

# "THE FISHERMEN FAMILY CONNECTION" NEWSLETTER



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*\*See Flyers for More Details*

### Teacher Appreciation Week May 4–May 8, 2026

Celebrating our incredible teachers who help our children learn, grow, and shine!

### Mother's Day Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2026

Wishing a Happy Mother's Day to all the amazing mothers and caregivers in our program. Your love makes a lasting difference!

### COR Period 3 Closing May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Policy Council Wednesday, May 20 @ 5:30 pm

Join us via ZOOM for our Monthly Policy Council Meeting. Anyone can attend to hear what is happening here at The Order of the Fishermen Ministry Head Start.

### Parent-Teacher Conferences completed by May 22, 2026



## REMINDERS

Dear Families,  
*Happy May!*

As we welcome warmer weather, we're looking forward to a month filled with outdoor play, spring exploration, and lots of hands-on learning. The children have been growing and thriving in so many ways, and it's a joy to see their curiosity and confidence blossom each day.

This month, we'll be spending more time outside (weather permitting), exploring nature and encouraging active play. You may also see some special activities and creations as children celebrate the important people in their lives. Thank you for your continued partnership and for trusting us to be part of your child's early learning journey. We truly appreciate being part of your community.

Warm regards,  
Tameka Dwyer  
Executive Director



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# Parent Family Community Engagement



Happy Mother's Day!

At Early Head Start, we recognize that families are children's first and most important teachers. Today, we celebrate all mothers and mother figures for the love, guidance, and support you provide every day.

Your involvement, encouragement, and partnership make a meaningful impact on your child's growth and development. Thank you for being such an important part of our program community!

Be on the look out for a special activity for you to experience with your child in honor of Mother's Day.



✦ Partner with Us:

Stay connected with your Family Advocate to review your Family Partnership Goals and learn about resources available to support your family's success.

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# Strong Minds, HAPPY HEARTS

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and emotional well-being begins in early childhood.

Young children develop healthy social-emotional skills when they:

- Feel safe and secure
- Have consistent routines
- Build strong relationships with caring adults



At Home Tip:

Help your child understand feelings by naming them:

- “You look happy!”
- “I see you’re upset—let’s take a deep breath together.”

If you have concerns about your child’s development or behavior, our team is here to support you.

We are proud to partner with Journeys to Healing to support the social-emotional well-being of our children and families. Through this partnership, a Mental Health Consultant works with our program to help promote healthy development, support positive behaviors, and provide guidance to both staff and families.

Services may include:

- Support with children’s social-emotional development
- Strategies for managing challenging behaviors
- Family support and guidance
- Connections to additional community resources if needed



This support is here for you, whether you have concerns or simply want to learn more about your child’s development.

Interested in learning more?

Please contact our Health/Mental Health/Nutrition Specialist, Ms. Monique Jones-Stokes for additional information and support.

[Monique.Jones-Stokes@tofmhs.org](mailto:Monique.Jones-Stokes@tofmhs.org)

Office: (313) 933-0300x 220

Cell: (313) 236-2266



# EDUCATION CORNER

## TEACHER APPRECIATION: CELEBRATING THOSE WHO CARE FOR OUR LITTLE ONES

During Teacher Appreciation Week this May, we are proud to celebrate the amazing teachers who pour their hearts into our children every single day.

Our Early Head Start teachers do so much more than teach, they nurture, guide, comfort, and help build strong foundations for lifelong learning. From supporting your child's growth and development to creating safe, loving environments, their impact reaches far beyond the classroom.

✨ We truly believe it takes a village and our teachers are at the heart of it.

Families, we invite you to join us in showing appreciation! A kind word, a thank-you note, or even a simple smile can mean so much.

*To all of our teachers:*

*Thank you for your patience, your passion, and your commitment to excellence and love. You make a difference every day!*

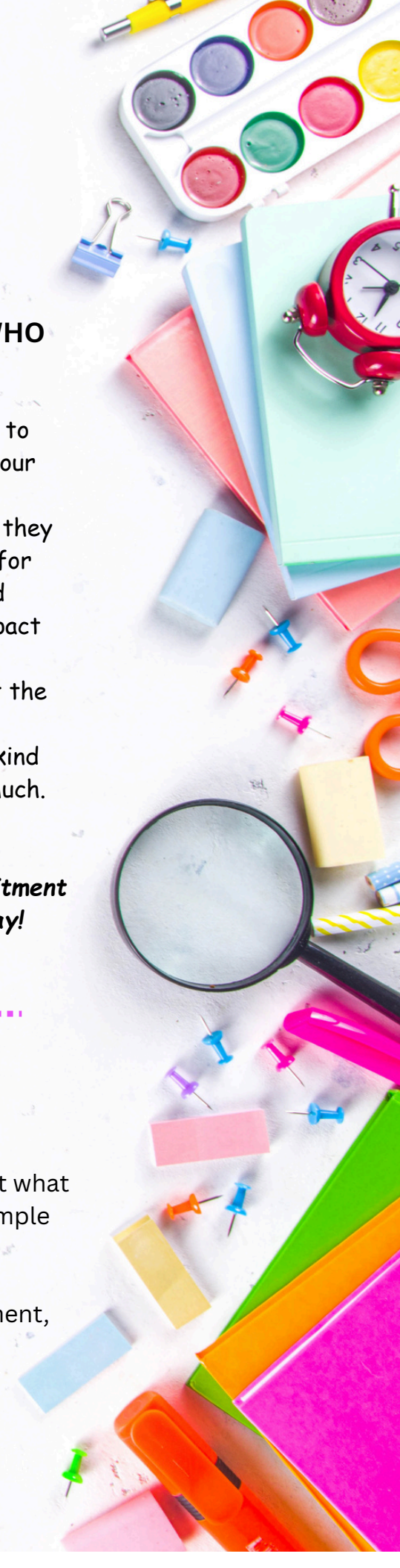
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### Try This at Home: Outdoor Learning

