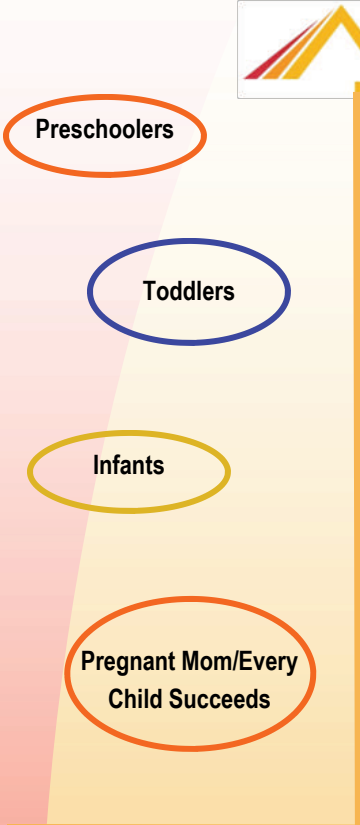


Preparing Infants and Preschoolers for Success.



From the desk of the Head Start Director

Welcome to the 2010 - 2011 HS/EHS school year. This is going to be a very exciting year for Head Start children and their families.

Children's individual learning patterns are led by important institutional guidelines and structures, which forms the foundation for their future education. Our goal this year is to implement the most developmentally appropriate practices as our teachers continue to pay close attention to children's physical, intellectual, creative and social-emotional development.

Teaming with parents will ensure optimal success for our children and families. The partnership formed between HS/EHS staff and families creates a powerful impact on children. They are eager to learn and are provided many opportunities for hands on explorations and problem solving. Parent's participation is key to obtaining the goals jointly created by Head Start staff and families. We will continue to reach out to parents and to support their children's curiosities and eagerness to learn. Together we can build confidence and nurture excellence.

The theme for this school year is "Providing the Foundation for Education: Graduation Starts Here". There are noticeable changes hap-

pening nationally, statewide, and locally in Head Start as we move forward. Our logo has changed to depict the direction of our Head Start/Early Head Start School. We are transforming from a "program" to an "Early Education School" that prepares children and families for success in life.



"Providing the Foundation for Education: Graduation Starts Here".

CAA to Celebrate 46 Years of Service

CAA will celebrate its 46th Annual Luncheon on Friday, October 29 at The Westin Cincinnati. The luncheon serves as a time to look back over the past year of service to celebrate successes, better understand the challenges that lie ahead, and reaffirm CAA's commitment to serving Hamilton County's low-income families. CAA welcomes actor and youth advocate Malik Yoba (New York Undercover, Tyler Perry's Why Did I get Married?) as the keynote speaker.

To purchase seats or for sponsorship opportunities, call 513.569.1853 or visit www.cincinnati-cao.org

C-HCCAA & Head Start

- Gwen L. Robinson
President/CEO
- Mark B. Lawson, Esq.
Board Chair
- Verline Dotson
Grantee HS/EHS Director
- Eddie Malone
Policy Council Chair

Delegate Agencies

- Cincinnati Public Schools
- Cincinnati Union Bethel, Inc.
- Hamilton County Educational Services Center
- UC Child Care Center/Arlitt Child & Family Research and Education Center

Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Observation Training

This summer CAA Head Start held its first CLASS Observation Training. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is an intensive 16-hour program that prepares participants to take the CLASS Reliability Test and become certified CLASS observers.

With CLASS, educators finally have an observational tool to assess classroom quality in pre-kindergarten through grade 3. The assessment is based on teacher-student interactions in the classroom rather than an evaluation of the physical environment or a specific curriculum.



Following successful completion of the CLASS Reliability Test, observers are certified for one year. Selected staff from Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Union Bethel, Hamilton County Educational Services Center and CAA Head Start received the training.

Parent Involvement in Policy Council/Committee

Greetings and welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! As we know, parent involvement has always been key to the success of our program. Head Start deems parental participation an essential component to each child's and family's growth and development. Research shows that parent involvement can be linked to greater gains in a child's cognitive, language, and social-emotional growth.

As one of a variety of opportunities to involve the parents, shared governance allows parents to provide input regarding the program through the Center Committees and Policy Council.

Center committees work with staff in planning curriculum, menus, educational and family events. Policy Council is responsible for approving the direction of the Head Start program, including long- and short-term planning goals and objectives.

To have effective shared governance, each delegate program must have committee officers and Policy Council representatives in place by November 12, 2010.

Ruth King, an instructor from the Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Office of Ohio, Booz/Allen/Hamilton, outlined the learning objectives which include: theoretical background of the CLASS; review of large-scale research studies validating the CLASS; in-depth analysis of CLASS dimensions; and 5-8 hours of training using master-coded training video clips.



Instructor Ruth King

The techniques used to deliver this presentation include: interactive lecture, training videos and practice activities.

Ruth has been dedicated to the early childhood profession for over 20 years. Prior to joining the TTA office, she worked in a Head Start program for 15 years. Ruth can be reached by calling (330)364-2413 or king_ruth@bah.com.

