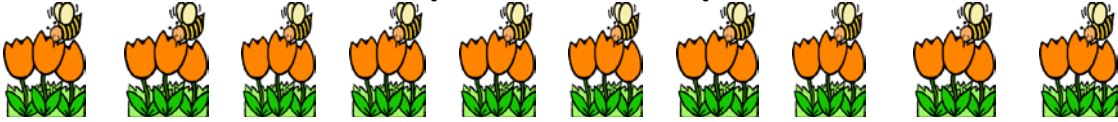


SEVCA Head Start Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter for May 2024



From the Desk of the Director . . .

Dear Parents & Staff,

I can hardly believe another year of Head Start is coming to a close! It is so nice to finally see the sun and enjoy the warmer weather! Last month we conducted our annual Self-Assessment and the results are included in this newsletter.



We would like to thank the participants that helped us this year: Parents: Alex Gee (also a PC member!), Jazmin

McNeill, Etereï Fanoula, Community Members: Patricia Acadia, SEVCA Staff: Josh Davis, SEVCA Board Members: Tom Dougherty and Camilla Arnold, Head Start Staff: Susan Brown, Alyssa Dabala, Andrea Moffit, Alec Benoit, Jessica Parmenter, Lindsay DeCell, and Katie Murphy. A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped to make this process a great success!

The Parent and Staff Survey's have also been completed and the results have been shared with each classroom to be posted on

the Parent Board at your center. If anyone has any questions, please reach out to me.

We have a lot going on right now for Head Start! We are in the midst of preparing an Early Head Start application for the Windsor location. This will be submitted by May 14, 2024. We will be notified in July/August if we have been selected for the funding. We are also excited to be offering summer child care at Springfield and Chester locations. Both programs are currently full!

We are still completing applications for next year, so please send children our way if they will be 3 by September 1st!

We are very happy to welcome back Larissa Jordan as the cook for Pine Street Preschool! She has been missed and we are thrilled to have her back with us! Welcome Larissa...we are never letting you leave again!!!

We are still waiting to hear from OHS on our Change in Scope proposal. We are hoping to hear before the end of the program year in May.

All centers are doing year-end celebrations, so I hope you can make the time to join us for these festive events. It is always bittersweet to see some of the kids

transitioning to kindergarten and others staying with us for another program year.

I would like to thank all of our Head Start staff for all the hard work you do each day to make our program a success! I know this year has not been easy on many levels, so I appreciate all of you for staying with us- even though the hard times! And a huge thank you to all the parents who have joined us for a meal, parent workshop or program event...it really does take a village to do this work, so thank you for making the time to be part of our program!

Have a great month and enjoy the summer!
Lori Canfield
SEVCA Windsor County Head Start Director

REMINDER: Chester Community Preschool is hosting a Volunteer Day to help clean-up the playground! This is scheduled for May 18, from 9-2. If you would like to help us, please contact Rose Worden at 802-460-1552.

SHOUT OUT:

A huge shout out to **Jerry Ucci**, a parent in Chester and also the contractor that put the basement back together again after the flood in July. He has done an outstanding job and we can't wait to host an Open House in the fall so everyone can come see how beautiful it is! **Thank YOU Jerry** for all that you have done for this project! We appreciate it!!

The March In-kind Winner was Pine Street Preschool's Daisy Room.

Way to go!



Important Dates to Remember:

May 10, 2024 ~ PTC #4 (Centers & Child Care Closed)

May 15, 2024 ~ Policy Council Meeting: 9:30-11:00 AM

May 17, 2024 ~ Early Release/Ed Meeting (Child Care Open)

May 22, 2024 ~ Last Day for Children

May 23, 2024 ~ SEVCA All-Staff In-Service Day

May 24, 2024 ~ Last Day for Staff

May 27, 2024 ~ Holiday/Closed

May 28-31, 2024 ~ Summer Child Care CLOSED, Summer Child Care will begin on June 3, 2024

The following children had 100% attendance

In March:

Chester Community Preschool:

CCP1: Emma C., Isaiah M., Leo M., and Talon C.

CCP2: Gavin A., Elizabeth M., Rhett M., Jackson S., Cindy T. and Harper W.

Pine Street Preschool:

Daisy Room: Jaxon M. and Lexus M.

Willow Room: Alexander G. and McKensie H.

Children's Place:

Oliver B. and Lucas C.

The following children had 100% attendance

In April:

Chester Community Preschool:

CCP1: Andrew B., Amelia G., Sofia G., Kaylee T. and Asher U.

CCP2: Jasper D., Lucas M., Autumn M., Maynard R., Wyatt R. and Harper W.

Pine Street Preschool:

Daisy Room: Raiden G., Ciaran L., Axel L., Gavin P. and Remi R.

Willow Room: Joshua A., Milo D., Briella H., Gideon L., Storm L. and Emma T.

Children's Place:

Bentley A. and Brinley C.

Classroom Updates...

Chester Community Preschool

CCP1

Ms. Jodie, Ms. Karie and Ms. Meagan

The time flies when you are having fun! April has come and gone and we are entering May. In May, we will be exploring Spring and the outdoors!



