THE FISHERMEN FAMILY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ORDER OF THE FISHERMEN MINISTRY HEAD START

THE ORDER OF THE FISHERMEN MINISTRY
REACHING CHILDREN WITH EXCELLENCE & LOVE
HELPING FAMILIES
Head Start

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INSTAGRAM

FACEBOOK

WEBSITE

DEAR EARLY HEAD START FAMILIES,

Happy October!

As we welcome the beautiful colors and crisp days of fall, I want to take a moment to thank you for being an important part of our Early Head Start family. October is a wonderful time to reflect on the growth, learning, and connections that are taking place each day in our classrooms and throughout our program.

At The Order of the Fishermen Ministry Head Start, we remain committed to Reaching Children and Helping Families with Excellence and Love. Our goal is not only to provide high-quality early learning experiences for your child, but also to partner with you in supporting your family's goals and your child's development.

Your child's first years are filled with opportunities to explore, discover, build relationships, and develop the skills that will prepare them for future success. Through intentional learning experiences, nurturing relationships, and the HighScope Curriculum, our teachers are helping children learn through active participation and meaningful experiences every day.

We also want to encourage you to stay connected with your child's classroom and participate in family engagement opportunities like Policy Council and parent meetings. Your voice, ideas, and involvement matter. When families and teachers work together, children benefit from a stronger and more supportive learning environment.

As we move through the month, please remember the importance of regular attendance. Every day your child attends is another opportunity to learn, build friendships, develop new skills, and participate in classroom experiences. If your family is experiencing a challenge that may affect your child's attendance or participation, please reach out to your child's teacher or family advocate . We are here to support you.

Thank you for trusting us with your children and for allowing us to be part of your family's journey. We look forward to a wonderful October filled with learning, growth, family engagement, and memorable moments.
With Excellence and Love,

Tameka Dwyer
Executive Director

HEALTH/ MENTAL HEALTH CORNER

KEEP OUR LITTLE ONES HEALTHY, WARM & SAFE THIS WINTER!

As the weather gets colder, there are simple ways we can help keep children healthy and reduce the spread of colds and other illnesses.

Dress for the Weather

Make sure your child wears a warm coat, hat, gloves, and appropriate shoes or boots when going outside.

Wash Those Hands!

Encourage children to wash their hands often with soap and warm water—especially before eating and after coughing, sneezing, or playing.

Teach Healthy Coughing & Sneezing

Remind children to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow, rather than their hands.

Don't Share Cups or Utensils

Help prevent the spread of germs by giving each child their own cup, water bottle, and eating utensils.

HEALTH/ MENTAL HEALTH CORNER

Rest & Stay Hydrated

Plenty of sleep, healthy foods, and water help support children's overall health during the winter months.

Keep Sick Children Home

If your child is feeling sick or has symptoms that may spread illness, please keep them home and follow your program's health guidelines.

Working Together Keeps Our Children Healthy!

Thank you, families, for helping us create a healthy and safe environment for all of our CCP Head Start children!

STAY WARM. STAY HEALTHY. STAY SAFE!

EDUCATION CORNER

GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER!

A Message from Your Education Team

Dear Families,

We are excited to partner with you as your little ones learn, grow, and discover new things! Every milestone matters, and we look forward to celebrating your child's progress throughout the year. Thank you for trusting us to be part of your child's early learning journey!

COR Period 1: September 14, 2026 – December 4, 2026

During this period, teachers will observe and document children's learning through everyday activities and play. These observations help us celebrate each child's strengths, understand their interests, and plan meaningful learning experiences that support their individual growth.
Families, you are important partners! Share your child's new skills, interests, and milestones with their teacher.

Family Reminder: Complete Your Child's ASQ Screenings!

All EHS-CCP children are required to complete both questionnaires:

- **ASQ-3:** Helps us understand your child's developmental progress.
- **ASQ:SE-2:** Helps us better understand your child's social and emotional development.

If you have not completed both questionnaires, please use the link below and select your child's site.

EDUCATION CORNER

REMINDER

Don't Forget: Complete Your Child's ASQ Screenings!

Site	ASQ Link
PATHWAYS	https://www.asqonline.com/family/e9342f
AOE	https://www.asqonline.com/family/3e76c8
CLCC	https://www.asqonline.com/family/61e60f
COTS	https://www.asqonline.com/family/26e84f
AOGC	https://www.asqonline.com/family/cba2d0
JEMA	https://www.asqonline.com/family/be4b15
ANGEL LAND	https://www.asqonline.com/family/8c74ee
NEST	https://www.asqonline.com/family/4ff73d
KRISTY'S	https://www.asqonline.com/family/71452a

Click here

EDUCATION CORNER

GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER!

