



CESA #11 Head Start ~ Communication Link

Mission: Empower, Support, Educate, and Lead

Vision: To create relationships and build collaborative partnerships within our communities which support, empower, and develop the unique potential of each Head Start child, family, and staff member to promote a healthy promising future for all children and families.

TEACHING CHILDREN ~ SERVING FAMILIES

Happy holidays to all! The holiday season is a time when we reflect on the things we are thankful for. As directors of the Head Start program, we are very thankful for the families that entrust us with their children and participate in our programming, our very dedicated and hardworking staff, and our community partners.

Some December/January activities include:

- December 1, 2015 is the beginning of our new grant/fiscal year.
- The admin team updated the 5-year strategic plan. Goals will be shared with staff and new objectives created for the coming year.
- New Policy Council representatives are seated during the December meeting. The new members receive an extensive orientation and governance training prior to beginning their term. This year we say so long to a very dedicated group of Policy Council members.
- The Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance (ERSEA) committee meeting will take place in December to review policies and procedures.
- Our mental health consultant, Bev Haverly, ACSW, LCSW, has completed her first round of center visits and follow up will be occurring in the coming months.
- Human Resources is completing a wage comparability study.



It is hard to believe, but planning is already underway for the 2016-2017 school year.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

Sheri Norgard and Beth Tilleson



CESA 11 Head Start Teacher Awarded the John Erickson Memorial Scholarship

Dian Anderson, 4K Teacher at New Richmond Head Start, was recently awarded the John Erickson Memorial Scholarship at the Wisconsin Head Start Association quarterly meeting. John Erickson was a Director for the Parent Child Center and Head Start program through West Cap for 21 years prior to CESA 11 acquiring the grant in 1993. Dian is currently working on her SPED certification and student teaching within the New Richmond School District. Congratulations to Dian and best wishes as she completes this certification!



Respectfully submitted by *Beth Tilleson, CESA 11 Head Start Director*

Congratulations Dian!!

Infant Mental Health

During Stanley-Boyd's November 16th Early Head Start socialization, a group of UW-Eau Claire nursing students put on a presentation about Infant Mental Health which included a video and brief discussion session. Parents received a picture book, an educational booklet on appropriate developmental stages for children of various ages, a handout with reading tips for children of various ages, and an Infant Mental Health brochure.

Kari Roshell, Home Visitor

Thank You! and Farewell CESA 11 Policy Council Members



PC members pictured with Sheri Norgard and Beth Tilleson; top row, left to right: Geri Carlson, Jenny Martin, and Jill Tomkowiak.

Bottom row, left to right: Tiffany Sanford and Natalie Madaus.

Our Changing World

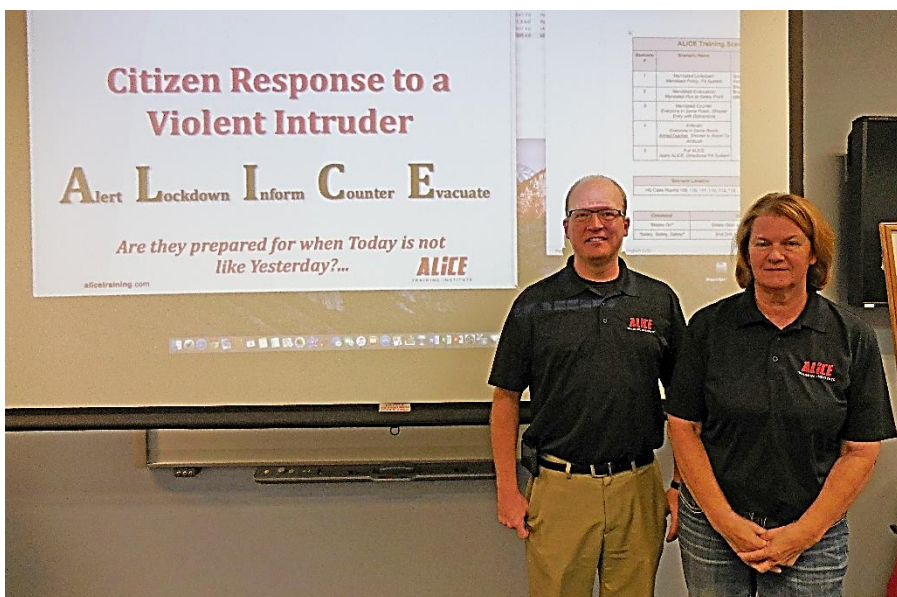
The recent violence and terrorist attacks that have been depicted on television, and discussed on social media, is scary for adults. These things can also leave a lasting impression on children, even if they aren't entirely sure what is going on. Young children are susceptible to the reactions of their caregivers; if the caregiver is afraid or agitated, children will notice.