April was a fun month and we learned all about the Ocean! We read about what makes an ocean, the coral that lives in the ocean as well as all the creatures both big and small that live in the ocean!

With learning about the ocean, we made our own coral reefs using recycled items, as well as some common household items you might even have! The children enjoyed making their

reefs and may want to make one at home with you!

We made: patterned octopus tentacles, our own sharks, seahorses, ocean creature patterns, and so many other creatures!

We also enjoyed the new items within our centers and the children really enjoyed playing in the aquarium in our Dramatic Play as well as all the cool shells in our science center, and all the other fun materials around our room.



It is always fun to have Miss Carrie come and read to us. We will be getting over to the Library in May for some fun books and activities!

It has been so nice outside and Miss Cody brought over some color fun for us to explore during our visit from VINS this month!

We are nearing the end of our school year, and look forward to this last month with our Head Start children.

We want to say "Good Luck" to all the children who will be moving onto kindergarten next fall! And we look forward to seeing the children next year that will be returning to our Head Start program!

We will be having our End of Year Celebration on **Wednesday May 22nd**! We hope to see everyone there, **including families!**

CCP2

Ms. Randi, Ms. Andi and Ms. Michohn

Hello everyone, welcome to May! Last month we focused on weather. We did all kinds of fun

projects, including making rain clouds with names on the rain drops, colorful caterpillars, and we dripped paint onto butterflies and folded them in half to learn about symmetry.

We have learned the letter "G" for green and "T" for tornado. For books we have read "Rain Rain Everywhere" and "Otter Goes to School". We have spent time outside observing the weather, taking walks, and enjoying some warmer temperatures.

Family lunch was a success! Students were able to enjoy chili and corn bread with their families and show them around the classroom, pointing out new art work. Whew! We've been busy!

The month of May brings the end of the Head Start school year. As it comes to a close, we will be learning about the ocean and the creatures that live in it. We will have lots more fun projects to do and cool books to read.

We wish you all well and look forward to our new summer child care program beginning! Happy summer!!!

Chester Community Preschool's
Family Partner



WOW! It is so hard to believe it's the end of the year already. Time has sure flown by. I want to thank of our families for your continued support throughout the year. It has been such a pleasure getting to know all of you.

Some of you are moving on to kindergarten; though I am sad to see you go, I know you are all going to do great things and learn so much in kindergarten. I am looking forward to seeing

my returning families in the fall and hearing all about your summer!

We are accepting application for the fall. Please spread the word about our program to anyone that you may know with children 3-5 years old.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer filled with new adventures and relaxation. Thank you for a great year! Make sure to get out in the sunshine and have some fun. Here is a fun Summer Schedule to try with your family!



If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me with concerns, comments, or questions.

Katie Murphy
Family Partner

Pine Street Preschool

Daisy Room

Ms. Jen, Ms. Alyssa and Ms. Felicia

Wow, we cannot believe the end of the school year is already here! We have had so much fun in the month of April, we learned all about transportation!

We converted our dramatic play center into a mechanic shop that includes a car that we built and painted! The kids absolutely loved it! We also did some cool activities including painting with nuts and bolts, painting with cars that we cut out and turned into a boat! We also made cars and trains out of cut out shapes!

We had another awesome visit from VINS and learned all about beavers. The kids got to make their own beaver dam and touch a beaver pelt!

Another fun thing that happened in April that our childcare kiddos got to enjoy was the eclipse! We did an awesome lesson on demonstrating how the eclipse works!



With May being the end of the year, we decided on Carnival as our theme, we will do carnival games and many other activities that we think the children will love.

We hope that all of our Head Start families enjoy their summer and we will greatly miss all of our kiddos who will be heading to Kindergarten!

We are very excited to start our childcare summer program, we have many things planned that include a lot of time spent outside! We already started preparing our childcare kiddos by making place mats for meal time, they cut out things they enjoy from a magazine and we laminated them!

Again, we hope that you all have a great summer and we will see some of you again in September!

Willow Room

Ms. Ruby, Ms. Nicholle and Ms. Sadie

Hello Friends! It is incredible that we are at the end of another school year. In the month of April, we learned about spring. We learned about so many things that happen during this beautiful season, including weather changes, clothes to wear, how to plant seeds, parts of the plants, and how to take care of plants.

We got to observe and measure our plants' growth in our classroom, the daffodil and the tallest plant in the pot. Everybody was happy to see our plants grow and see their flowers bloom. We also planted seeds. It was really exciting. We made sure that our seeds get a drink every day to grow healthy. We've also read interesting books about spring. "Grow Flower Grow" by Lisa Bruce was everyone's favorite book. We also made a 3D part of the plants craft.

We also learned a song entitled "Roots, Stem, Leaves, Flower" sung to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes". It was really cool. We love spring season. April was such an awesome month for all of us!

Next month, we will continue learning about spring and we will also learn about bugs and insects.

It has been a joy getting to know all the kids in our classroom. We wish the kids that are moving onto kindergarten good luck and we look forward to seeing the children that are returning in the fall. Enjoy your summer!

