

EARLY HEAD START



COMMUNITY CORNER

THANK YOU!



The Louisiana Department of Education announced that all 1,649 child care providers in Louisiana will soon receive supplies to help them ensure the health and safety of staff and children as the state navigates reopening following the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Providers offering services through Head Start, licensed child care centers, as well as in-home and family-based settings certified to offer the Child Care Assistance Program will qualify to receive these resources.

Among the supplies, providers will receive:

- No-touch thermometers, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and pumps, hand soap, paper towels, facial tissue and cleaning products, including bleach.

The supplies which were purchased with federal emergency relief funds, will help providers implement protective measures set by the Office of Public Health, such as assessing the health of staff and children upon arrival and boosting cleaning regimens.

We value this partnership and thank LDOE for their support!

EHS CENTERS REOPENING!

UPDATE



THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HAS PROVIDED US WITH A CHECKLIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONSIDER AS WE PREPARE TO REOPEN OUR CENTERS.

UWA EHS HAS REVIEWED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, ALONG WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED TO US FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC), OFFICE OF HEAD START AND THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH. OUR COMMITMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT WE ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES AND THAT OUR CENTERS PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND STAFF. EVERYONE WILL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN MAKING SURE OUR FACILITIES ARE SAFE TO REOPEN AND REMAIN OPEN.

OUR CENTERS WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020. THIS WEEK, YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER OR CENTER DIRECTOR TO REVIEW THE NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. A COPY OF THE COVID-19 HANDBOOK IS INCLUDED IN THIS WEEK'S GRAB AND GO BAG. WE ASK THAT YOU REVIEW THE HANDBOOK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW PROTOCOL THAT WILL BE ENFORCED EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2020.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND COOPERATION DURING THIS TRANSITION. WE WANT LEARNING TO CONTINUE TO BE RICH, ENGAGING AND FUN AND WE HAVE CALLED ON OUR STAFF TO BE CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE IN THEIR LESSONS, WHILE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HEALTHY HYGIENE, BUT AGAIN, WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP TO DO THIS SUCCESSFULLY.

PLEASE KNOW THAT WE ARE TAKING THESE NECESSARY STEPS TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR STAFF. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF UWA EHS!

KELER MITCHELL
VICE-PRESIDENT OF EARLY HEAD START

NATIONAL HEAD START

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF HEAD START

Silence = acceptance.

We will not be silent in the face of injustice.

As a team, we are devastated, overwhelmed with grief, filled with anger, and compelled to speak out.

Head Start was born during another era of fighting for equal justice, an era envisioned by its activists to be the end of racism, discrimination, and oppression.

Unhappily, we have not progressed as far as a nation in the 55 years since, as we should have, as we need to. And now, it is up to us, all of us, to make it happen.

Head Start is rooted in the search for justice, equality, and opportunity. Our role as a catalyst for hope serves as a beacon of light in communities once again. Because today's Head Start children—innocent, inquisitive, and brilliant as they are—deserve a hopeful future where their lives are valued unequivocally.

We are committed to building that better future, not for the next generation, but right now. We support the movement for justice and equality and will lead with bold actions necessary for real change. From encouraging full participation in civic engagement, to protesting acts of racism, the NHTSA stands with you in this fight.

We must listen to each other with deeper understanding, join together in activism, and stay committed to creating a more just nation.

Keeping the commitment, Yasmina Vinci and the NHTSA Team

TEAM WORK



Special thanks to the UWA EHS team for your hard work! Your dedication to serving the needs of children and families in our program did not go unnoticed. We appreciate you and thank you for embracing a new approach to teaching and service.

Alone we can do so little; Together, we can do so much.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

DROPPING OBJECTS



WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT?

At this age, your baby can hold things very well, but cannot always let them go when she wants. Opening her fingers is a different process from closing them, and learning to control the muscles in her hands will take her a lot of time and practice. Early hand control helps her manipulate objects during play. Later, she will need to control the muscles in her hands when she starts holding crayons and pencils for drawing.

WHAT YOU DO?

- Show her a toy in your hand. When she looks at it, open your fingers and let the toy drop. Repeat the motion, saying drop as it falls.
• Keep a short dropping distance, so she'll be able to see your hand and the dropped object at the same time. Encourage her to try after you have shown her several times.
• Give an enthusiastic response with each attempt she makes. Wow! You dropped the block by yourself! Play again using a ball that bounces or a bell that makes a noise when it hits the floor. She may show more interest in a toy that produces a sound when dropped.
• Listen for any sounds she makes when she lets go of the ball. This is her attempt to imitate you when you say, drop.