



Early Childhood News

Community Action Committee of Pike County

May 2011

Getting Children Ready for Kindergarten

Going to Kindergarten is a new and exciting experience for children and parents. In some ways, Kindergarten will be different from your child's preschool and some will be the same.

Some of the changes your child will face may include a new school building, teachers, classroom, students, and routine. He/she may have new transportation, a longer day, more structure, fewer choices, greater academic experiences, and less individual attention.

Make the transition from preschool to Kindergarten easier by being well prepared ahead of time. Work on Kindergarten readiness skills and start a regular bedtime routine before school starts. You and your child may want to visit the school, meet the teachers, tour the classroom, discuss riding the school bus, and following new rules. This will help your child feel confident and less fearful about starting Kindergarten.

Parents should make sure to schedule a time to register your child for Kindergarten and screening appointments. Have your child's immunization record, emergency contact information, custody agreements, birth certificate, health records, and any special needs documentation.

After your child starts Kindergarten, ask him/her about their day and review any paperwork he/she has. Display special papers and artwork on the refrigerator or wall to encourage positive skills all year long.

Parent Calendar of Events

- Early Head Start Home-Based Socialization - May 5, 12, 19, 26 at the Idaho site from 12:00-2:00 pm.
- Head Start Home-Based Socialization from 9:30-12:30 Friday, May 6 and Tuesday, May 17 at Bristol Park.
- Friday, May 13-Policy Council Meeting at 12:00 noon at CAC.
- End of the Year Head Start Celebration at Bristol Park Tuesday, May 17 from 11:00-2:00. Rain date will be Tuesday, May 24.
- Parent surveys will be sent out on May 5 and are due back to your child's teacher or bus driver by May 19.
- Last day for Head Start/ECE children-Thursday, May 26. Staff last day May 27.
- Agency Closed-Monday, May 30-Memorial Day
- Just a reminder that Early Head Start Home-Based Socializations will continue to be held every Thursday from 12:00-2:00 throughout the summer months.



Fun Things to Do With Your Family on a Budget

- ✚ Check the free paper for event happenings around the county. The library offers free activities for parents and offers special summer reading activities for children.
- ✚ Visit the park, take a hike and take a picnic lunch.
- ✚ The library and its branches have free toddler and preschool story time each week.
- ✚ The Jackson Movie Theater offers free movies on Tuesdays in the summer. Most movie theaters offer matinee discounts during the day for the same movie that is offered at night.
- ✚ Tony's pizza boxes have free bowling or roller skating coupons that can be used at participating places. Tony's pizza usually runs around \$2.50 or less.
- ✚ Purchase kids meals coupons at restaurants (\$1.00) a couple times a year and then save them so you can eat out as a family for under \$20.00.
- ✚ Use Angel Food Ministries to purchase boxes of food for a discounted amount.
- ✚ Try to watch the sales ads before grocery shopping and use coupons on top of the sales for extra savings. Try to budget for groceries for the whole month.
- ✚ Have a family game or movie night.
- ✚ Visit one of the state parks for swimming, fishing, or camping. You can also build a fort using chairs and a sheet indoors or outdoors.
- ✚ Have a scavenger hunt in the back yard or the park. Make a list for your child to search for. Use pictures from magazines or newspapers for the list if your child is not able to read words yet.

Kindergarten Registration Dates

Parents must call the school ahead of time to make an appointment.

Western Elementary-Tuesday, May 31, Wednesday, June 1 and Thursday, June 2.
Phone: 493-2881

Eastern Elementary-Friday, April 15 from 8:30-2:30, Monday, April 18 from 12:00-7:00 pm and Tuesday, April 19 from 8:30-2:30.
Phone: 226-6402

Waverly Elementary-Screenings will be done at Community Action on April 26. Teachers will be completing registrations with the parents in their home. Phone: 947-2813
Children will visit the Waverly classrooms on Tuesday, May 3 from 10:30-12:20.

Jasper Elementary-Monday, May 2, Wednesday, May 4 and Friday May 6 from 8:15-2:15 and Tuesday, May 3 & Thursday, May 5 from 12:00-6:00 pm. Phone: 289-2425.
Children will visit the classrooms on Friday, May 20.



Thank You

The Early Childhood Program staff would like to thank all parents and guardians for allowing us to come into your homes, teach your children, and for trusting us to care for your precious children.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in the classroom, rode the bus, and attended parent activities. Your time was greatly appreciated.

Have a great and safe summer!