Pine Street Preschool's Family Partner

WOW, it's the end of the year already. I just can't believe how fast this school year has gone by. Thank you to all the families that participated in our gardening workshop in April.

I am looking forward to getting those garden beds filled with the help of all of you this month. Please keep your eye out in the classroom for the sign-ups for that. We have so many things started for the summer child care kiddos to help take care of this summer.

Thank you to all the families. I have enjoyed getting to know you and your family. To the families that are moving on to kindergarten next year; I wish you all the best and I will miss you. To my returning families; I look forward to spending more time with you next year! To my families that will be attending our summer Child Care program please let your teachers know if you have any needs and questions throughout the summer.

Please spread the word about our program to anyone that you may know with children 3-5 years old.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer. Make sure to get out in the sunshine and have some fun. Here is a fun Summer Schedule to try with your family!

If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me with concerns, comments, or questions.

Lindsay DeCell
Family Partner

Children's Place Preschool

Ms. Susan, Ms. Denise and Ms. Mimi

I can't believe that we are already in spring and in the month of April! I have no idea where the time has gone. This month we are going to be learning about all things Spring to celebrate that Winter is over! (Insert round of applause here).

We always like to start a new month with fun activities, and one of them was doing a Tulip Pattern activity. The kids made their own patterns with different colored tulips! We also started our own book; some kids chose to write a book about Fire Alarms and others chose to write about Sonic the Hedgehog. Seeing their books come to life was so interesting! We also learned about different clouds, one called Nimbostratus, which is when a cloud is very dark and filled with water which causes rain.

We also had weekly visits by Mr. Marv, the kids enjoyed having him in the classroom and hearing him read. We also did our monthly Fire Drill, and it is impressive to see the kids know exactly what to do once they hear the fire alarm.

With all the rain that we have had, it has put



a damper on being able to bring them outside. But despite that, we made rainbows and also had a pebble pond party and Ms. Rhi brought in a Piñata filled with treats! We danced, ate Mexican food and had a Mexican beverage called Horchata (Orr-cha-ta). That same day we played outside in the snow for what would be the last time, the kids went sliding down the hill and made a snowman that they called Elsa.

With the end of the year coming to an end we want to focus on having fun and doing fun activities. Ms. Susan has created a link chain, and every day we remove one to signify how many days of school we have left. It is important that we prepare them for the end of the year so when the last day of school arrives, they are ready, as we know that day will be difficult for us all.

Because this is our last newsletter of the year, we are including our May activities and end of the year thoughts.

The month of May will be filled with friendship and end of the year fun! We will be doing activities such as making friendship soup, friendship pizza, painting with a friend and completing a mural for our end of the year celebration. We will also be exploring dead logs for insects, visiting our pond for pond exploration opportunities. Maybe there will be crayfish or insect life we can find. We will be outside more, eating lunch outside and enjoying our last month together. There will be activities outside such as an obstacle course, large bubble play, painting and going on a scavenger hunt.

As this year concludes, we will be saying goodbye to friends, teachers and our fish Billi. This means new beginnings and opportunities for us all. For our classmates going to

kindergarten, Zeke, Livian, Lucas and Oaklie, we hope that your kindergarten year is one of wonder, excitement and new relationships. As teachers, we are proud of your accomplishments and have wonderful memories of our time together. As teachers we have also learned from you! We also wish and hope the best for Zayne, Oliver and Summer as they navigate their new beginnings.

This year our class was small and intimate. There were more opportunities for library visits, walks around town, tasting food from around the world and sharing more of ourselves. For teachers, a cook and a family support person, we will also be transitioning into new possibilities or continuing our path of teaching.

For all of us, at The Children's Place Preschool, we have loved and enjoyed working with all the caregivers in their children's lives. You are your child's first teacher. Supporting you navigate, through your child's first school experience, is what we make this profession meaningful and rewarding. We wish you



continued joy, laughter and continued success as your child starts their new journey along the path of education. Happy Summer! Love to you all.

Northwoods Preschool

This center was unable to open this year.

*From the desk of the
Practice-based Coach/Child Development Services Specialist*

Susan Brown

April has been a busy month! Each classroom has been busy with activities, playing in new found snow and heading to the end of the classroom year. For teachers, they are getting ready for their last Parent Teacher Conference and preparing for the end of the school year.

This is a time of excitement and mixed feelings of saying goodbye to another school year. For students, they can be excited, sad or anxious. You may see more tears and hear talk about kindergarten or summer time fun. As a teacher, it's a time of being proud of each child's accomplishments and developmental milestones.

I have had the most rewarding time visiting all the centers this year. This is a new position for me, and I am certainly going to love it next year!! What I have enjoyed the most is playing and getting to know all the kids. Watching and supporting teaching teams and working with family partners is an honor for me. I have also enjoyed meeting parents and caregivers. I am sure I will see some of you next year.

