

# HEAD START HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION  
APRIL 2024



## A word from the Director

Happy April, I am ready for this Spring weather to stay! This month the Leadership Team took another deep dive into data at our data review. I have included a few notes/action steps below:

**-Teaching Strategies GOLD/ School Readiness Goal Data (Winter):** -Majority of children are meeting or exceeding their school readiness goals (over 80% in all domains achieving or exceeding), this is excellent and right on target for what we want to see! The team noted that language and literacy had the highest percentage of children below the expectations, it was discussed that we have a high number of dual language learners and IFSP/IEP's (most include speech).

**-Heights & Weights (Growth Assessments):** The data being collected is more accurate, however a majority of classrooms are missing the second round of heights and weights data. A few action steps from this data: review the procedures for heights and weights with staff, complete/follow up on missing data, email reminders for heights and weights to staff, continue to look for I am Moving, I am Learning Training when it is available.

**-Family Outcomes and Family Goals (second assessment):** The team noted that site and program averages are all upward trends which is a good thing. Even the lowest scores showed improvement. Attendance was lower which tracks with the attendance data we have seen program wide. Families in the lower area or decreased area in general already on our radar, which is a good thing. It was noted that we have seen a slight increase in family engagement, the team thought maybe with Family Nights it would increase more, but we will see after the next Family Nights. The two lowest areas for families overall were employment/income, and participation in Head Start, however, both areas did show some improvement. There are a few classrooms/sites/areas that do not have the second assessment completed yet, Sam will be monitoring and following up with those Family Advocates. The action step that was discussed was that a contingency plan needs to be created and followed for when a Family Advocate is absent for an extended period of time or a position is vacant.

**-Parent Meeting Attendance:** The team noted that more data is being collected, but we do still have room for growth. We would like to be able to run reports at any time for this data, steps have already begun to implement this the procedure will just need to be updated. Overall, there is large growth in parent meeting attendance, especially from the past year. Doing parent meetings quarterly seems to be more effective than monthly. The team discussed that the next steps would be to collect the data from the Family Night Surveys to review and see if any changes need to be made. The other action step is to review and hopefully simplify the Family Night procedure for staff. Great work to all staff as we can see the teamwork and dedication that goes into planning these wonderful events for families.

**-Home Visit Count & Socialization Attendance (Home Based):** This was the team's first time being able to run these reports, so this will be utilized as baseline data.

**-TPOT/TPITOS:** All EHS teachers scores went up. Early Head Start went from 2 to 5 indicators at 100%, which is great to see and wonderful progress. EHS no red flags. EHS all

staff are 80% or above- they are doing really well! Way to go! Head Start had a reduction in the number of red flags, they went from 14 in the Fall to 4 in the Spring, which is great progress. 80% of Head Start teachers had an improved score from Fall to Spring. The Leadership Team discussed that PBIS training has not been completed with all staff yet, so the improvement and growth is wonderful to see. The team will be working on the plan for PBIS training as their action step.

A few other program things going on... the Leadership Team is wrapping up the Self-Assessment for the 23-24 school year. Thank you to the Leadership Team and everyone who participated in these meetings to give insight. This is an essential process for continual program growth. The team is in full swing of planning next year: contracts are being completed, recruitment is in full swing, calendars are now getting underway, and we are beginning to plan for preservice. Lastly, we are working on the close-down process and end of the year celebration. The team is wanting to simplify this close down process so more information coming soon! Also, if you have not voted for how you prefer to do the end of the year celebration, please do so this week! I hope you all have a wonderful month!

Danni Segebart, Head Start Director

## **Education News**

I cannot believe we are in the last few months of the 23-24 school year?! Wow, the year really has gone by so fast! Over the next few weeks, I will be wrapping up the last of the CLASS observations in the Head Start Classrooms, this data will be compiled and shared out in the next newsletter. I have seen some wonderful things during these observations! Great job to all of you!

As you know, April is a busy month with both Week of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. We would love to hear and see how your classrooms/offices celebrate these two occasions! Please submit stories/pictures for the May newsletter to Danielle Segebart. For more information on Child Abuse Prevention Month visit:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/>

Week of the Young Child will be celebrated April 8th-12th. Here is the link <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/plan-your-event> to the NAEYC website with lots of ideas/lessons that you can incorporate into your week to celebrate the importance of education in the young child's life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that the opportunities provided to all young children are the responsibilities of all Early Childhood Educators. It is also a time to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment—at home, at childcare, at school, and in the community—that will promote their early learning. Please see WOYC's "themes" of the week for 2024. Be sure to share your creativity and celebrations with all of us😊

