

Warm Springs Early Childhood Education Family Newsletter

♥♥♥♥♥ FEBRUARY 2024 ♥♥♥♥♥

Early Childhood Education is a department within the CTWS Branch of Health & Human Services. An ECE Steering Group is providing management of the programs as the transition to new management is in process.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact ECE Steering Group Members:

- Caroline Cruz, caroline.cruz@wstribes.org
- TJ Foltz, taw.foltz@wstribes.org
- Sue Matters, sue.matters@wstribes.org or

Tiana Northrup, who continues to provide supervision to staff, tiana.northrup@wstribes.org

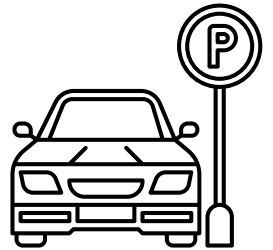


All ECE Programs are open on Friday, February 2, 2024.
Day Care Programs will be open on Monday February 5, 2024.
There is no Building Wide Training this month.

Warm Springs Tribal Offices and the ECE Program are all closed on Monday February 19th for Presidents Day.

ECE PARKING UPDATE

- We are asking staff to not park in front of the ECE Entrance during morning drop off and afternoon pick up times to create more spaces for families with children.
- Staff can park in the lot by B & A pods and in the big parking lot between A Pod and the Longhouse.
- For Head Start A Pod Families - please REDUCE YOUR SPEED entering and leaving the A Pod parking area.
- At both the A Pod Parking entrance/exit to Kot-Num road and at the Longhouse - there is plenty of room for cars to both enter and leave - however PLEASE DRIVE SLOW and STAY IN THE RIGHT LANE to allow space for cars in the other direction. This is all to increase the safety of children, families and staff.
- And for A Pod pick up and drop off PLEASE DO NOT PARK AT THE CURB so maintain good visibility for families and kiddos walking to their vehicle.



ECE SPIRIT WEEK -- FEB 12TH -- 16TH

- MON - We Love Red Day! Wear anything red.
- TUE - Mocs & Socks Day! Wear your moccasins or your favorite pair of socks
- WED - Hearts Day! Wear anything with hearts on it to show the love.
- THU - Exercise Day. Wear clothes for working out for our FUN RUN!
- FRI - Pajama Day! Stay comfy all day by wearing your pajamas to school.

ECE FAMILY SURVEY



In January we polled staff to get a feel for what they feel our ECE Programs Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats are.

We are asking families to weigh in with the same feedback. If you can, please visit this link and complete our short survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HP7PLWG>

Thanks in Advance for taking time to give us your input!

UPCOMING DATES

12th

HEAD START GRADUATION PLANNING MEETING

It's the first meeting to begin planning for our Head Start kids who will be moving up to the Big School in the fall. Families can get together at noon for an initial planning meeting on how to celebrate their completion of preschool on Monday February 12th at Noon.

Talk with your Head Start Teacher if you have questions.

21st FAMILY FUN

ECE FAMILY FUN EVENT - WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21st

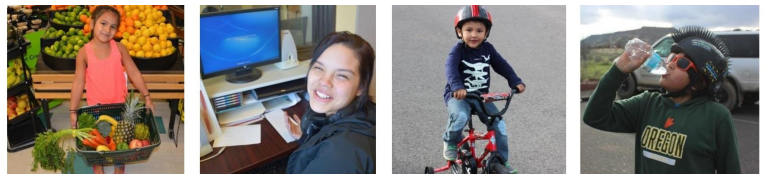
There will be multiple opportunities to learn about program resources, engage in fun activities, take advantage of information sharing, complete a family engagement survey, put your name in for a raffle, enjoy some snacks, and take home some food.

Session 1 - 3-4:15 pm

Session 2 - 5-6:15 pm with child care provided

We are trying this out and hope to plan an event for each month for the rest of the school year - so really need your participation and input. See you there!