As I end my lead teaching position, I jump into a different way of teaching. I feel fortunate to continue teaching and supporting centers to a program that I have loved for so long...Head Start! I am proud of the work I have done and will continue to do as we leave this school year and work toward another

school year. Enjoy your summer and to those going to kindergarten, enjoy your new school experience.

From the Desk of the Family Partner for
The Children's Place Preschool



Hello Families!

I cannot believe it's already the end of the school year. The time certainly flew by far too fast.

Last month for our parent meeting, we did a gardening workshop where we created some awesome starter plants.

This month, we will probably celebrate the kiddos with a family lunch; details to follow. Just as a reminder, we are closed May 10th for parent-teacher conferences and May 22nd is our last day of school.

It has been wonderful working with all of you and your families, and watching your preschoolers grow. I hope you all have a great summer. We will miss you all. Congrats to the Kindergarteners!

P.S. Here's a little photo recap of the year!





Jessica Parmenter
 Family Partner
 Children's Place Preschool
 802-674-8008
jparmenter@sevca.org

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION/DISABILITIES SERVICES MANAGER

Jodi C. Farashahi

It is incredible that we are at the end of another school year!

Final parent teacher conferences are scheduled for May 10th, and teachers should be informing families of children moving on to Kindergarten about registration days, and orientations.

Good luck to our transitioning friends, and we look forward to working with our returning families and children next school year. Have a wonderful summer!

Here are the Child Outcomes for the Spring Assessment:

Program Areas of Strength~ Physical Development and Mathematics

Program Areas of Focus~ Language and Literacy Development

Transitioning Children Areas of Strength~ Social/Emotional Development and Physical Development

Transitioning Children Areas of Focus~ Literacy Development and Mathematics

Children on IEPs Area s of Strength~ Physical Development and Mathematics

Children on IEPs Area s of Focus~ Social/Emotional Development, Language Development and Literacy Development

NEWS ABOUT HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES

On April 22, 2024 SEVCA Head Start held a Health Advisory with Siobhan Nadler as the guest speaker. Siobhan currently works at the Smiles/Tooth Tutor for our program. We are very excited to have her aboard! There were eight individuals present for the zoom meeting. Siobhan shared on the following topics:

Fluoride Varnish is administered to re-mineralize tooth enamel. People have asked why you need extra fluoride since it's in drinking water and toothpaste already. Siobhan said unless you live a perfect life - no soda, tea, coffee, wine..., you need the fluoride varnish.

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) was developed in China. It was cleared to use in 2014 but started being used more during COVID because they weren't allowed to use aerosol (spray from the drill, spit...). They found SDF slows down or eliminates decay. However, it does leave a black stain because of the silver iodation. The black doesn't show on the

healthy (part of the) teeth but is still unsightly. Affected teeth are washed, brushed and dried. SDF is applied either blue or clear and takes a couple minutes. Siobhan noted that even after this procedure the tooth may still need filling. People are also asked to sign a waiver noting the stain developing later. You can have a white resin applied to the stained area after the stain has developed. It does not harm the permanent teeth coming in.

Dental Sealants are a proven strategy but Siobhan cautioned that smooth tooth surfaces can't hold sealants. They last 7-10 years and dentists try to hold off until they can seal the 6-year old's molars. *Resin-based sealants* take about 5 minutes start to finish and the child needs to stay still, difficult for many children. Siobhan added that it also creates aerosol. *Glass Ionomer Sealant* doesn't have to be dry, dry so it only takes a couple minutes. However, the patient needs to be on a soft-food diet the first day.

If anyone would like more information about these topics, please reach out to your Family Partner. A BIG thank you for everyone that attended and of course to Siobhan for sharing the above information!

Fruit Salad

Ingredients: Any fresh fruit you would like to add (pineapple, oranges, apples, grape-halves, bananas, kiwi, peaches, pears, etc.) Yogurt

Directions: Cut up the fruit into bite size pieces. Remember that children easily choke, so pieces should be manageable for your child. You can even give your child a butter knife and have them cut some of the fruit up, while you observe to ensure that they don't get hurt.

Place a serving into a small bowl, top with yogurt and ENJOY!



Birthday News: May, June, July & August



Chester Community Preschool

CCP1- Leo M. 5/8, Arthur N. 5/19, Kaylee T. 7/18, Lucas M. 7/25, Lucy H. 8/9, Kane M. 8/12 and Talon C. 8/30

CCP2- Evelyn G. 5/1, Ellum N. 5/7, Elizabeth M. 5/8 and Gavin A. 6/28

Pine Street Preschool

Daisy- Jaxon M. 5/2 and Axel L. 5/3

Willow- Kayleigh H. 5/4, Jackson W. 5/5, Everett M-C. 8/2 and Janiyah L. 8/15

The Children's Place

Oaklie C. 5/9, Lucas C. 6/4 and Zayne S. 7/20

Head Start Staff

PSP Family Partner-Lindsay 5/12

Ed/Disability Manager-Jodi 6/7, **Willow Teacher-Ruby** 6/8, **Willow Teacher Assistant-Felicia** 7/7, **Head Start Director-Lori** 7/14, **Fam/Comm./MH Manager-Barb** 7/23 and **Windsor Teacher Assistant-Mimi** 7/27

Changes to Medicaid and CHIP Automatic Enrollment

Everyone on Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) must reapply for their health insurance.