Monday: Music Monday

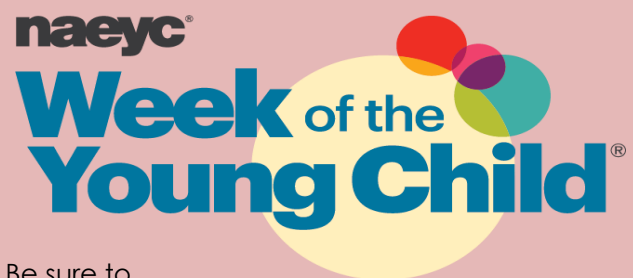
Tuesday: Tasty Tuesday

Wednesday: Work Together Wednesday

Thursday: Artsy Thursday

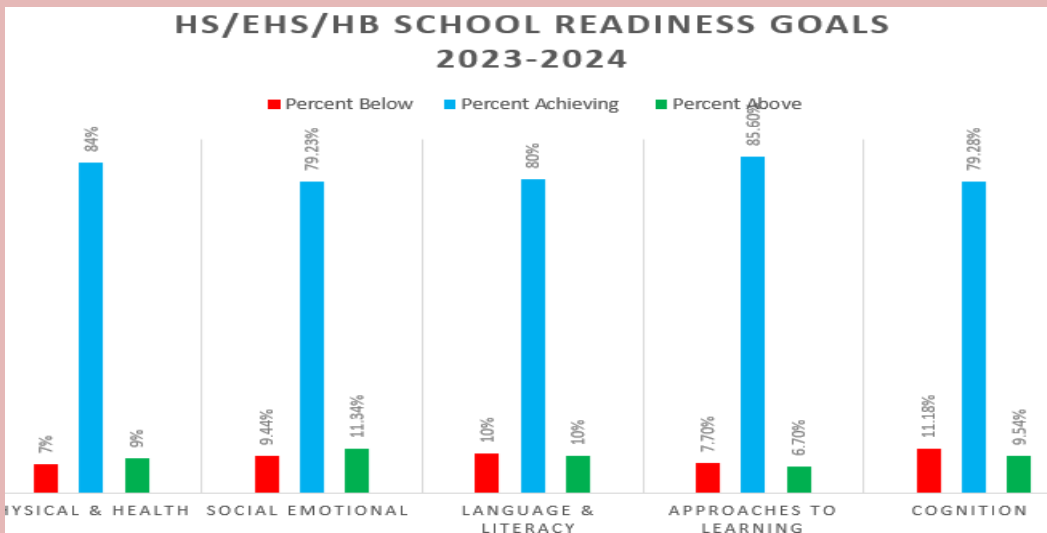
Friday: Family Friday

<https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/plan-your-event>



Lastly, I would like to share our program wide data for the WINTER checkpoint. The charts below show the WINTER 2023-2024 Checkpoint Report Data from Teaching Strategies GOLD for our 10 stand-alone Head Start classrooms, 7 Early Head Start classrooms, and 2 Home Base Visitors.

- The red indicates the percent of children below the expectation of a typically developing child within their appropriate age-level range.
- The blue indicates the percent of children meeting the expectation for a typically developing child within their appropriate age-level range.
- The green indicates the percent of children exceeding the expectation for their age-level range.
- Other information noted during the WINTER 2023-2024 Check Point Period:
  - 118 children of our funded enrollment have TSG GOLD Data stored with public school partnerships.
  - 166 children were assessed during the WINTER Checkpoint Period.
  - 126 Head Start Children were assessed.
  - 48 Early Head Start Children were assessed.
  - 23 Home Base Children were assessed.
  - 15 Dual Language Learners were assessed.
  - Head Start/Home Base currently has 13 IEP's documented.
  - Early Head Start/Home Base has 19 IFSP's documented.



As you can see the children are meeting and/or exceeding expectations for our School Readiness Goals in all areas development. Great work everyone! Thank you for all that you do, you are all Head Start Heroes to the families, children, and communities that you serve each and every day.

Jennifer Duff, Education Manager

### **From the Nurse's Desk...**

Excerpts From KMTV3 By: Libby Kamrowski  
 Posted updated 7:58 PM, Mar 27, 2024

“On Wednesday, UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute, which specializes in the treatment and care of people with disabilities, announced that it would be expand the use of the EarliPoint Evaluation for Autism. Doctors are calling it a game-changer. Autism specialists, too.

It's being seen as something that could get children diagnosed with autism earlier, and on care plans, faster. The device used for the tests is unassuming, a tablet propped up like a computer monitor, used to play videos. Children who are being tested watch the videos and data is collected according to their eye movements, up to 120 times per second. The video evaluation takes about 20 minutes.

