



The Center

Volume 28, Issue 8

March 1, 2017



Early Childhood Programs of Lake County School District

Our mission is to serve and respect children and families by providing research-based early childhood services that promote the development of knowledge, life skills, and self-esteem.

March Events

Enrollment continues for all programs for the 2016-2017 school year

March 1

Enrollment begins for 2017-2018 school year

March 2

Class Picture Day

March 8

*Policy Council meeting
5:00-7:00*

March 17-24

The Center is CLOSED for Spring Break

March 30

*Family Fun Night
At Lake County
Public Library
5:30-7:00pm*

Every Friday

*Teacher Planning
*Families Welcome**



Parents' Voices

It is important for us to hear from you. We welcome your input to operate a program that meets the needs of the families we serve. To reach:

Tanya Lenhard 486-6920
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Policy Council 486-6888
extension 2190

Preschool News—Head Start Updates

Winter Data Results

It is hard to believe how time flies! Our classrooms have been in full swing with much learning and fun happening on a daily basis. The teachers continue to observe and interact with the children in their classrooms during their learning and play. Our winter checkpoint has come and gone and we are able to look at our new data. We are very excited to share all of the growth and progress that has been made during the 1st half of the year! This chart shows our growth from fall to winter in each area of development.

WINTER CHECKPOINT DATA-Feb 2017

Area of Development	Below Widely Held Expectations	Meets Widely Held Expectations	Exceeds Widely Held Expectations
Social Emotional	25% (decrease from 57%)	74% (increase from 43%)	1% (increase from 0%)
Physical Fine	18% (decrease from 35%)	82% (increase from 65%)	NA
Language	24% (decrease from 74%)	76% (increase from 26%)	NA
Cognitive	21% (decrease from 48%)	79% (increase from 52%)	NA
Literacy	13% (decrease from 52%)	84% (increase from 48%)	3% (increase from 0%)
Math	35% (decrease from 76%)	63% (increase from 24%)	2% (increase from 0%)

Our percentage of children below widely-held expectations has decreased and the percentage of children in either meets or exceeds widely held expectations has increased in all areas of development. This is exactly what we want to see and we are excited to continue the learning and fun throughout this spring!

Know Your Car Seat's History

Buy a used car seat only if you know its full crash history. That means you must buy it from someone you know, not from a thrift store or over the internet. Once a car seat has been in a crash, it needs to be replaced.

If you need a car seat for your child, please stop by Room 9 and see Jenny. We have connections to some resources that can provide car seats to families who need them.



Lake County Community Health Resources

<p><u>Lake County Public Health</u></p> <p>486-2413</p> <p>Immunization clinic, family planning, health care for children with special needs.</p> <p>Medicaid and CHP+ applications.</p> <p><u>Immunization Clinic</u>- By appointment <u>Family Planning</u>- By appointment <u>Blood Lead Testing</u>- By appointment</p>	<p><u>Nutrition Programs</u></p> <p>WIC- 486-2749 Supplemental foods for women, infants and children who qualify.</p> <p>St. George Community Meals- 200 West 4th Free community meals, all are welcome.</p> <p>Please see Mary in Room 9 for more local food resources.</p>	<p><u>Doctors</u></p> <p><u>Rocky Mountain Family Practice...</u> 486-0500 Dr. Lisa Zwerdinger, Amy King, PA, Tyler Norton, PA</p> <p><u>St Vincent Leadville Medical Clinic...</u> 486-1264 Dr. Gary Petry, Jackie Duba, MPH,PA</p>
<p><u>Mental Health/Support Services</u></p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous.....486-3087</p> <p>Solvista Mental Health.....486-0985</p> <p>Summit Community Care Clinic...970-668-4040</p>	<p><u>Dentists</u></p> <p>Dr. Lance Schamberger.....486-2060</p> <p>Dr. Christine Jones.....486-0053</p> <p>Dr. Curtis Slack.....486-3801</p> <p>Pediatric Dental Specialties.....970-668-8668</p> <p>Summit Community Care Clinic.....970-668-4040</p>	<p><u>Emergency & Hospital</u></p> <p>Emergency.....911</p> <p>St. Vincent Hospital.....486-0230</p> <p><u>Optometric</u></p> <p>Lake County Vision Center.....486-2505</p>