The federal policy that kept people continuously enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP during the COVID-19 public health emergency has ended. Many children and adults may lose their coverage. Everyone enrolled in these programs will need to reapply for health insurance. It’s important to understand that each state has its own process and timeline for deciding eligibility criteria for continuing Medicaid.

VT’s Anticipated 2023 State Timelines for Initiating Unwinding-Related Renewals As of February 24, 2023

First Month Unwinding-Related Renewals are Initiated	Effective Date of First Anticipated Terminations for Procedural Reasons*
April	June

* This is generally the first month that members who have not had their eligibility successfully renewed in the past 12 months may be disenrolled for procedural reasons, such as non-response to a renewal form, per CMS guidelines. Terminations for individuals the state has redetermined as ineligible for Medicaid and CHIP may occur on or after April 1, 2023.

Key Messages:

- You may need to update your contact information with VT’s Medicaid program.
- Please check your mail for an official letter with information about completing a renewal form and to submit it as soon as possible.
- Please make sure you report any changes regarding your address, phone number, email, household, job, income, disability status, or pregnancy.

Here are some Resources that May Help:

Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Renewals: A Communications Toolkit

<https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/downloads/unwinding-comms-toolkit.pdf?cid=a70d54130c47e0e69f840d13fa6ea56c>

This 21-page toolkit includes strategies to help inform people about steps to renew their coverage or find other health care choices.

Preserving Medicaid and CHIP Coverage

<https://www.aap.org/medicaidunwinding?cid=a70d54130c47e0e69f840d13fa6ea56c>

Scroll down to the “State Unwinding Flyers” for state-specific posters in English and Spanish with phone numbers and websites for Medicaid and low-cost insurance options.

- **No longer eligible for Medicaid? Need help finding other types of free or low-cost insurance?**
<https://www.healthcare.gov/?cid=a70d54130c47e0e69f840d13fa6ea56c>

SEVCA Windsor County Head Start Parent Survey RESULTS 2023-2024 (27 responses out of 58 families in March)

Please complete this survey regarding your experience with SEVCA Windsor County Head Start this program year. The results of this survey will assist us with our program plans and services in the future.

1. Town you live in:

12_Springfield Baltimore 9_Chester Ludlow
 Andover 1_Hartford Hartland WRJ 6_Windsor
 Other Town _____

2. How did you hear about Head Start?	Family, friend or neighbor	Doctor, dentist, WIC	211	Internet/social media	Other:								
	33% (9)	1	0	18.5% (5)	48% (13)								
3. Head Start staff assisted our family with accessing the following services:	Budgeting	Crisis Fuel	Food/Nutrition	Legal Services	Financial Fitness	Medical/dental home	Transportation	Parenting Classes	Mental health Services	Housing	ECSE	Child Care	Other:
	1	2 7%	3 11%	0	3 11%	3 11%	2 7%	8 29%	0	3	7 26%	14 52%	
4. Head Start provided me with the help I needed.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree								
	20 (74.1%)	5 (18.5%)	0	1 (3.7%)	1 (3.7%)								
5. Head Start program staff treated me well.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree								
	23 (85.2%)	1 (3.7%)	1 (3.7%)	1 (3.7%)	1 (3.7%)								
6. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with your experience with Head Start?			Very Satisfied/Satisfied 27 (100%)	Dissatisfied /very dissatisfied 0									
37. Did you visit our Head Start Facebook pages?	_24 (88.9%)___ Yes _3 (11.1%)___ No												
8. Did you visit our sevcaheadstart.org website?	15 (58.6%) Yes 12 (44.4%) No												
9. Would you be interested in Early Head Start?	7 (25.9%) Yes 20 (74.1%) No												

Self-Assessment 2023-2024 Data Summary Report

March 15, 2024

This year the Self-Assessment process was held as an in-person, one day event to present, review and discuss the data sets the management team has worked on over the last several years. We are in year 4 of our grant cycle. The Self-Assessment Data Review was on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 9:00-2:00 We invited Head Start staff, SEVCA Staff, HS Policy Council, SEVCA Board, HS Parents and Community Members to join us for this data analyzing journey. The individuals that were able to attend and be part of the team to analyze the data consisted of: 10 Head Start staff, 1 person from SEVCA, 4 (1 on Policy Council) parents, 2 SEVCA Board Members, and 1 community member.

The Head Start Management Team reviewed data from the following areas: Enrollment/Eligibility, Staff Turnover, Professional Development, Family Service PIR Data, Recruitment, Attendance, BMI, Dental/Medical, Immunizations, Outcomes for children, School Readiness Goals, IEP for children, Staff Qualifications, and CLASS scores. A power point presentation was shared to orient the participants on what Self-Assessment was all about. A Summary was also created from information shared by the participants to create areas of strength and areas that need to be improved for all data sets. The summary is shared below.

