



Head Start Weekly Bulletin

Amore

News and Info for Head Start

Week of February 15, 2010

1. Trainings are listed on page 3 of this bulletin.
2. A GENTLE REMINDER: It's been awhile since we have discussed the issues around maintaining professional boundaries when interacting with our families. You do so much good work that it is natural for some of our families to express their thanks and gratitude to you, as individuals, by offering gifts. While it is satisfying to be recognized, the acceptance of gifts is generally discouraged by our Program, particularly those of a personal nature i.e. jewelry, clothing etc. The ability to remain impartial, which is necessary to making good decisions for both our families and staff, can be compromised by the acceptance of gifts or favors.

Of course, we do not want to offend our families or hurt anyone's feelings. I would suggest letting the family know that you cannot accept gifts but thank them very much for the thought. If they have already purchased a gift, either ask if the gift can be returned, or, offer to donate it to their favorite charity, or, depending on the nature of the gift, offer to share it with the other staff members. Discuss the issue with the Supervisor if you have any questions about what is appropriate and what is not.

I would also take this opportunity to remind all of us that accepting personal invitations to family events also may compromise our professional boundaries. By this I mean invitations to attend birthday parties, religious celebrations, holidays, diner etc. outside of the classroom. This can be difficult since the nature of our program encourages relationships with families. Please remember that these relationships must also be professional in nature. Plan home visits either before or after dinner time. Accept graciously the offer of a simple beverage i.e. water, tea, coffee, soft drink etc. but not an invitation to join the family for dinner if you can decline with good reason and without giving offence. Customs vary between cultures and traditions. Again, consult your supervisor and practice common sense and good judgment. Gail Boyle

3. WEEKLY FAMILY UPDATES: The results coming from the self-assessment indicate a problem with these meetings not taking place weekly as stated in the Policies & Procedures. Perhaps the value of weekly, formal meetings has not been fully explained. There are two primary reasons for meeting weekly: a weekly meeting encourages the development of teamwork for all members of the team. This means working collectively to best serve our families. We learn to understand, trust and value each other. The other reason is that it formalizes the structure we use to review and plan services. We assess each child's and parent's need using a standardized format thereby equalizing our efforts and approach so that each child and family is given a predictable level of attention, effort and a holistic picture at a point in time i.e. the date of the meeting. Weekly family updates also allow for the proper documentation of family services in the FCR. Ask your supervisors for any assistance you may need in organizing these meetings weekly. You can also e-mail me with any questions. Gail Boyle
4. In keeping with National Children's Dental Health Month, here are some tips regarding dental visits and early childhood caries. For more information and classroom activities visit www.ada.org. There is a great section on classroom ideas and resources.—Shauna Sauer, Health Coordinator 971.563.8003

Dental Visits

The ADA recommends regular dental check-ups, including a visit to the dentist within six months of the eruption of the first tooth, and no later than the child's first birthday. Preventive care such as cleanings and fluoride treatment provide your child with "smile" insurance. Routine dental exams uncover problems that can be treated in the early stages, when damage is minimal and restorations may be small.

Early Childhood Caries

Baby bottle tooth decay can destroy your child's teeth. It occurs when a child is frequently exposed to sugary liquids such as milk, including breast milk, fruit juice and other sweet liquids. The ADA recommends the following steps to prevent your children from getting baby bottle tooth decay.

- Begin clearing your baby's mouth during the first few days after birth. After every feeding, wipe the baby's gums with a damp washcloth or gauze pad to remove plaque.
- Never allow your child to nurse or breast feed for prolonged periods and don't give him or her a bottle with milk, formula, sugar water or fruit juice during naps or at night in bed.
- Encourage children to drink from a cup by their first birthday.
- Discourage frequent use of a training cup.
- Help your child develop good eating habits early and choose sensible, nutritious snacks.

TRAININGS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS	TIME	EHS OR HS	COMMENTS
2/19/2010	"How to talk to Kids"	12350 SW 5th St Beaverton, OR 97005-2819	8:30a To 10:30a	Head Start Teacher Aides	Dolores McNee
2/16/2010	Child Abuse & Neglect	CA Conference Room	1p-3p	BCDC, HCDC, CC Staff & Home Based	Lorenzo Rubio
2/17/2010	Child Abuse & Neglect	CA Conference Room	9a-11a	BCDC, HCDC, CC Staff & Home Based	Lorenzo Rubio
2/19/2010	Positive Teaching Strategies	Village Baptist Church 330 SW Murray	8:30am to 12:00pm	Head Start Teachers & FST's	Judy Arthur
2/24/2010	ASQ-3 Training	CA Conference room	9a-11a Or 2p-4p	Early Head Start staff	Penny Kellogg
3/19/2010	Infant/Toddler DECA Training Session 3	Beaverton Community Center Vose Room	1p-4p	Early Head Start Staff	Melissa Hills Mary Beth Bush