One of the main focuses of The Center is to help get our preschoolers ready for school, more specifically ready for Kindergarten. School Readiness is generally defined as providing children with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for success in school and later learning and life. To support with this endeavor, The Center has defined school readiness goals to outline specific areas of focus across each domain of learning and development. These goals are listed below.

Physical Development: All children will improve gross and fine motor skills. All children shall have an opportunity to increase knowledge of physical and health practices.

Literacy: All children will gain knowledge of literacy through a love of books, letter and sound recognition, emergent writing skills, and environmental print in their home language.

Math: All children will show an increased knowledge and understanding (in their home language) of how numbers, shapes, and patterns are useful problem solving tools for everyday life activities.

Social and Emotional Development: All children will have a better understanding of, and will demonstrate, positive social interactions with others, as well as developing self-regulation skills and increasing self-awareness and self-efficacy. All children will show an increased awareness of their own emotional and behavioral health needs.

Social Studies: Children will have a better understanding of themselves through an increased sense of, and knowledge about, their community, the natural environment and local history, while supporting their cultural backgrounds.

Approaches to Learning: All children will show an increase in their initiative and curiosity toward learning, they will improve their attentiveness and persistence when completing tasks, and will make gains in cooperation and positive interactions with peers.

Language Development: All children will improve their expressive and receptive language skills in addition to demonstrating competency in their home language; English Language Learners will increase engagement and increase understanding in English literacy activities.

Arts: All children will have increased experiences of expressing their own ideas through creating sounds with voice and instruments, creating objects using a variety of media and materials, portraying events, characters, and stories through symbolic play, and being aware of how their bodies move.

Logic and Reasoning: All children will show an increased ability to recognize, understand, and analyze situations, to remember and retell information, to seek solutions to problems to use symbols and objects to represent other things and to be aware of their own thought processes.

Science: Children will increase their understanding of the scientific process through asking questions, making predictions, explanations, and drawing conclusions as related to their natural and physical world.

These goals are written to reflect growth for all children in each of the defined areas. We use our Teaching Strategies GOLD data to help us determine progress toward each of these goals. Please see **Preschool News on page 1 for program winter data results. Your child's teacher also shared individual progress at our recent parent teacher conferences in February.** This data will be reviewed again in May after our Spring Checkpoints and teachers will once again share progress at our final home visits on May 11th and 12th.



Please join us for Family Fun Night
At Lake County Public Library
1115 Harrison Avenue
Thursday, March 30