Self-Assessment Summary ~ March 15, 2024

<u>Data Topic:</u>	<u>Area of Strength:</u>	<u>Area of Improvement:</u>
ENROLLMENT/ELIGIBILITY	Staff are dedicated to find new ways to recruit new families.	Enrollment was low due to the WRJ center not opening due to not being able to find staff. Other centers could not absorb the 15 slots, so full enrollment was never going to be able to be reached until that center could open.
	Parents are finally able to go in and see the new buildings and loved seeing the new environments!	Windsor, WRJ and Springfield did not meet full enrollment, despite recruitment efforts.
	Chester Community Preschool is fully enrolled (25). Averaged 5 over for most of the program year	Public schools have also opened more Pre-K programs, which provides the one stop drop-off for parents, so they have opted to enroll their child at the school Pre-K programs.
	Fabulous recruitment materials have been created and shared with the community.	
	We had more than any other year, of children turning 5 after Sept. 1 st . (28 this program year!)	We had more children scheduled to start, but then didn't (14) due to WRJ not opening.
	We served more 4 year old's than 3 year old's.	
	We had less children leave the program this year (3) than in previous years. SNAP benefits has increased the eligibility for all centers.	
	Child Care is full and really helped increase the enrollment for Chester and Springfield.	
STAFF RETENTION	Majority of staff have stayed	7 staff left: 1 lead/licensed

	with us for 5 or more years.	teacher, 2 coordinators 1 positions, 1 teacher associate, and 3 cooks at the same center.
	Wages have steadily increased which has helped with keeping staff. Will continue to work on.	Unable to fill 5 positions for more than 6 months: 1 cook position, 1 teacher associate position, and 1 lead/licensed teacher, 1 teacher assistant and 1 child care coordinator position.
	Significant increases were given to staff with COLA funding-8% for lead/licensed teachers, everyone else received 7%.	
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Still meeting our training requirement.	
COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT	Numerous strengths- see CA Summary	Still working on the following: Child care, transportation, mental health services.
STAFF QUALIFICATIONS	Meeting Head Start qualifications for lead teachers	All teacher associates need to be meeting the Head Start qualifications
	Ability for teacher assistants to learn on the job	Data can be difficult to understand-explore better representation of data
	Availability of professional development, as well as financial assistance if needed	Ed Manager and Practice Based Coach work collaboratively to align professional development goals for teaching staff
	Continue to train staff to step into higher positions	
CHILD OUTCOMES/SCHOOL READINESS GOALS	We have screening tools to better determine need for referral to ECSE	Would like to include the percentage of children eligible from those referred broken down by center
	Significant increase in percentage of children meeting/exceeding expectations in literacy and math for the 2023-2024 program year	Share percentage of enrolled children on an IEP in data

	Significant increase in the percentage of children meeting/exceeding expectations in social/emotional development in both the 2022-2023 program year and 2023-2024 program year.	What is the impact level of referral and IEP data shared? Are we getting better at assessing for referral? Why are there increased percentages of children becoming eligible for services?
		Include a breakdown of IEP diagnoses in data (speech/language, cognitive, social/emotional, occupational therapy, etc)
		Persisting in activities was a focus this year and not in the past 4 years-why?
ATTENDANCE	Still tracking reasons and working with families as much as we can in making sure they are attending the program and meeting their own challenges/circumstances as well.	
RECRUITMENT	Lots of different activities occur throughout the program year to reach new families and to get the HS name out in the community.	Continue to seek marketing ideas to increase enrollment.
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT	Data Tracking and supplying family resources.	Getting parents to participate more in the classroom.

	<p>Direct supports to families (doctors, dentists, parent education)</p>	<p>Thoughts were to involve families in the classroom more. They may be more apt to get involved in Parent Meetings and Parent Trainings. A couple suggestions were to have a “Secret Reader”. Ask a parent to come in to read a story. The parent will be a secret to the children until they arrive, then showcase them in the newsletter. Another thought was to provide a schedule for the parents as to what they can do to volunteer when they are in the room. Also provide supplies for families who cannot come in. Maybe ask parents to cut out items for activities.</p>
		<p>Reach out to area doctors, dentist, WIC again with referrals. Create a cover letter to go with it about our services and ask providers to make referrals when they are serving the children and their families.</p>
<p>HEALTH SERVICES</p>	<p>Most children are fully immunized by the end of their enrollment.</p>	<p>Still have a few children who are not fully immunized, and have a religious exemption.</p>
	<p>All children came to us with a medical home in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. (100% for the last 2 years!)</p>	<p>BMIs are not moving towards a healthy weight like they been prior to the pandemic.</p>

