



For the Love of It

Admin News

The Education Dept. staff met with Wendy Bowe, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist in early Jan.. The focus of the meeting was to share School Readiness information with programs. This included an overview of the revised Child Outcomes Framework, the completion of an Ongoing Child Assessment Questionnaire, a review of the Assessment Toolkit and the development of a plan to implement the toolkit in the program. The results of the questionnaire will be sent to our Regional Specialist in Chicago. Wendy also reviewed some current ECD policies and procedures and offered some ideas on improving their effectiveness.

The Education Department held an unscheduled networking day for CMs and TAs on Jan 21st. This was in re-

sponse to the evaluations at a previous training requesting more training in assessment specifically and more training for Teacher Assistants. Staff received information on the revised Child Outcomes Framework. In the morning the CMs and Regional Teachers discussed assessment and shared tips and forms they use to collect data. At the same time the TAs received an overview of the CLASS observation instrument and information on asking meaningful, open-ended questions. The rest of the day was spent in small groups as a classroom team to share information on Using a Team Approach in the Classroom, Approaches to Large Group Time, and Using Studies in the Classroom. A follow-up day is planned in Feb. Notice was received from DANYA

that the Federal Peer Review will take place the week of Feb. 13th. ECD Admin staff has met regularly on Mon. mornings to review Federal Review materials. The Director has also met individually with the leads in each component area to review Protocol questions. Protocol questions have been shared with staff and Program Coordinators have discussed them at the centers.

The EHS Home Visitors, Tera & Monica attended the Univ. of Iowa Family Development training. The second week of training is scheduled for the end of February.

A center open house was held at the FDC and the CDC for future 4K and Early Head Start Families.

The Wisconsin Head Start Association quarterly meeting took place in Madison Jan. 13-14. Bobbie Jo M. and Cheryl S. attended the Transportation networking session. Mary N. attended the ERSEA training session. Kristie S. is now the Staff Affiliate Representative to the WHSA and attended her 1st meeting in that role. Policy Council member, Jill Keenlance, attended her 1st meeting in her role as our WHSA Parent Affiliate representative.

Center News

Ashly H, Jen S. and Jenni O. (CDC and EHS) made a snow sculpture for the South Wood County Humane Society in Wisconsin Rapids to support our Center! Here is a picture of us after working hard on our sculpture! Consider making a donation of dog or cat food, toys that can be sanitized with bleach,



blankets, etc. to this humane society or one near you.

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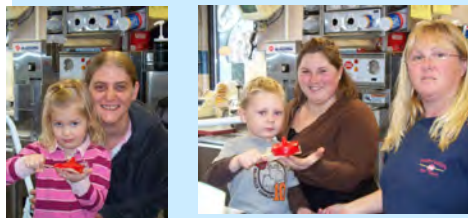
Center News (continued from pg. 1)



MELC had a fun day in the classroom in our "Donuts with Dads" event. The children enjoyed painting their Dad/Grandpa's hands. They also had the opportunity to show them all the cool things they do in school. Together they designed picture frames to put



in a picture of them together. Everyone also got physical exercise as they went sledding down the big hill. Of course they all enjoyed decorating and eating the yummy donuts!

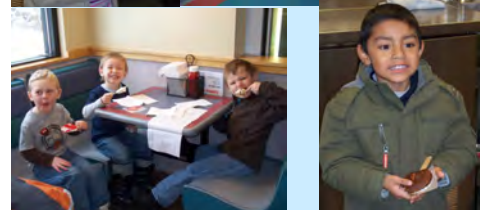
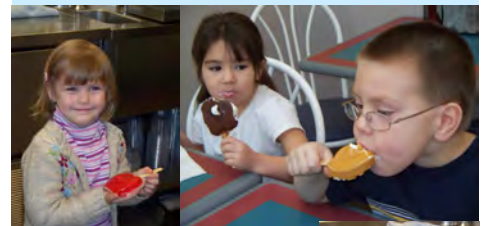


On January 25 children and families from Wautoma Head Start enjoyed a field trip to the Dairy Queen. They learned about the freezer, walk in cooler, how the ice cream gets to the machines and how to make an ice



cream cake. Each child and adult also was able to make, dip and eat a dilly bar. The Dairy Queen donated all the dilly bars to us. A great day was had

by everyone!