March 2017 Preschool Menu

		Wednesday- 1	Thursday- 2	Friday- 3
Menus are subject to change		CEREAL, FRUIT ----- PEPPERONI PIZZA, FRUIT, FRESH VEGGIES, SALSA ----- BANANA BREAD , FRESH FRUIT	WAFFLES, APPLESAUCE ----- HAMBURGER ON A BUN, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- SOFT PRETZEL, SUN BUTTER FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN GRILLED, FRUIT, VEGGIES ----- MUFFIN, FRUIT
Monday- 6	Tuesday- 7	Wednesday- 8	Thursday- 9	Friday- 10
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CHEESY BAGEL, FRUIT ----- BEEF TACO, SPANISH RICE, FRUIT ----- STRING CHEESE, PINAPPLE CHUNKS	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- SPAGETTI AND MEAT, SOFT BREADSTICK, FRUIT, VEG- GIES ----- GRAHAM CRACKERS, FRUIT	MUFFIN, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN QUESADILLA, CORN, FRUIT, SALSA ----- HARD BOILED EGG, CRACK- ERS, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- PIGS IN A BLANKET, FRUIT ----- MUFFIN, FRUIT
Monday- 13	Tuesday- 14	Wednesday- 15	Thursday- 16	Friday- 17
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- TOASTED CHEESE SAND- WICH, YOGURT, FRUIT, VEG- GIES ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, FRUIT	GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT ----- NACHOS WITH GROUND BEEF, MUFFIN, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- STRING CHEESE, CRACKERS, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP, CRACKERS, FRUIT, VEGGIES ----- BANANA BREAD, FRUIT	WAFFLES, APPLESAUCE ----- BEEF & CHEESE QUESADILLA, SALSA, CORN, FRUIT ----- SOFT PRETZEL, SUN BUTTER FRUIT	NO SCHOOL TODAY
Monday- 20	Tuesday- 21	Wednesday- 22	Thursday- 23	Friday- 24
NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY
Monday- 27	Tuesday- 28	Wednesday- 29	Thursday- 30	Friday- 31
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CHEESY BAGEL, FRUIT ----- CHILI CHEESE PIE, CORN- BREAD, FRUIT ----- STRING CHEESE, PINAPPLE CHUNKS	CHEESY BAGEL, FRUIT ----- CHILI CHEESE PIE, CORN- BREAD, FRUIT ----- STRING CHEESE, PINAPPLE CHUNKS	MUFFINS, FRUIT ----- BEEF QUESADILLA, CORN, FRUIT, SALSA ----- HARD BOILED EGGS, CRACK- ERS, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- GRILLED CHICKEN, FRUIT, VEGGIES ----- MUFFINS, FRUIT

Breakfast is served at 9:30 with Meadow Gold fat free milk

Lunch is served at 12:00 with Meadow Gold fat free milk

Snack is served at 3:30 with water

The Center participates in the
USDA funded program and is
an equal opportunity
provider and employer



Oral Health

Tips for Families from the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness

You Can Promote Good Oral Health By:

- * Knowing how to make sure you and your family have healthy mouths and teeth
- * Helping your children learn good mouth and teeth habits

Why Is It Important?

When Children Have a Healthy Mouth, They:

- * Can speak clearly
- * Can eat healthy foods
- * Feel good about themselves

Having a Healthy Mouth Also Means:

- * Healthy growth and development
- * Being able to focus and learn
- * A pain-free mouth
- * Lower dental care costs for your family

Things You Can Do to Help Your Child

- * Brush your 3-6 year old's teeth with a pea-size amount of fluoride toothpaste 2x a day.
- * **Brush children's teeth or help children brush their teeth until they are about 7 or 8 years old.**
- * Be a role model for oral health! Brush your teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day and floss once a day.
- * Serve healthy meals and snacks like fruits, vegetables, low-fat milk and milk products, whole-grain products, meat, fish, chicken, eggs, and beans.
- * Limit the number of snacks your child has in a day.
- * Do not give your child food for rewards.
- * If your child has not gone to the dentist take him.
- * Make sure to go to the dentist as often as your dentist would like you to go.



Community Connections

From Lisa Roeder,
Family and Community
Partnerships Manager



CHP+ / MEDICAID

Application assistance available

719.486.6928

For more information, visit Room 9

Child Find

Early intervention for
children with special needs



Every county in Colorado has professionals who are trained to evaluate children in a variety of areas, including cognitive functioning, physical functioning, hearing and vision, speech and language and social and emotional development. This service is referred to as Child Find. Evaluations are conducted by the Child Find team at no cost to parents.

Once the child find evaluation team, which includes the parents, has gathered sufficient information used to determine a child's eligibility for early intervention or preschool special education services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP; birth to three years of age) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP; three to five years of age) is developed and services begin shortly.

Children under the age of six may be referred at any time for an eligibility determination for early intervention (ages birth to three) or preschool special education services (ages three through five).

