

# EASTCONN Head Start

September 2021

## Welcome Back 2021-2022 School year

Dear Head Start Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 year! I am thrilled to be welcoming your children into or continuing in our program! Our continuous commitment to fostering self-help skills, independence, kindness, and the ability to problem solve effectively will undoubtedly help our children thrive socially, emotionally, and academically in the future.

Our teaching staff have been working hard to prepare their classrooms and create lessons. Practices such as naming emotions, communicating wants/needs, self-advocacy, and Executive Functioning exercises are just a few of the activities that may take place in our classrooms each day. We use a team approach to learning the personal narratives of each child in our care while working in partnership with their respective families to determine how best to meet their needs.

One of the greatest characteristics of the EASTCONN Head Start community is the genuine care and compassion shared between staff, children, and families. Head Start is a place where staff and families come together to ensure that the children entrusted into our care grow to be productive, confident, compassionate, members of a global society. I look forward to an amazing year!

Fondly, Kim Mansfield, Director of Head Start

***“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning.” Mr. Rogers***



## Health Corner:

As we start the year, please keep in mind the following health reminders.

- If your child has any cold symptoms, which include sore throat, severe sinus pressure, or body aches; they should stay home until they feel better. If a fever is present, they **MUST** remain home until they are fever-free (24 hours with no medicine).
- Dental Health is so important! We will not be conducting tooth brushing this fall in the classrooms. If you need supplies for your home, please ask your Family Advocate.
- Up-to-date physicals and immunizations are a requirement of Head Start and the Office of Early Childhood Regulations. Please notify us of all appointments and keep updated paperwork.

## Announcements

Family events will be planned soon, please check with your individual classroom staff and Family Advocate

Policy Council is an opportunity to get involved at the leadership level of EASTCONN Head Start. Our current meeting is held virtually the third Tuesday of each month from 6 -8pm; our September meeting is the 21<sup>st</sup>. Suzanne Michaud, our Family Service Manager, will be holding virtual learning opportunities for families. Mark your calendar and come learn more about Policy Council; September 8 at 9am, September 14 at 1pm, and September 16 at 6:30pm.

Recruitment is an ongoing opportunity in Head Start. We had several events this summer including the Putnam Farmers Market, Latin Fest, Celebrate Plainfield, and Brooklyn Elementary School Kindergarten Orientation. This fall we will be at Willimantic Street Fest and many others. Come see us and spread the word about Head Start.

EASTCONN Head Start prides itself on our many community collaborations. We have recently partnered with the Town of Plainfield with new classroom space at the Plainfield Recreation Center. Louise Brodeur collaborated with the Killingly Wireless Zone and their generous donation of school supplies and backpacks. We continue to build and strengthen relationships as it benefits our children and families.