According to a release by the Munroe-Meyer Institute, "children 16 to 30 months old on the autism spectrum concentrate more on different areas of the video — objects instead of faces, for example — than their neurotypically developing peers." The system received FDA approval last year for use on children ages 16 months to 2.5 years old. MMI is the first facility in Nebraska to use the technology in a clinical setting, and has been testing it with this age group since then, but now will expand ongoing research to children up to eight years old.

"This is a total game changer in terms of being able to help people access diagnoses quickly and efficiently," said Dr. Alice Shillingsburg, director of the integrated Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at MMI. The company that makes EarliPoint Evaluation devices is called EarliTec Diagnostics Inc., a Georgia-based company that says the device carries an 80% accuracy rate. The MMI says that the test isn't the only element that will determine a child's diagnoses, but it will be paired with other existing tools.

MMI has two of the devices available in the toddler clinic available for families to make appointments for beginning next month. Without the EarliPoint Evaluation test, early autism diagnostic appointments are usually four hours long, but using the new technology is making entire appointments about an hour and 15 minutes.

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This is wonderful for families looking for answers and so close to our service areas. Stay tuned.

Dianne Blum & Janice Rosman, Health & Wellness Coordinators

## **Health Services Advisory Committee**

- Do you know parents that are enthusiastic or really have an interest in their child's health and wellness or have a child that may have a chronic health condition such as asthma, seizures, hearing or vision problems, special diet or are actively involved in their child's IEP or IPFSP?
- Do you know parents, guardians or grandparents that have a background in health such as CNA's, EMT's, nurses or are in school or training in these fields?

Those individuals would be wonderful addition to the Health Services Advisory Committee!

As we have many new staff a short introduction to the committee:

The *Head Start Program Performance Standards* require that every Head Start program form and maintain a Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) to advise in the planning, operation, and evaluation of health/nutrition and mental health services in Head Start. It is a unique resource as members help us look carefully at how high-quality health services can be provided and allows us to draw on resources in the greater community to meet the needs of our families.

The committee is formed on a voluntary basis and composed of Head Start parents and staff, health and human services professionals, and other community volunteers who are representative of the families we serve. Parents can be from home based and center-based options, HS and EHS. Public examples from our committee include representatives from Lions vision screening club, AEA early access, I-Smile dental hygienists, Public Health, WIC, and Child Care Resource & Referral.

The committee helps us identify medical and dental homes for families, assists in the development of policies and procedures and builds relationships between Head Start and the community. Our program shares data about health, nutrition, and mental health services. We also ask for input from the members about how to make improvements and other resources that may benefit families.

Our next Health Services Advisory Committee Meeting is tentatively **April 23rd at 1:30** by zoom. Family Advocates recruit parents and guardians from their areas, but any staff can share information about the committee with families or a community partner. If a family member is interested share the name with your advocate and if you have been working with a community member that would attend forward their name and contact information to a Health Coordinator and they will reach out.

Health Services Advisory Committee

## **Conscious Discipline Team...**

The Conscious Discipline Team would like to start introducing you to some strategies that support the use of Conscious Discipline in our classrooms. The first one we are going to share is a wish you well board. The link below will take you to one of our very own teachers, Dawn Maxwell (Council Bluffs 1) completing the wish you well board in her classroom. Check it out:

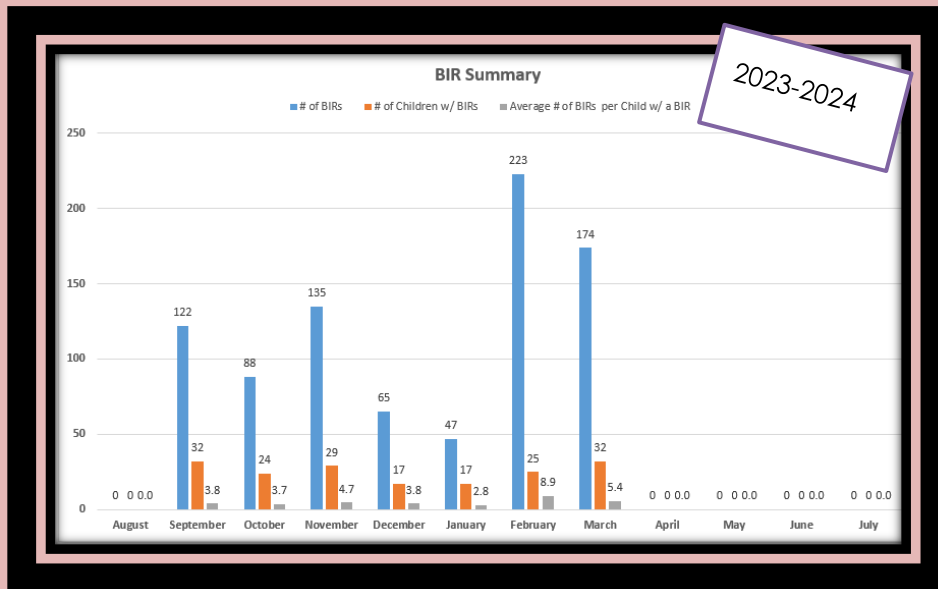
<https://cloud.swivl.com/v/ee57ce58e95fe7f03809672efba3bd21>

You can find out more about the wish you well ritual in Shubert's classroom: <https://consciousdiscipline.com/free-resources/shubert/shuberts-classroom/wish-well-ritual/>. What Conscious Discipline strategies have you utilized in your classroom? If you are doing wish you well ritual, share it with us! Below is a picture of Ms. Dawn's wish you well board that utilized in the video.