Here in Lake County, our very own Lauren Bissonette is the first contact for families interested in a Child Find evaluation. See her here at school, call her at 719-293-4613, send her an email at lbissonnette@lakecountyschools.net, or stop by Room 9 for more information.

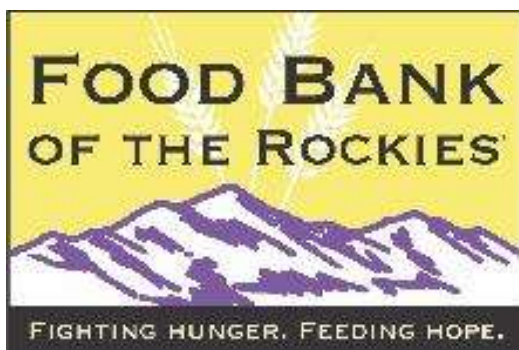
FREE Family
Counseling offered for
Head Start Families

Provided by Solvista Health
(formerly West Central
Mental Health)

Counseling is offered to
families free of charge.

*Please arrange an
appointment through Room 9.*

Solvista
HEALTH



Food Bank of the Rockies

will be distributing free food at St. George's
church on the third Wednesday of each month.

There are no applications necessary.

Just arrive at 8:00am to ensure a spot in line.

Bring boxes or bags to carry food home.

10 Steps to Keep Your Kids From Cursing

Words have power. Too often curse words are used in a lazy attempt to achieve some sort of shock value or emotional response. The sad thing about defaulting to curse words is not their offensiveness, but that there is language that can communicate the point on a much deeper level. We need to help our kids develop a command and range of words. Part of that starts by moving them away from defaulting to cursing.



1. Be Realistic—Kids curse, whether it is on the bus, at school, or hanging out with their friends. No need to hide your head in the sand and think your child is immune. Your job is to acknowledge this and help your child filter them.
2. Set Clear Rules - Make it clear that certain words will not be tolerated. Define the words you consider cursing. State clear expectations. If the line is crossed make sure there is a consequence.
3. Set The Example - They are listening to you always. If you curse in front of your kids, they are going to repeat it eventually. Set the example for your entire family and remove those words from your vocabulary.
4. Higher Standard - As stated above, there are a wide range of descriptive words and arrangements that communicate more effectively. Set a higher standard by learning new and proper words to describe your feelings.
5. The Cuss Jar - Anyone caught using the words defined in your home as cursing, shall pay a fine. Dad or Mom may be the biggest contributor. This will help you clean up your act. Take the money you collect every few months and donate it to a charity.
6. Choice Of Friends - Who is your child hanging out with? Do you know them well? Cursing is a possible indicator of even worse behavior. Teach your child to choose friends that hold their same values. We are affected, good and bad, by people we spend the most time with.
7. Give Respect - If you curse at your child, it hurts him and vice versa. Sit down and discuss the need to always respect each other in good times and bad. Verbal abuse is not respectful.
8. Avoid The Distraction - Kids are smart. For example, you come to your son about a bad test grade. He uses a profane adjective in describing his feelings towards that subject. **Suddenly you are in a discussion about the word and not the test. They're masking the real issue.** Stay on course and come back to the word used afterwards.
9. Losing Privileges - **If the problem is persistent with your child, it's time to take things away.** When kids lose privileges like iPads, iPhones, and video game units it gets their attention quickly.
10. Focus on Building Others Up - One piece of wisdom is that our tongue is set on fire with hurtful and obscene words. One of the best ways to quench that fire is to instead focus on using the tongue to build up and encourage others. Practice praise and your children will follow.



