the struggles I was facing as a parent. The leaders also offered extra information over and above the training manual, which demonstrated that they were prepared and were committed to helping us be more positive parents.

My favorite part of the training was the assignment of keeping track of things we do as family time. At first I was intimidated by the assignment. We are a large family and we are on a limited income, so I wasn't sure we participated in enough things that could be considered "family activities." I brought the poster board home and I informed my kids that we would be keeping track of all the things we do as a family that we enjoy over the next seven days. Needless to say, the kids were excited and got on board right away.

I drew two activities on the poster to get the kids started. We used pictures because not all of my kids are readers. I am not an artist, so I also wrote a description of the activity so my reader kids knew what I drew. After that, the kids took over. All eight of my children drew, scribbled, stamped, or wrote an activity on the poster. What struck me the most was that the activities that my children deemed as fun were not anything I would necessarily consider as "fun." I was also amazed that certain locations in our home and certain rituals that I would never have thought of brought them joy. This "masterpiece" has humbled me. It has made me appreciate what we do together and that the child's definition of "fun" does not necessarily reflect what we adults consider "fun." Michael (Early Head Start) enjoyed looking at the pictures and identifying the activity as more were added. Tony (Kindergarten, former Head Start kid) wrote a description of every activity. Even though he could not spell them all, he had great letter formation and I was able to decipher his meaning.



Sheri Lloyd, our home visitor, had our poster laminated for us. The kids were super excited when it returned to our house. Sarah (4K"former Head Start kid) wanted to know if we got an A on our "homework." I said yes, and she got a huge smile, gave me a high five and a thumbs up. Tony is keeping the poster in his room right now and the girls will get the poster in their room next week. Thank you once again to Head Start for helping my family to grow and thrive. I am most grateful for Head Start helping me to see that the little things do matter in making families great!"

Jane Sonnentag (Mother of Michael Sonnentag-Early Head Start)

Head Start is Leading the Way in Quality Pre-K

by Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director, NHSA

Enrollment in state-funded preschool programs has more than doubled in the past 15 years, but an [annual report released today by the National Institute for Early Education Research](#) (NIEER) reveals that one of the defining aspects of Head Start—high-quality standards—is missing from many state-funded preschool programs. What's more, many of those that are succeeding are doing so in part because of their strong collaboration with Head Start programs and/or because they have aligned their standards with the Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Read between the lines and the message is clear: Head Start is leading the way in demonstrating how to provide consistently high-quality pre-K that improves outcomes for children in kindergarten and beyond.



Parent Testimonials

“Being the mom of a newly adopted son, I found myself very protective and Head Start and their team really put my mind and heart at ease. Your child is not just a number there! There is a great relationship developed between your child and the teacher and her team. I am truly grateful that my son was able to have Head Start as his very 1st school experience! Thank you to all!”

“My children would not be as successful in school without Head Start; not just school, but in LIFE! What Head Start does for children and families is amazing! It’s hard to do “the extra” in life, but Head Start doesn’t just give more to children, it gets and trains the parents involved so “the extra” will always be there for the children! Every Head Start representative has been the kindest, helpful, most caring people I’ve ever met! Our family appreciates head Start very much, and our children will always remember Head Start for the positive involvement in their lives!”

Economists at the Federal Reserve of Minneapolis co-authored “Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return”. This article shows that there is a correlation between high-quality early childhood development programs and future success in life. There is also research showing a return on investment ranging from \$4-\$16.

Please see the full article:

[Investments in Young children Yield High Public Returns](#)

The Community Assessment - A Partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Stout

Under the Head Start Performance Standards, CESA 11 Head Start must conduct a community assessment once every five years. The community assessment is a strategic planning tool to help the program determine long-term and short-term program goals and objectives. In addition, the community assessment identifies issues and trends within the CESA 11 Head Start service area that directly impact vulnerable families with young children.

The community assessment is also updated annually and provides the most recent data available regarding demographics, early learning programs, disabilities, health, nutrition, and social services for children and families in the CESA 11 coverage area. The assessment provides a portrait of the CESA 11 Head Start programs and activities, and identifies community resources available. This assessment also identifies where there are gaps between available services and needs.

Ultimately, the community assessment is used to make decisions for outreach, enrollment, selection, and the most appropriate delivery of Head Start services. It is a valuable resource for staff, parents, and community partners to collectively think about the impacts of population shifts and equitable distribution of services.

The 2018 community assessment was compiled in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Stout and Yung Leng Wong, a graduate student working on an MS in Applied Psychology. Yung Leng's country of origin is Malaysia; her future plans include obtaining a job in psychology and her Ph.D. in the United States. CESA 11 Head Start is very thankful for the partnership with UW-Stout and Yung Leng.

Submitted by Brandi Warner

*A special **Thank You** to the Head Start staff that mentor
and train social work and teacher interns each year. CESA 11
Head Start has partnerships with the University of Wisconsin -
Eau Claire, University of Wisconsin - Stout, University of
Wisconsin - River Falls, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College,
and Chippewa Valley Technical College. Staff have dedicated
hours to providing new professionals with hands on experiences.*

End of the School Year Jamboree!



The New Richmond 4K class had an end of the year performance on May 24th. We invited our families, sang some of our favorite songs, had a snack, and explored our 4K Art Gallery. It was a great time for everyone. The kids have been working on art projects and learning about artists for the last month. It was such a fun theme and we have been impressed with how much they have learned about each of the artists and types of art we explored.

Ms. Melanie, Ms. Julie, and Ms. Naomi



Submitted by, Melanie McDonough-Robelis

Play



is the highest form of research ~ Albert Einstein



Congratulations!

A decorative background featuring four yellow five-pointed stars with radiating lines. Three stars are arranged in a triangular pattern at the top, and one is at the bottom right. Red and orange wavy lines (swirls) connect the stars, creating a sense of motion and celebration.

Roxy Markquart, Kate Manning, and Rose Ebert
on your retirement!

Thank you for your many years of outstanding
dedication and service to our Head Start children
and families.

Our Facebook pages are:

"Like us
on
Facebook"



- CESA 11 Head Start
- CESA #11 Chippewa Falls Head Start
- Colfax Head Start and Early Head Start
- CESA #11 Cornell Head Start
- Dallas Head Start
- Menomonie Head Start, CESA #11
- New Richmond Head Start
- Polk County Early Learning Center, Cesa #11 Head Start
- Pepin County Early Head Start
- Rice Lake Head Start
- Stanley Boyd Head Start