I encourage you to communicate the importance of their involvement on the Center Committee and Policy Council on opening day. Active involvement not only allows the parents an opportunity to learn more about the program, but it also teaches them skills to become a strong advocate for their child while in Head Start, and beyond.



I wish you all a happy and prosperous school year!

Ericka Bass, Family & Community Partnership Support Manager

Preparing For "Return to School"

Returning to school is an exciting time for families. In addition to providing a quality education, Head Start also ensures health needs are met. A healthy child is a child ready to learn and a child ready to learn is a child with a head start. It is important for the child's wellness and education that he/she has a primary care provider, dental provider, and health insurance prior to starting classes. Make sure parents know their child's school staff and maintain ongoing communications regarding their child's health and educational considerations.

There are a range of health policies across school districts and Head Start early education schools. It is important for families to understand the schools responsibilities, Head Start Performance Standards and local licensing regulations. The following is a brief summary of health information to assist families in preparing for the return to school.

Physical Examinations - Each child needs to present a documented physical examination prior to first day of school or within the first **30 days**. If participating in soccer, physical exams are required for participation.

Preschool Vision Screening - Vision screening should be completed by the primary care provider or Head Start staff upon child's entry into program or within **45 days** of the start of the school/program year.

Lead Poisoning Screening - Each child must present documentation of lead poisoning screening upon entry or within first **90 days**.

Immunizations - Immunization is a vital communicable disease control. State regulations require each child meet immunization requirements upon entry.

Medication Administration - The administration of medications to children at school is managed by the program staff that is trained in what to look for and how to administer the medication. Children are not allowed to carry or administer medication.

Children with Special Health Care Needs - Physician's orders for care in school will need to be shared with the school staff. For complex care requiring a team approach, a team meeting before school entry is recommended with the goal that services are in place prior to the start of school so the child is ready to learn.

Excerpt from the Official Website of the Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)

Upcoming Health Trainings at 1740 Langdon Farm Road



September - Refresher

- 10th** First Aid/CPR - 9:00 AM
Gwen L. Robinson Auditorium Rm. 209
- 10th** Child Abuse - 1:00 PM
Gwen L. Robinson Auditorium Rm. 209
- 11th** Communicable Disease - 9:00 AM
1740 Langdon Farm Road, Rm. 326

October - Full Course

- 15th** Communicable Disease - 9:00 AM
Gwen L. Robinson Auditorium Rm. 209
- 15th** Child Abuse - 1:00 PM
Gwen L. Robinson Auditorium Rm. 211
- 16th** First Aid/CPR - 9AM
Gwen L. Robinson Auditorium Rm. 209

November - Refresher

- 12th** First Aid/CPR - 9:00 AM
Gwen L. Robinson Auditorium Rm. 209
- 12th** Child Abuse - 1:00 PM
Gwen L. Robinson Auditorium Rm. 209

November - Full Course

- 13th** Communicable Disease - 9:00 AM
Gwen L. Robinson Auditorium Rm. 209

Developing Listening and Speaking Skills

Research confirms that children need many opportunities to both talk and listen with teachers and peers in order to gain the language skills needed to achieve success in reading and writing. All adults involved in the education of young children benefit from understanding the importance of open-ended questions, vocabulary exploration, and engaging conversations with young learners. Here are a few examples of explicit questions that enhance the language skills of young children

Continued on the back page



Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

We help make things happen

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Check out CAA on the web at
www.cincy-caa.org and on your
favorite social networking sites.



@CincyCAA



Cincinnati-Hamilton County
Community Action Agency

MISSION STATEMENT:

To act as an advocate, provider, and facilitator for the full range of public and private resources, programs, and policies which give low to moderate income individuals the opportunity to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities.

Developing Listening and Speaking Skills continued

Continued from page 3

The following is an excerpt from **Teaching Our Youngest:**

We need to put to rest the old saying, "Children should be seen and not heard." Research shows beyond question that it is through having many opportunities to talk as well as to listen to teachers and peers that children gain language skills so valuable for their success in reading and writing.

It is important for young children to be able to:

- Listen carefully for different purposes, such as to get information or for enjoyment.
- Use spoken language for a variety of purposes.
- Follow and give simple directions and instructions.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Use appropriate volume and speed when they speak.
- Participate in discussions and follow the rules of polite conversation, such as staying on a topic and taking turns.
- Use language to express and describe their feelings and ideas.

It is important for teachers to:

- Ask open-ended questions that invite children to expand upon their answers.

- Present new words to children to expand their vocabularies.
- Play games that will focus children's attention on the importance of listening carefully.
- Respond to questions and let children take the conversational lead.
- Respond to children's questions and let them build their language skills.

Here are some things teachers can do to help develop and expand their children's listening and speaking skills:

- Engage children in conversation throughout the day.
- When reading aloud to the children, encourage them to predict what will happen in the story, to comment on the story, and to make connections between the story and their personal experiences.
- Play games that will focus children's attention on the importance of listening carefully.
- Gently reinforce the rules of good listening and speaking throughout the day.
- Capitalize on routine opportunities to have the children follow or give directions.

"Developing Listening and Speaking Skills." Teaching our Youngest. Early Childhood-Head Start Task Force. ED/HHS. 2002. English.