How to Contact The Center Staff

For voicemail, dial 486-6888, then enter the extension listed.
 For email, use the listed address, then @lakecountyschools.net,
 for example: jsmith@lakecountyschools.net
 Staff members with (*) following their names are bilingual



Name	Position	Room #	Voice Mail	Email
Bissonnette, Lauren	Early Childhood SPED & Child Find Coordinator	10	4413	lbissonnette
Byers, Darcey	Preschool Teacher	3	4406	dbyers
Caraveo, Brenda*	Preschool Teacher	2	4405	bcaraveo
Compean, Melina	Preschool Teacher	7	4410	mcompean
Dee, Blythe	Preschool Teacher	5	4408	bdee
Glaser, Nichole	Health Manager	Library	6923	nglaser
Glaser, Sally	Preschool Teacher	4	4407	sglaser
Holm, Lizz	Preschool Teacher	5	4408	lholm
Koucherik, Stephanie	Preschool Teacher	3	4406	skoucherik
Lenhard, Tanya	Director of Early Childhood Programs	Office	6920	tdlenhard
Lizardo, Antonieta Maria	Cook	Kitchen	6924	-
Lopez, Nancy*	Preschool Teacher	6	4409	nalopez
Lopez, Noemi*	Bilingual Aide	Office	6920	nolopez
Lopez, Trisha	Preschool Teacher	8	4411	trlopez
Lujan, Jacqueline	Preschool Teacher	2	4405	jlujan
Martinez, Wanda	Preschool Support Staff	9	6920	wmartinez
Mascarenaz, Chantel	Preschool Teacher	6	4409	chmacarenas
Mascarenaz, Jenny*	Transportation Manager	9	6925	jmascarenaz
Oatey, Claire	Business Manager	Office	6929	coatey
Roeder, Lisa	Family and Community Partnerships Manager	9	6928	lroeder
Romero, Marissa	Child Care Director	Office	6920	maromero
Sanchez, Chantell	Preschool Teacher	4	4407	chsanchez
Sandoval, Brandi	Preschool Support Staff	9	6920	brsandoval
Sifuentes, Anne*	Preschool Teacher	7	4410	ansifuentes
Policy Council*	Parents/Community Reps	9	2190	mcannell
Preschool Office	Resource Room - 486-6928 and 486-6925			
Child Care	Front Office - 486-6920			
Child Find	Room 10—719-293-4613			

Please
 Remember!
 For
Attendance
 and
The Bus
 please call
 486-6925
 and leave a
 message.

This line is
 checked
 before the bus
 goes out each
 day, and
 attendance is
 recorded from
 the messages.

Other lines
 may be
 checked only
 once each day.

What is the Head Start
Policy Council?

A board of parents and community representatives who make decisions about the operation of the Head Start program.

Why do we include the meeting
minutes in the newsletter ?

To keep you informed about the program and its services.

How can you give your input ?

Your classroom representative's name is on the bulletin board between Rooms 8 and 9. A suggestion box is near the building entry. To leave a voice mail message, call 486-6888 extension 5229 .

The Center Early Childhood Programs - Policy Council Minutes - Meeting Date—February 9, 2017

Attending: Thea Gab, Erin Duggin, Bethany Godsman, Chelsea Luna Garcia, Crystal Flores, Sandra Cano. Guests – Tanya Lenhard, Mary Jelf

Not attending: Rosa Guzman, Amy Small, Alyssa Gallegos, Maria Salas, Kelly Martinez, Danielle Swango,

The meeting was called to order at 5:10pm by Thea Gab, Policy Council chair. There were no messages on voicemail and no new notes in the Suggestion Box.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Bethany moved to approve the agenda; Crystal seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Erin moved to approve the minutes from the regular November meeting, the January regular meeting, and the January special meeting; Bethany seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

Roll Call: **In the secretary's absence, Mary filled in. She called roll and determined that a quorum was present according** to the newly revised bylaws. Two voting members indicated they needed to leave early, so the group decided to re-order the agenda and review items needing immediate approval first.