LIVE HEALTHY



EVERY DAY

- Eat at least 5 fruits & vegetables
- Limit screen time to 2 hours
- Get a minimum 1 hour of physical activity
- Have 0 (ZERO) sugary drinks

HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to these parents who have been elected to serve on the Warm Springs Policy Council!:

ROOM A1 - Elicia Hicks

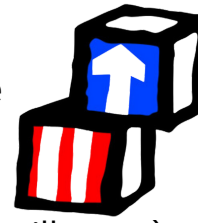
ROOM A2 - Lupe Garcia & Nakia Caldera (they tied twice so both will serve)

ROOM A3 - Jaycelene Brisbois

ROOM A4 - Shaniah Tom

ROOM A6 - Krysta Rhoan

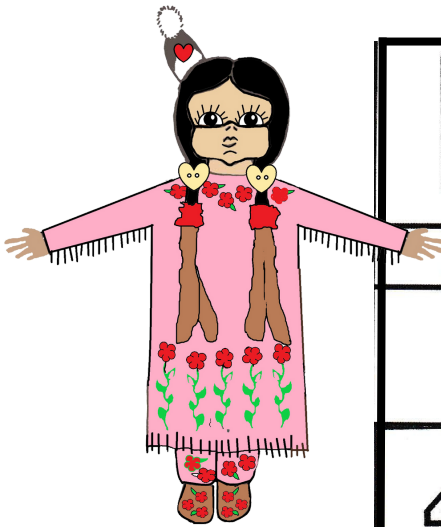
(Our new Classroom (A5) still needs to take nominations and have families vote and once that is completed the new representatives will convene for some training.)



When Head Start began in 1965, its founders understood that parents are essential partners in educating young children. They felt parents should help decide how Head Start services can most benefit their family and other families in the community.

Head Start created the Policy Council as a formal leadership and policy-making role for parents. Today, every Head Start and Early Head Start program must have a Policy Council as part of its leadership structure. Through the Policy Council, parents have a voice in decisions about how the program spends money, what children do in their classrooms, and how the program works with community partners.

Children, parents, and the program benefit when parents take on leadership roles. Children learn more and experience healthier development at school and at home. Parents can become more confident, gain skills, and connect with other parents and staff. Program staff learn about the strengths, interests, and needs of the children, families, and community they serve.



FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5 No Head Start	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Head Start Graduation Meeting @12pm	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Holiday	20	21 Family Fun Night	22	23	24
25	26 No Head Start	27	28	29		





A Letter to Families

Send families a letter introducing the study. Use the letter to communicate with families and as an opportunity to invite them to participate in the study.

Dear Families,

We have noticed that the children are very interested in balls. They're curious about different kinds of balls, how people use balls, what they are made of, what is inside them, and how high they can bounce. We think balls will make an interesting study.

If you can, we would like your help in gathering a collection of balls to investigate. We'll need many different types of balls. Here's a list of suggestions, but you may also send in balls that are not on the list. We'll take good care of them so we can return them to you at the end of the study.

baseball, basketball,
beach ball, bowling
ball, cotton ball,
crystal ball, doggie

ball, football, golf
ball, kickball, marble,
table-tennis ball,
pool (billiard) ball,

racquetball,
soccer ball, tennis
ball, volleyball

As we study balls, we will learn concepts and skills in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also be using thinking skills to investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas.

What You Can Do at Home

Spend time with your child, playing with balls of all shapes, types, and sizes, such as playground balls, tennis balls, table-tennis balls, volleyballs, baseballs, footballs, and marbles. Talk about what the balls are made of, whether they are heavy or light, and whether they are big or little.

Wonder aloud with your child to encourage his or her thinking about balls. For example, you might ask, "I wonder what's inside a tennis ball. I wonder how far you can throw a foil ball, a beach ball, or a tennis ball. How can we find out?"

Help your child use all of his or her senses when playing with balls. You might ask, "What does it look like? Feel like? Sound like? Smell like?"

See how many types of balls you can find around the house and in your neighborhood.

Play a game while riding in the car, bus, or train. Think of all the words that contain the word *ball* in them. Look for examples of balls around you.

At the end of our study, we'll have a special event to show you what we've learned. Thank you for playing an important role in our learning.