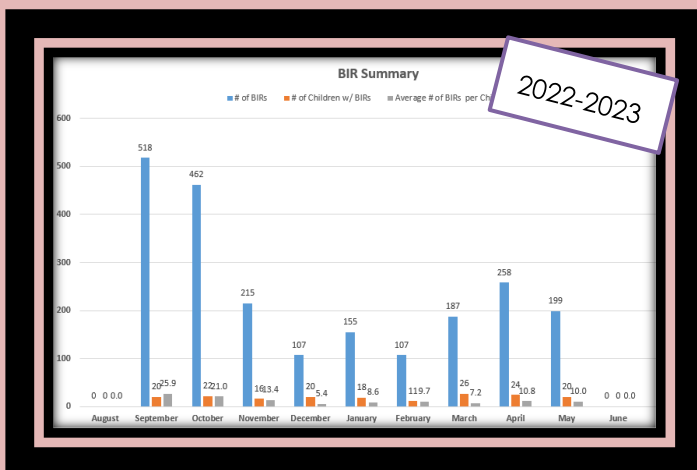


## A word from Support Services...

### Am I Co-Regulating or Co-Escalating?



Many of us are feeling the stress of increasing behaviors in classrooms around this time of year. Program-wide, it's not unusual for behaviors to ramp up this time of year (Take a look at the last couple of years below).



While the behavior increase might be expected, I know that's not much consolation when you're in the moment- kids running around, climbing the walls, toys are flying, and chaos is brewing!

When things feel out of our control, remember to take a breath, pause, and ask yourself— "Am I co-escalating or co-regulating this child?"

When we're focused solely on squashing the behavior, controlling the situation, and we're overstressed, upset, ticked off, etc. we are not in a brain state that can co-regulate.

Take a moment, breathe, and decide how YOU want to respond intentionally rather than react impulsively, and watch the magic of transferring your calm to others.

**From your Wellness Committee...**



**APRIL**

*There are no workiversaries to celebrate this month.*



**Continue to inspire people,  
don't show them your superpowers,  
show them theirs.**



### Staff Shout-out's

Jennifer Duff- A huge shout out goes to Jen as she has taken on the role of multiple ESC's this year while still completing her job duties. Thank you for all you do Jen, you are appreciated more than you know!

Billie Gubbels- Billie has taken on additional monitoring duties for Mapleton and Harlan this year in the absence of an ESC. Thank you for going above and beyond and ensuring that compliance is always in place. We all appreciate you so much!

## Head Start Happenings.....



Denison 1 is studying the light study and sat up a tent and explored flash lights and made hand puppets.





Dr. Suess's birthday week was celebrated in Red Oak Head Start and Early Head Start!



Mapleton Head Start was studying penguins, the kids used balloons as eggs to try to walk like a penguin protecting their egg.



Mapleton Head Start also had a visit from Coach Sloth. He is an author of several children's books and he made a visit to the MVAO school and to the classrooms. He read us one of his books and showed us some magic tricks. We have enjoyed checking his books out from the school library on our weekly visits.

Mapleton kiddos had fun celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> day of school!





Mapleton kiddos got to see tractor day at the high school. The kids in high school can drive a tractor to school on this day and park it at the school. They even got to see a few start and drive around!



GOOD NEWS! After waiting 6 months our moths came out of their cocoon!! 😊

## Events/ Dates to Remember

April 24<sup>th</sup>- second Home Visits begin

## Staff Birthdays...

April 4<sup>th</sup>- Jenny Armstrong

April 15<sup>th</sup>- Ana Chan

April 26<sup>th</sup>- Urzula Limon



\*\*If you notice that I have missed you, or someone else's birthday, please let me know. That means it is not in our Child Plus system correctly. Thanks for your help!

## Open Positions:

Glenwood Food Service

Council Bluffs Early Head Start Teacher Floater

Council Bluffs Family Advocate

**\*\*IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE INTERESTED, ENCOURAGE THEM TO APPLY AT  
[WWW.WESTCENTRALCA.ORG!](http://WWW.WESTCENTRALCA.ORG)**