Take learning outside this spring! Go for a walk and talk about what you see, let your child explore grass and leaves, or enjoy simple play like bubbles or water pouring.



Even a few minutes outdoors helps build language, movement, and curiosity.



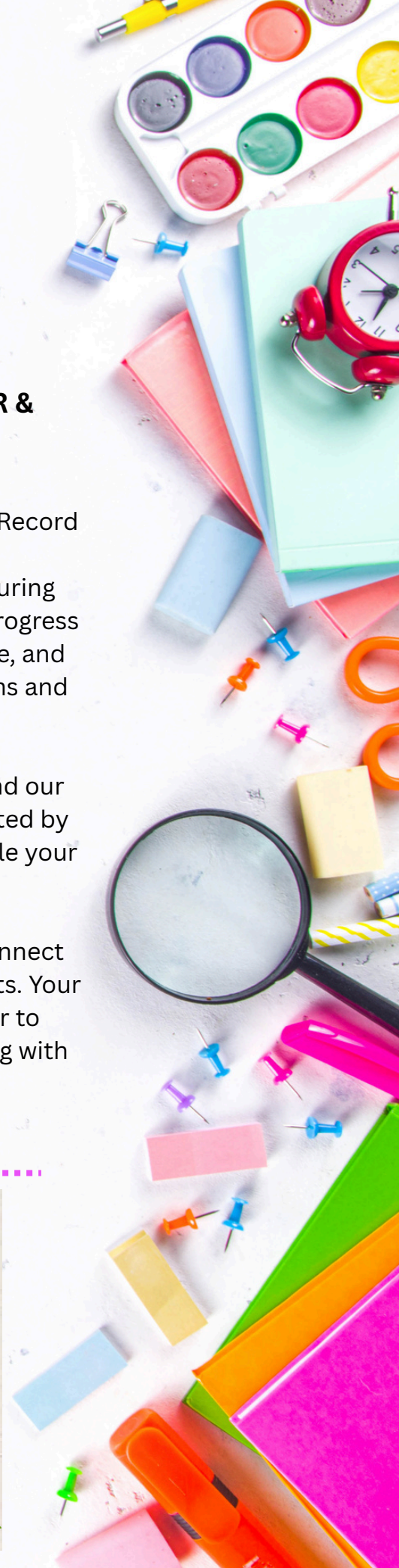
# EDUCATION CORNER

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S GROWTH: COR & UPCOMING CONFERENCES

At our program, we use a tool called the Child Observation Record (COR) to better understand and support your child's development. COR allows teachers to observe children during everyday play and learning activities and document their progress in important areas such as social-emotional skills, language, and early learning. This helps us celebrate each child's strengths and identify ways to continue supporting their growth.

COR Period 3 will be coming to a close on May 15, 2026, and our second Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTCs) will be completed by May 22, 2026. Teachers will be reaching out soon to schedule your conference time.

These conferences are a valuable opportunity for us to connect with you, share your child's progress, and hear your thoughts. Your participation and input are essential as we work together to support your child's success. We look forward to partnering with you!



**PRESCHOOL**  
**TRANSITION TIME**

If your child is 3 or will be turning 3, please connect with your Family Advocate soon to begin planning for the transition to preschool.

Your Family Advocate can:

- Help you understand next steps
- Share information about local Head Start preschool programs
- Support you through the enrollment process
- Answer any questions you may have

Planning ahead helps ensure a smooth and successful transition for your child.

Click the Head Start Blocks to locate a program near you





# POLICY COUNCIL MEETING

“Your Voice. Your Child. Your Leadership.”

**WEDNESDAY MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**AT 5:30 PM**

**BY ZOOM**

## Meeting Focus

- ✓ Program Updates
- ✓ Budget & Policy Review
- ✓ Parent Voice & Discussion
- ✓ Program Decisions



**You are part of the leadership team that guides our program forward.**

**JOIN US!!!**

Meeting ID: 817 9745 5202

Passcode: 652824

# Community Baby Shower 2026



Thank You to everyone who attended and made this event a success!