	<p>For the past 3 program years, all the children who had been identified as needing dental treatments have received the needed treatment without having to wait to be scheduled for the operating room. We feel this is due to the SDF and SMART restoration dental offices are now using VS the old traditional drilling and fillings, crowns and extractions.</p>	<p>While there was an increase in finding a dental home, there were still many children that needed a dental home. Many dentists are scheduling appointments many months out.</p>
	<p>We now have a tooth tutor who will be applying fluoride varnish for all children with parental permission after checking with child's dentist, classroom education and parent education.</p>	<p>To collect data on how many families are contacted by the tooth tutor, whose child has no dentist, who finds a dental home prior to them leaving the program.</p>
		<p>To determine how many children are referred for hearing and or vision screenings, who before the end of enrollment are determined to have hearing loss or need vision correction.</p>
<p>CLASS SCORES</p>	<p>All CLASS scores are above the national average, and are consistently increasing from year to year.</p>	<p>FA2-shows we are up for re-competition due to CLASS scores in the Classroom Organization Domain.</p>

Family/Community/Mental Health

By Barbara Vandenburg

SHOUT OUT to our Pine Street Preschool ladies for their gardening station at the Week of the Young Child. The event brought over 600 people

Secondhand Marijuana Smoke

The known risks of secondhand exposure to tobacco smoke—including risks to the heart and lungs¹—raise questions about whether secondhand exposure to marijuana smoke causes similar health risks. Secondhand marijuana smoke contains many of the same toxic and cancer-causing chemicals found in tobacco smoke and contains some of those chemicals in higher amounts.²

Secondhand marijuana smoke also contains tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the compound responsible for most of marijuana’s psychoactive effects (or the “high”). THC can be passed to infants and children through secondhand smoke, and people exposed to secondhand marijuana smoke can experience psychoactive effects, such as feeling high.^{3,4} Recent studies have found strong associations between reports of having someone in the home who uses marijuana (e.g., a parent, relative, or caretaker) and the child having detectable levels of THC.^{5,6} Children exposed to THC are potentially at risk for negative health effects. More research is needed to understand how secondhand marijuana exposure may affect children. Other research shows that marijuana use during adolescence can impact the developing teenage brain and cause problems with attention, motivation, and memory.⁶ To learn more about the long-term effects of marijuana use, please visit the [health effects section](#) (link below).

<https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects/second-hand-smoke.htm>

Family/Community/Mental Health
By Barbara Vandenburg

Check Out Our Preschool



Mission Statement:

SEVCA Head Start empowers children & families to build opportunities for success through educations & resources.

Head Start is a federally funded, collaborative preschool program that provides services to children ages 3-5 in Windsor County. Children with disabilities, homeless, and non-English speaking families are encouraged to apply. For more information, or to complete an application, please call the Head Start center that serves your school district below. There is no cost for qualified families. Transportation is not available, however we will assist with car-pooling information. Please note that children must be 3 by September 1st.

We provide:

- ~Safe, loving environments
- ~FREE breakfast, lunch and snack
- ~Family opportunities: Parent Groups, Policy Council, Participation in your child's education, and Fun Events!!
- Resources and Referrals for various family interest
- ~Health and Nutrition for children; hearing and vision screenings
- ~30 hours of preschool at NO COST to families that are income eligible
- ~Full Year Child Care Available, Participation in Universal Pre-K (10 hours of FREE Preschool with paid, full day childcare options)
- ~5 STARS Program

www.sevcaheadstart.org

Pine Street Preschool (Springfield): 802.460.1285
Chester Community Preschool (Chester): 802.460.0297
After May 31st? Please call the Administrative Office
at 802.460.8415 or email Lcanfield@sevca.org



SCAN ME



Monday

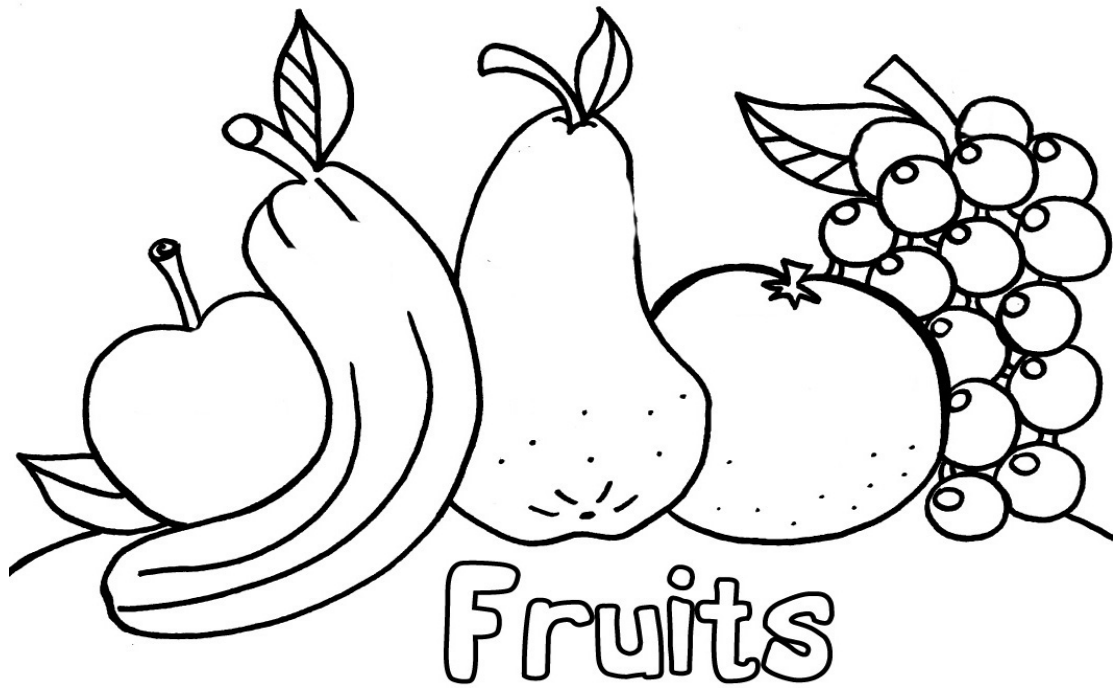
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