Food Backpack Projects

The CAP Services' ECD program is very fortunate to be able to provide food backpacks to children in two centers this year. In Waupaca a collaboration of local churches and businesses concerned about hunger will be providing food for Head Start children on days they do not have class. With parent permission to participate each child will receive a backpack of food to take home on Thursday to supplement his/her breakfast and lunch on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Monday the child is to return the backpack to school to be refilled. In the EHS program the Home Visitor will take a box of food to the family each week. The program was sched-

uled to begin on January 24th.

In Portage County ECD received a grant award from the Portage County Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership. The funds are to be used toward purchasing food for children in Head Start and EHS at FDC to take home for the weekend once a month. This project will be operated



in cooperation with a local Cub Scout pack and with the UW - Extension Nutrition Educator who will continue to provide nutrition information to families.

Thanks to everyone who was involved in getting these projects started and who collaborate with community agencies to continue them. Food insecurity is a serious issue for many of the Head Start and Early Head Start families, especially during these very difficult economic times.

February is:



American Heart Health Month

National African American History Month

National Children's Dental Health Month

Visit from Senator Luther Olsen



The following article by John Faucher appeared in the Waupaca County Post East on Jan. 13:

About 20 three-year old voices echoed down the hallway from a small lunch room Monday. Meanwhile, in a brightly decorated classroom state Sen. Luther Olsen visited with CAP Services staff and learned more about the Head Start program.

He asked questions and looked around as the tour continued to the lunch room where children were seated in tiny little chairs at a half dozen tables. There was a family style setting with an adult teacher's aide, or parent at each table.

The kids didn't seem distracted by the special visit as they drank from their little cartons of milk and kept busy passing food and eating their lunch.

Nicole Weier, Family Services Specialist for CAP explained, "Our lunches here are served family style to promote sharing, table manners and hands on activity."

Weier and her colleagues explained the services they offer families as they guided Senator Olsen through the informal tour.

Head Start is funded primarily through state and federal dollars with a mission to bring about a permanent increase in the ability of low income individuals and help them become economically and emotionally self-sufficient. It is a locally designed and implemented program delivered through CAP Services.

Head Start utilizes the family systems approach in providing early childhood education for children. Services extend well beyond the classroom to include year-round contact with families through home visits, referrals, goal setting, plan-

ning and community participation.

Senator Olsen interacted with the children. He asked "How old are you?" to one child. And another, how high they could count and what day of the week it was.

Responses varied in degrees of shyness and energy, as could be expected from a room full of three-year olds.

Weier explained Head Start's center based program nutrition education goals.

Children are served a nutritious breakfast, lunch and snack depending on the amount of time they are in the program each day. "We try to introduce them to new foods and healthy eating habits through ongoing food experiences," said Weier.

A registered dietician supervises the menus and provides educational information on healthy eating. Staff also works collaboratively with families and health professionals both in and out of the classroom to promote healthy practices early in life.

Professionals also make regular visits to the classroom to provide medical and dental screenings. They provide referrals and link families with ongoing sources for continuous care to address any identified



needs in the areas of health, psychological services and or other family necessities.

Last year nearly 90 percent of parents



surveyed said they felt more confident in locating resources within their community, and 84 percent said they felt more confident in their own parenting skills after involvement with the program.

Last year the program served 363 children in Waupaca, Portage, Waushara and Marquette counties. One-hundred percent of parents surveyed felt their child was learning at his or her potential.

Parental involvement is essential in the program and last year, families and community members volunteered 73,553 hours of in-kind volunteer service.

Parents are invited to attend school with their children regularly through planned activities and special days throughout the year. There are also family gatherings in the evening once a month.

On Monday, as the three-year old morning class finished their lunch, the next wave of four-year olds began to arrive at the site. Senator Olsen took the opportunity to talk with several parents as they dropped off and picked up children. A confident four-year old girl wearing a blue blouse with shiny sequins led her father down the hallway by hand toward Senator Olsen. She clung to her dad's leg as he shook hands with the Senator and introduced himself.