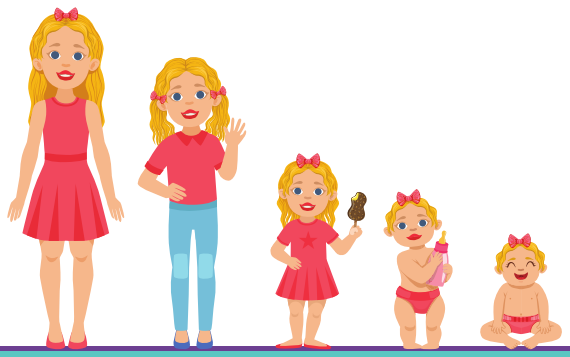
Your input helps us better understand your child's strengths and needs. If you need assistance, please reach out to your child's teacher or site team

We are honored to be part of your child's learning journey! We look forward to a wonderful year filled with growth, discovery, and partnership.

Together, we can help every child shine!

With appreciation,

Your Education Team



ERSEA/PFCE CORNER

ENROLLMENT RECRUITMENT SELECTION ELIGIBILTY ATTENDANCE PARENT FAMILY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Growing Together This Program Year

As we settle into our second month of the program year, I want to thank our Early Head Start families for your partnership! I am excited to continue getting to know you, supporting your children, and being of service to your families.

I look forward to the connections and progress we will make together. Wishing you peace, joy, and a fulfilling program year!

Please reach out to me or your Family Advocate with any questions, concerns, or support needs.

With Gratitude,

Marcia Randle
ERSEA/PFCE Manager
313.269.8636

ERSEA/PFCE CORNER

ENROLLMENT RECRUITMENT SELECTION ELIGIBILTY
ATTENDANCE
PARENT FAMILY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SHARE

Family Interest Survey Help Us Plan

Share your interests and workshop ideas! Scan the QR code to help us plan activities that reflect what matters to your family.

Fatherhood Get Connected and Involved

Fathers, we want to hear from you! Scan the QR code to share activities and opportunities that interest you. Your input will help us plan programs that encourage connection and meaningful involvement in your child's growth.

Policy Council Your Voice Matters

Help represent families and guide program decisions! Scan the QR code to express your interest. No previous leadership experience is needed. Speak with your Family Advocate about nominations and elections.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

ERSEA/PFCE CORNER

ENROLLMENT RECRUITMENT SELECTION ELIGIBILTY ATTENDANCE PARENT FAMILY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Every Day Counts

Regular attendance helps your child build routines, develop relationships, and enjoy learning experiences. Bring your child consistently when they are well enough to attend and notify your site of absences. If challenges affect attendance, contact your Family Advocate so we can find solutions together.

Parent Meetings Are Underway

Our parent meetings have started! Join us to connect with families, receive updates, share ideas, and learn how to get involved. Your Family Advocate will share your site's meeting details. We look forward to seeing you!

First 30 Days Keep Your Child's File Current

Please work with your Family Advocate to complete our program's first-30-day expectations:

- Submit your child's current health appraisal.
- Develop your family goals together.
- Complete the ASQ:SE-2 questionnaire about your child's social and emotional development.

If your child has already been enrolled for 30 days and any items remain incomplete, please contact your Family Advocate promptly. Completing these steps helps us keep your child's file current and provide support that meets your family's needs.

THE ORDER OF THE FISHERMEN MINISTRY HEAD START

EARLY HEAD START-CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

PARENTS: THIS IS YOUR INVITATION

YOUR VOICE BELONGS HERE.

JOIN THE POLICY COUNCIL

- Help shape the program.
- Speak up for families.
- Build a brighter future for our children.

You bring the experience. We help you lead.

You know your child and what matters to your family. Bring your ideas to the table and help guide decisions about Early Head Start policies, budgets, and services.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Share ideas that strengthen our program.

GROW AS A LEADER

Build confidence and advocacy skills.