Parents and caregivers can help young children process these issues. Experts say it's most important to talk about what is going on, keep up the regular home routine and give a few extra hugs.

The literature is mixed on what is developmentally appropriate for young children. Some experts advocate that young children should be reassured that they are safe. Very young children who may not even know what is going on do not need to know any details. The American Academy of Pediatrics CEO, Dr. Karen Remley said, "As pediatricians, we know that violence can have lasting effects on children even if they are only learning about it through the media. The AAP urges everyone to take care with the images that children see and hear about." Parents have the influence to change their children's perspective in how they choose to discuss negative situations. Reframing the discussion on how people pull together in tough times can put a positive spin on a negative situation.

In summary, helping young children cope with our changing world is greatly dependent on the reactions of the adults in their lives. Stay calm, remind children that they are safe, follow routines, turn off the television and limit exposure to bad news, and most importantly, spend time together and give extra hugs when needed!

Sheri Norgard, Early Head Start Director



Alert
Lockdown
Inform
Counter
Evacuate
(ALICE) Training

Thank you Brandon Robinson, Unity School District Superintendent, and Deb Peterson, Polk County Building and Grounds, for training the Center Assistants on ALICE. CESA II Head Start/Early Head Start is committed to providing a safe work and learning environment for staff, children and their families. We appreciate our Polk County partners for sharing their time and expertise.

CESA 11 Head Start and Prevent Blindness Wisconsin Make a Difference!



Each year Brandi Warner, Head Start Health Coordinator, offers vision screenings to all enrolled Head Start and Early Head Start children. Two families shared their success stories with Head Start and Prevent Blindness Wisconsin.

Success Stories



Tobius Jones - Age 2

"My son had an eye screening done at Head Start. We were referred to an eye clinic for a closer look. We found out there was a big difference between his eyes. He needed glasses. Tobius is only 2. If he would have never had the screening, I would have never known he needed glasses. Thank God for early screening."
Hope Jones

Abigail Boettcher - Age 3

"Abigail was screened in her class at the age of 3. She did not pass, she was referred to see an eye doctor. She has a stigmatism in her eyes pretty bad. She needs glasses. Abigail loves her glasses and takes very good care of them. She said she is able to see a lot better. If it was not for the screening, we would have never known she needs glasses. At least now she has a chance to help correct her eyes and have better vision before she gets older"
Donna and Jeremy Boettcher

Prevent Blindness and Head Start: A Life Changing Collaboration

About the Year of Children's Vision

Overview: Prevent Blindness - via its National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health - is working in partnership with the National Head Start Association, the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, the Good-Lite Company and SchoolHealth in an initiative called the Year of Children's Vision (YOCV.) The goal of YOCV is to provide national guidance to staff of Head Start programs and other early childhood educators to standardize approaches to vision screening, improve follow-up for eye care for children who fail the vision screening, provide family friendly educational information and consult with some of the nation's leading pediatric eye care providers to ensure best practices.

The Year of Children's Vision promises to improve uniformity in the national approach for children's vision health in Head Start programs. The effort will provide opportunities for learning and discussion on a monthly basis; free, downloadable resources in multiple languages; expert presentations; and maintain this website for future reference.

YOCV is an exciting, one-of-a-kind effort to support the vision health of children in Head Start programs leading to improved development and school readiness.

The Need: Vision impairments are common conditions among young children, affecting 5 to 10 percent of all preschool-aged children. If not detected and treated early, vision impairment could affect all aspects of life, negatively impacting a child's ability to learn, athletic performance, and self-esteem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, impaired vision can affect a child's emotional, neurologic, and physical development by potentially limiting the range of experiences and kinds of information to which the child is exposed. A leading preschool vision screening study notes that vision screening is critical to the welfare of our children and can have an impact not only on vision and eye health but also on social development and productivity.