		<p>1</p> <p>Breakfast <i>Breakfast Burrito with Salsa</i> Honey Dew 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch Turkey and Swiss on WGR bread Mixed Vegetables Mixed Berries 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Red Grapes Halves 1% unflavored milk</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Breakfast WGR Toast with Peanut Butter Apples 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch <i>Chicken Fajitas on WGR tortilla</i> Lettuce and Tomato Strawberries 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Sam-I-Am Eggs (deviled eggs) Pepper slices</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Breakfast WGR English Muffins Mixed Fruit 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch WGR Pasta Salad (Ham, Cheese, Hard Boiled Eggs, Cucumber, Tomato, Peppers) Orange Smiles 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Monkey Snack (banana & peanut butter) 1% unflavored milk</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Breakfast Cold Cereal Applesauce 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch Chicken Salad Sandwich on WGR Bread Snap Peas Wonderful Watermelon 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Cheddar Cheese WGR Crackers</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Breakfast Yogurt Mango 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch WGR English Muffin Pizzas with Ground Turkey Green Beans Peaches 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Peanut Butter & Apple Wraps 1% unflavored milk</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Breakfast Scrambled Eggs Blueberries 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch WGR Spaghetti and Meatballs Corn Bananas 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack WGR Goldfish Pepper Slices</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Breakfast WGR French Toast Mixed Fruit 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch Macaroni and Cheese Ham Chunks Cauliflower Cantaloupe 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Bagel with Peanut Butter 1% unflavored milk</p>	<p>10</p> <p align="center">CLOSED</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Breakfast Yogurt Parfaits (cereal, fruit, yogurt) 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch “Say Cheese” Grilled Ham & Cheese on WGR <i>Tropical Bean Salad</i> 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Bananas in a Sleeping Bag (banana wrapped in WGR tortilla)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Breakfast WGR Bagel Honey Dew 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch <i>Vegetable Chili</i> Cheddar Cheese Chunks WGR Roll Grapes 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Strawberries 1% unflavored milk</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Breakfast WGR Toast Burst of Blueberries 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch Cheese Quesadilla (cheddar cheese, black beans, corn, WGR tortilla) with Salsa Corn Oranges 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Apples Yogurt</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Breakfast Cold Cereal Peaches 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch <i>Chicken or Turkey Tacos on WGR yellow corn taco shells</i> All Mixed-Up Fruit Medley 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Yogurt Dip with Cucumber Sticks 1% unflavored milk</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Breakfast Humpty Dumpty Eggs (Scrambled eggs with veggies) Bananas 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch Meatball Subs/WGR Roll Shredded Cheese Garden Party (Tossed Salad) Pears 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Fruit Medley WGR Crackers EARLY RELEASE</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Breakfast Cold Cereal Peaches 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch Ham & Cheese on WGR Bread Broccoli Oranges 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Graham Crackers Blueberries</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Breakfast Banana Split Yogurt Parfait (cereal, banana, yogurt) 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch Chicken Salad in WGR Pita Salad Honey Dew 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack Apple 1% unflavored milk</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Breakfast WGR English Muffin Watermelon 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Lunch Mac-n-Cheese Turkey Chunks Green Beans Pineapples 1% unflavored milk</p> <p>Snack WGR Crackers Cheddar Cheese Chunks</p>		
 <p>Have a great Summer Vacation!</p>			<p>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</p>	<p>This menu is subject to change.</p> <p>WGR=Whole Grain Rich</p>



- Fruits contain vitamins and minerals that help your child grow and stay healthy.
- Fruits can be fresh, frozen, or canned.
- Choose canned fruits packed in water or 100% juice.

Smoothie Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 banana, small, ripe
- 1 cup Frozen fruit (you choose your favorite)
- 8 ounces yogurt (you choose your favorite)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk; 1% or skim

Directions

1. Peel banana. Using cutting boards and butter knife, cut banana into 1-inch chunks. Place the banana chunks in the blender.
2. Place the frozen fruit, yogurt, and milk in the blender with the banana.
3. Cover the blender and blend on high speed for about 1 minute or until the mixture is smooth.
4. Pour smoothie into cups, and enjoy!

WIC APPROVED ACTIVITY

Today your child learned about fruits and colored this picture for you to post on your refrigerator.

To get credit for this WIC Approved Activity, call your WIC Office at **289-0600/295-8820** and let us know the recipe on this page.