"This is our first year involved with the program," he told Senator Olsen.

"Have you noticed a difference since your daughter started the program?" asked Olsen. "Definitely!" he said. There was no delay in the father's response. "She

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Olson visit (cont. from pg.3)

loves school and looks forward to coming every day. She's learning things I didn't think she could do at this age."

Another father explained how his daughter was site reading, counting and measuring long before he ever imagined she would. In addition, he explained how the program has worked for them in other ways.

"We've really found the family goal setting, resources, home visits and parenting education helpful," he said. "Having our daughter come here has made us better parents, and it allows my wife time to study and work towards her GED."



Ninety-six percent of parents surveyed last year felt the Head Start family goal-setting process was helpful to them and their family.

Mary Naylor, assistant director of CAP Services Early Child Development programs, reiterated how Head Start staff assists family members to set goals and move toward economic and emotional self-sufficiency.

The father agreed. "This program has been a huge help for us," he explained. "It didn't take us long after our daughter was born to realize they don't come with an instruction manual. Honestly there was a lot we just didn't know," he said.

Senator Olsen reassured him with a chuckle and said, "I know, I have children of my own."

As the four-year olds came in from the drop off area and into the entry way, they pinned on name tags and removed their snow gear with different degrees of agility. Parents and teachers helped the children neatly hang their coats, backpacks, and change into their shoes before forming a line to enter the classroom.

Once in the classroom, it didn't take long for one little girl long to ask, "Why are there so many big people here?" which drew a chuckle from those of us standing around the circle of children seated on the floor.

"That's a good question," replied Mrs. Pat, who is a certified 4-K instructor for Head Start. Next she unveiled the letter of the week, which incidentally was the letter S.



She used the natural cue to introduce Senator Olsen to the students. After weekly helper duties were assigned and the daily schedule gone over, one student who was the "Star of the Week" had the floor with her mother to explain a special poster she

made about herself.

Before cleaning up and going to lunch, students were given a chance to shake hands with the Senator and have their group picture taken with him. Some giggled and squealed with excitement as they shook his hand and scurried to the lunch line. Others were reserved and shy.

Senator Olsen, who took a knee for the occasion, was all smiles as he shook their little hands. The children then exited to the lunch room. As he got up he said, "You know—we attend so many meetings, look at numbers and debate issues. But this is really what it's all about," explained Olsen.

"I enjoyed this."

They spent some more time discussing how the new collaborative with school districts was working to provide community based 4-K services at their site. Currently Head Start partners with the New London and Stevens Point School Districts to help deliver 4-K curriculum. CAP's Early Child Development program also has agreements with other school districts and all Birth-to-Three agencies within their service area.

Senator Olsen discussed the upcoming State budget challenges. He talked about the timeline and process involved in creating the next budget. "We will begin work on it soon, and our goal is to finish by June," he explained.

There is a public hearing process that must happen first, and of course he reiterated that this can be an unpleasant time for lawmakers since there are likely no additions to the budget and cuts will be inevitable.

Senator Olsen reassured the Head Start staff that he values the importance of early education and childhood programs in our state. He was very thankful for the tour and visit.

Staff likewise thanked Senator Olsen for his visit and provided him with an annual outcome report to take home with him.



Staff News



Toni S — The sewing party for Little Dresses was a success despite the sub zero temps and all the Packer Parties the same day! We made 20

dresses, and have tentative plans for another sewing party at the Wellness spa in March!

Thanks to Shannon P. and Jill G. for tables.



Tabitha Mares (TA/BA) joins us in New London. Some of you may remember Tabby was with us before she got married.

Jen Sorgel will be moving from CDC to began a new role as a Home Visitor at Early Head Start. Prior to this transition, Jen was a classroom assistant at CDC with the 1 ½ to 2 year olds and is excited to use her knowledge and skills to help fami-



lies move toward self sufficiency through EHS program.

Jackie Sager (CC) in Clintonville is a former HS parent, with 3 children.



Jackie shared that she loved the HS program so much that she is excited to join our team!

Also joining us as subs are Jennifer DeVitt and Patricia Wichman.