Research has shown that infants and young children with visual impairment have delayed motor development milestones; may express particular mannerisms such as gazing at bright lights, blinking, or eye rubbing; and have delayed language development. Additionally, children with special needs and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds have been shown to have an increased likelihood of eye problems. Improved assessment tools, education and outreach initiatives to support earlier identification of vision problems and appropriate referral to eye care in these vulnerable populations will result in improved potential for better vision. Timely intervention and effective treatment lead to long-term improvements in children's vision and eye health and potentially that of the population at large.

The federal Office of Head Start recognizes the role that healthy vision plays in proper child development and currently requires all children in Head Start programs to be screened for vision problems within 45 days of a child's enrollment. The implementation of this program requirement is left to be interpreted at a local level with little national guidance presently available on training of staff in vision screening, tracking outcomes, or conducting vision screenings. This results in wide variation in vision screening approaches and an inability to measure the success of vision screening practices in Head Start nationally due to differences in data collection and program procedures.

Information from: <http://wisconsin.preventblindness.org/>

Educational Opportunities

What is T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood?

“T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Wisconsin provides higher education scholarships to professionals who work in regulated early childhood and school age care settings.” (T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood, 2015)

T.E.A.C.H. is a scholarship program available to those individuals that are furthering their early childhood education through completion of college credits. Individuals will partner with their sponsoring program and T.E.A.C.H. to pay for these credits, which has been shown to be a great benefit for anyone who chooses to take advantage of the program as well as the employers who choose to participate.

The program provides opportunities for making college credit courses more attainable and affordable, while allowing individuals to utilize release time for completion through their current employer. Specific eligibility requirements must be met for the scholarship models available - Early Childhood Education Credential, the 3 to 8 Credits Scholarship, and the Associate's Degree Scholarship and Bachelor's Degree Scholarship. After an application has been accepted, the individual will be assigned a professional development counselor to assist them throughout the process as needed.

Applications, along with more detailed and up to date information, can be found on the T.E.A.C.H. website at <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach> or by contacting them directly at 800.783.9322 (option 3).

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood. (2015). In *wisconsinearlychildhood.org*. Retrieved December 7, 2015 from <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach>.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College is offering the following course: 31-307-1
Technical Diploma (one-year) – Campus: Online
In-Person and/or Online + Community-Based Student Teaching

Program Overview

E-Connect - Child Care Services is an innovative one-year technical diploma that incorporates the first year of the Early Childhood Education associate degree with Wisconsin Professional Preschool Credential coursework.

Special Features

- Earn an E-Connect - Child Care Services technical diploma in one year through online, daytime and evening classes- mix and match.
- Meets “Year One” technical studies coursework required to obtain the Early Childhood Education associate degree with seamless opportunities for degree completion.
- Meets the coursework requirements for the Wisconsin Preschool Credential when combined with the ECE: Preschool Credential Capstone course and commission process.

Information from: <http://www.witc.edu/pgmpages/e-connect/overview.htm>

A Surprise Gift for a Head Start Parent

A Stanley-Boyd family received a nice surprise for the Holiday season. Jill Tomkowiak, former Policy Council member, nominated fellow Head Start parent Laura Lane for the *Morrie's Chippewa Valley Mazda's 60 Days of Giving*. Laura has a two year old son with a rare disorder. Laura spends the majority of her days in the hospital due to his many surgeries. Laura received a 2005 Buick Terraza from Morries along with a \$1,000 Gordy's gift card. Congratulations Laura!

Kari Roshell, Home Visitor

Center Events



In October, during Fire Prevention Week, the Polk County Early Learning Center/Luck 4K had a visit from the Balsam Lake Fire Department to review safety practices and experienced seeing the fireman's equipment.

Our students also learned about different colors and tastes of apples when we visited Baker's Apple Orchard in Centuria. Everyone enjoyed a hike through the trees and playing apple baseball!!



The Polk County Learning Center/Luck 4K began their schedule of "Very Important Person" family luncheons at the center. We planned a VIP day for the 4K classrooms every other month this school year; our families are really excited!

Mary Nelson, Center Director



Shake
Shake
Shake!

All Head Start agency vehicles will have these nifty bottles filled with sand or Ice Melt to help reduce slips and falls this winter. The containers were provided courtesy of Spectrum Insurance. Keeping our staff healthy and safe is a priority!