New Business: Tanya presented Lisa Roeder for approval as the new Family and Community Partnerships Manager. Lisa has been a preschool teacher at The Center for many years and holds a BA in Human Development & Family Studies. She has also worked with the Advocates. The interview committee noted her leadership and communication skills. Chelsea moved to approve Lisa for the FCPM position; Sandra seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and on opposed. There was discussion of how Lisa will transition from her classroom to her new role with a minimum disruption for kids and families. Tanya presented Alison Kell as a new substitute teacher. She has worked for the school district in the afterschool program and does child care at a ski resort. Erin moved to approve Alison as a substitute teacher; Crystal seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. All other new business was tabled until future meetings, to allow for higher attendance and opportunities for better discussion. Thea will put forth a request for a special meeting around the 23rd of the month to discuss items needing approval before the next regular meeting.

Unfinished Business: Tanya presented a revised wage scale, which is necessary due to increases in minimum wage requirements. The changes will not affect any current employees. Crystal moved to approve the new wage scale, Chelsea seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

All other new business was tabled until future meetings.

Treasurer Report: Crystal reported the balance of the Parent Activity fund to be \$1500.00, as this is the beginning of a new fiscal year. A deduction will be made for the meeting meal for this month. **Tanya called members' attention to a display of items purchased with Parent Activity Fund money.**

Committee Reports: Mary reported on the LCECC meeting where housing and workforce concerns were discussed. There were no other reports.

Training: Postponed to allow for discussion time of other topics.

Director's Report: Tanya presented the Budget Report. Fiscal Year 16 has ended all funds have been spent or encumbered. **Credit card logs were also presented. She presented the Director's Report, with notes about improved attendance in January, an influx of a few mid-year applications, and the receipt of the 2017 funding letter.**

Announcements: The announcements from the agenda were noted, including events, closures, and upcoming enrollment. The next regular Policy Council meeting scheduled for March 8 may be moved to February 9 if members approve the change.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm by Thea.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jelf, substitute for Policy Council Secretary

Lake County School District
The Center / Margaret J. Pitts Elementary School
315 West 6th Street

Tanya Lenhard
Director of Early Childhood Programs
Phone: 719 486-6920
Fax: 719 486-9992
E-mail: tdlenhard@lakecountyschools.net



The Center's Governing Values



We believe:

- All children, families, and staff must be respected for their unique strengths and abilities
- The involvement of the family, regardless of its composition, is **an important part of enriching each child's success**
- Children have the right to be in a physically, emotionally, and mentally safe environment
- Children learn best in an accepting, loving and fun environment
- That families are a child's first and most influential teachers
- We can support families in advocating for their child's best interest
- It is the responsibility of all staff to nurture, strengthen, inspire and **expand each child's abilities, interest, and independence**
- All families must have access to affordable child care
- All children must be given equal opportunities to enter formal education ready to learn

If you need to call after 3:30pm

Please call us at 486-6920.

This is the only phone line that is staffed
after 3:30pm.

You may leave a message at this number and it will be checked. If you call other numbers, or leave messages at other extensions, your message may not be heard until the following morning.

Parent/Staff Training Opportunities

Financial Literacy Computer-Based Instruction- Available in the Resource Room, the "Money Smart" curriculum is training on financial matters all parents should know. Developed by FDIC.

Car Seat Safety Training- Call Jenny for further information on free car seats for those who need them, and proper installation of new and existing seats. 486-6925.

Committee Updates (Visit Room 9 for info)

Early Childhood Council

April 4 from 1:00—3:00pm at CMC. Parents and caregivers welcome.

Head Start Policy Council

March 8 at 5:00 in the cafeteria at The Center. All Head Start parents are encouraged to volunteer for election to this parent committee.

For Attendance and The Bus
please call 486-6925 and leave a message.

This line is checked right before the bus goes out each day, and attendance is recorded from the messages. Other lines may be checked only once each day.

If your child is sick and has a fever, keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of illness to others. Public Health and the School District advise parents to keep children home for 24 hours after the child is free from fever without fever reducing medications.