We say a fond farewell to Judie Warren. Good luck in all your future endeavors!

How Much Do You Know about Poverty?

Take this short quiz and test your expertise

(Questions from "Half in Ten"; the campaign to cut Poverty in half in ten years)

1. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Assuming full - time, year - round employment how much would a parent have to earn to rent a modest, two bedroom apartment at fair market rent without spending more than 30% of their income on rent?
A. \$7.25/hr; \$15,080/year
B. \$10.78/hr; \$22,422/year
C. \$15.22/hr; \$31,657/year
D. \$18.44/hr;\$38,360/year

2. More than 40 million people received food stamps (or SNAP benefits) in 2009. What was the average daily benefit *per household in 2009*?
A. \$30
B. \$21
C. \$15
D. \$9

3. A single parent with two preschoolers would need more than \$46,000 to pay for necessities like rent, food,

and child care. What is the poverty guideline for a family of four? (no peaking)

A. \$18,050
B. \$22,050
C. \$40,050
D. \$60,050

4. How many children live in households struggling with hunger?

A. One in six
B. One in five
C. One in four
D. One in three

5. How much does child poverty cost our country every year?

A. \$400 million
B. \$500 billion
C. \$600 million
D. \$700 billion

6. What racial-ethnic group has the largest number of people living in poverty?

A. White/Caucasian
B. African American
C. Asian American
D. Latino

7. The number of poor people in the United States is greater than the population of Canada.

True False

8. In which geographic area are numbers of poor residents rising faster?

A. Urban
B. Suburban
C. Rural

9. How many Americans will experience poverty at some point in their lifetime?

A. One in two
B. One in three
C. One in four
D. One in five (Answers on last page).

Are you a Teacher, Parent and/or grandparent looking for activities and ideas to do with children? Check out www.preschoolexpress.com. This is a free online educational activity resource for children 1-5 yrs written by Jean Warren—previous owner of Totline Publications.



Admin News (cont. from pg.1)

The annual ECD recruitment training took place on January 14. Updated ERSEA policies and procedures were reviewed, including the 2011 Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection and Enrollment criteria. All staff who attended are now qualified to take applications and verify income for EHS and HS.

A networking for Head Start Family Services Specialist and Home Visitors took place on January 14. Topics included EITC, review of FSS/HV timeline and Family and Community Partnership goals, and updates from the NHSA Parent Conference and Father Involvement and Family Literacy initiatives.

The first ECD Advisory Committee met on January 20. Members included Head Start and EHS staff, a Policy Council member, a CDC staff person and our ECD Advisor to the CAP Board. The committee worked on creating an ECD philosophy for the program. The final draft should be completed soon. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14.

A three hour Program Governance training was offered to ECD Policy Council and CAP Board members on January 22. Denes Tobie from WIPFLI conducted the training which included information on Board responsibilities, Conflict of Interest, Audit process and Head Start developments.

Things Children say...

April N. contributed: As a mom and her four year old son were leaving CDC she was explaining to her son why he should put his coat. She was saying how cold it was outside and more. The child stopped, put his hand on his hip, looked up at his mom and said, "Are we going to have to go through this every time?" This is a great example of parent role modeling.

Dennis Wedde, CAP Board member: Shortly after my step-daughter had a baby, she and my 4 yr old grandson went to visit a friend of hers who also had a new baby. My grandson went up to the new mom and

said, "So this new baby, is he bottle fed or bra-fed?"

Bobbi P (CDC): As a little girl was taking off her snow gear, her dad asked why it was taking her so long? The little girl answered, "Oh you know Daddy, because I'm just dinking around."

Kathy S: My 7 year old granddaughter was watching the Packer game and said "You know what? I should be a quarterback, I'm so gorgeous the other team would be distracted and we would always win!" (no self esteem issues there!)

Karen Z: As the collection basket was passed in church, a young child

was waiting patiently. When he looked down into the basket to place his contribution, his eyes went wide and he said vocally, "He sure got a lot!"



Answers: 1. D; 2. D; 3. B; 4. C; 5. B; 6. A; 7. True; 8. B; 9. B