CONNECT

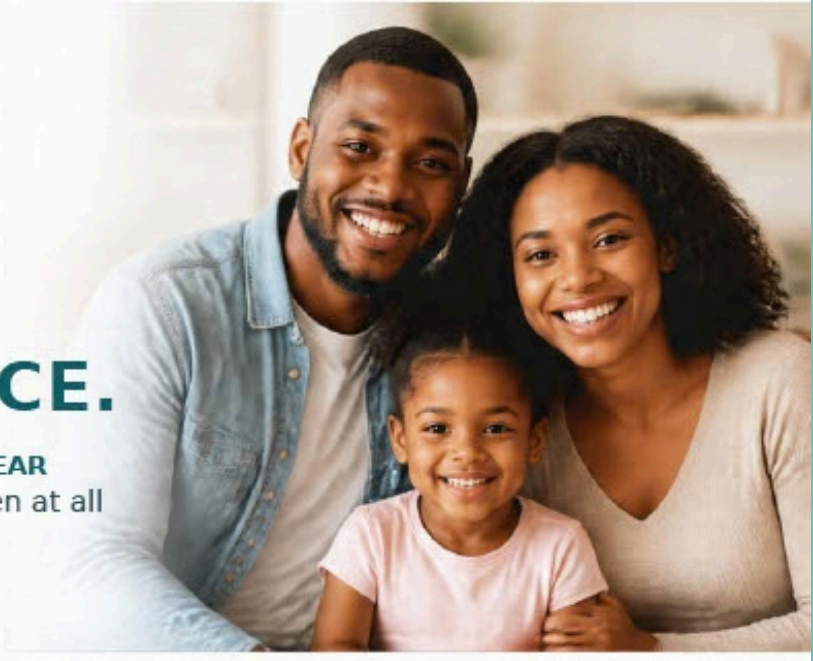
Learn alongside parents and program leaders.

No previous leadership experience needed. Training and guidance provided.

READY TO GET INVOLVED?

Tell your Family Advocate or Marcia Randle, ERSEA/PFCE Manager.
Turn over to explore the available seats.

FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



TAKE A SEAT.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ALL ROLES ARE OPEN FOR THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR
Parent representative and alternate seats are open at all partner sites. Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer positions are also open.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE
Bring family ideas and concerns to the Council. Attend meetings, review information, vote on Council business, and share updates with families.

PARENT ALTERNATE
Stay informed and support your site's representative. Step in when the representative is absent; participation and voting follow program bylaws.

CHAIRPERSON
Lead meetings, encourage every voice, and work with staff to organize Council business.

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Support the chairperson and lead meetings when the chairperson is absent.

SECRETARY
Help maintain meeting minutes, attendance, and records of Council decisions.

TREASURER
Members understand financial reports and raise budget questions. Program staff manage accounting and fiscal operations.

HOW TO JOIN

1. Tell your family Advocate you are interested.
2. Learn about nominations and elections at your parent meeting.
3. Parents elect members; officer elections follow program bylaws.

ELECTION DATES & MEETING DETAILS: TO BE ANNOUNCED
Members serve a one-year term. Attend meetings and training, ask questions, and respect confidentiality. Ask about support for child care, transportation, or interpretation needs.

Based on the Head Start Policy Council—Tips for Parents and Families and 45 CFR §1301.3. Seat allocations, officer duties, and election procedures follow program bylaws.

THE ORDER OF THE FISHERMEN MINISTRY

EARLY HEAD START

Child Care Partnership

Head Start

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Family Interest Survey

Help us plan activities your family will enjoy!

Share your interests, workshop ideas, and ways you would like to participate.

Your ideas help us support your family.

Tell us what activities and workshops you would enjoy.

SCAN TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Thank you for helping shape our family programs!

THE ORDER OF THE FISHERMEN MINISTRY

EARLY HEAD START

Child Care Partnership

FATHERS, YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Help Shape Our Fatherhood Programs

Help us plan programs that interest you!

Share your interests, ideas for workshops, and ways you would like to participate.

Connect. Participate. Make your voice heard.

Complete our Fatherhood Survey today.

SCAN TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Thank you for helping shape our fatherhood programs!

THE UNITED ORDER OF THE FISHERMEN MINISTRY
BEACHING CHILDREN WITH EXCELLENCE & LOVE
HELPING FAMILIES
Head Start

Now Enrolling

The Order of the Fishermen Ministry
Head Start

Free Child Care
for ages 6 weeks to 2.5 years.

8 Different Locations Available.

- HighScope Curriculum
- Safe Environment
- Healthy Breakfast, Lunch and Snack
- Parenting Resource Services
- Welcoming Children with Disabilities
- Fatherhood Engagement

Healthy Children ♥ Brighter Futures

Call
313-933-0300
or visit our website
www.tofmhs.org

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