



HOOTMAIL

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EARLYLEARN NYC COMMUNITY



JANUARY 2014

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

Some of you may know Mayor Bill de Blasio has appointed Gladys Carrión to serve as the new ACS Commissioner. We look forward to introducing her to you in our next issue.

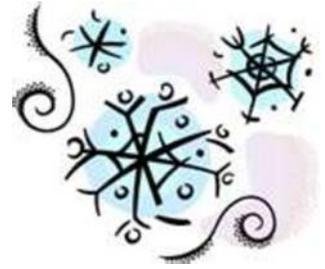
"Happy New Year to all!"

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Important Dates

12/20	Deadline for Contractor Data Request (survey, board members, org charts)
1/14	NYC Disabilities Symposium
1/15	City Wide Directors Meeting



SOME REMINDERS...

Earlylearn NYC Contract Audit Guidelines FY13 The audit for the fiscal period October 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 will be due on Wednesday, April 30, 2014. Please see Hoot Attachments.

Earlylearn NYC Contractor Surveys EarlyLearn agencies were asked to submit a contractor survey, sponsoring board member listing and staff organization chart by Friday, December 20. Many thanks to all the agencies who have already submitted their documents - particularly to East Harlem Council for Human Services, Inc. for being the first to submit. We will be reviewing the items and adding new emails to our communications on a rolling basis. We will also be sharing the board member listings with our contracting office. (Please ensure you are providing personal contact info for at least the board chair if you would like ACS to be able to contact your board directly.)

If you have any questions about this request, please contact :

Barbara Alicea Barbara.Alicea@dfa.state.ny.us or

Alyson Grant Alyson.Grant@dfa.state.ny.us

LOOK OUT FOR...



January City Wide Directors Meeting .The January Citywide Directors Meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 15th at the ACS Children's Center. The morning session will be 9:15am-12:30pm and the afternoon session will be 1:15pm-4:30pm. This meeting will focus on *Self Assessment 2014* and many other essential issues. To register now ,click [here](#).



Facilities Corner Unfortunately, fire alarms often don't give much warning before they need repair or replacement. See the Hoot Attachments for tips on how to ensure that children and staff in your center are safe at all times.



INFO FOR THE ENTIRE EARLYLEARN COMMUNITY

EARLYLEARN MARKETING MATERIALS

We hope that you are enjoying and using your EarlyLearn NYC marketing materials to recruit families. Marketing materials are available to all EarlyLearn sites. If your site has not received your marketing materials, we ask that you please check with your central office or contact [Tovah Gottesman](#).



"Show Your Pride!"

SHOW YOUR PRIDE!

We really don't get tired of seeing pictures of your EarlyLearn Programs. Here are some beautiful pictures of their Holiday Events sent to us from the Belmont Community Day Care in the Bronx. Well done, folk! Keep 'em coming!



GOT PICTURES??

Have you taken part in events in your community that support the work we do in EarlyLearn NYC? Send some pics in! Let the whole city enjoy what you are doing!

Click here to send them directly to [Barbara Alicea](#) for entry into the next Hootmail.

EDUCATION & DISABILITIES NEWS



UNLIMITED ARCHIVING WITH TEACHING STRATEGIES GOLD!

Teaching Strategies has extended free, UNLIMITED archiving to EarlyLearn programs. This is great news! This means that you will no longer have to delete old child records each year to make way for new ones. They will all be kept in the system. Your licenses will be automatically updated to reflect this added capability.

TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

Advocates for Children has updated two key resources regarding the transition to kindergarten. Children born in 2009 are eligible to enter kindergarten in September 2014, and there are steps that families should start doing now to prepare for this important milestone. Share the transition information in the Hoot Attachments with your families!

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTION CENTERS (ECDC)

ECDCs are funded by the New York State Education Department and provide free, confidential information and referral for families and professionals to services for young children with suspected or diagnosed developmental delays or disabilities. In New York City, there is an ECDC in each borough. Children of families referred to the ECDC should reside in the borough and be between birth and five years of age. See the ECDC Fact Sheet in the Hoot Attachments for more information.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (RCSN)

RCSN is New York City's only independent nonprofit organization that works for families and children with all disabilities, across all boroughs, to understand, navigate, and access the services needed to ensure that all children and youth have the opportunity to develop their full potential. For more info, click [here](#) or call 212.677.4660

FREE BOOKS!

New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) has free books for children in child welfare, juvenile justice, early child care or other programs serving disadvantaged children. Complete the request form in the Hoot Attachments and return it to [Leekeesha Waterton, leekeesha.waterton@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:leekeesha.waterton@ocfs.ny.gov). Books are available while supplies last - if your request can be filled, Leekeesha will coordinate a pick-up date with you.

EDUCATOR INSPIRATION

Educators: Are you up for a little bit of inspiration as we approach the end of the year? It is important from time to time to stop and take account of all that you have done to serve your children. And part of that break can include taking in an inspirational story or movie. We thought we would share one today. [Click here to watch this inspirational 3 minute video clip](#), narrated by Alan Watts. Enjoy!

STEVEN & ALEXANDRA COHEN CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER OF NEW YORK AT L.I.J. MEDICAL CENTER

The Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center offers diagnostic and treatment services for neurodevelopmental and behavioral disorders for children from birth through adolescence. For more info, click [here](#).

NYC DISABILITIES SYMPOSIUM!

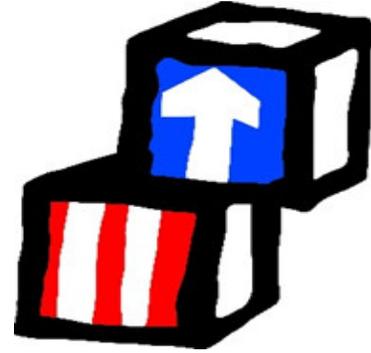
Please join us on January 14 from 8:30am – 1:00 for Expanding Opportunities in Head Start and Early Childhood Programs: Cross-Systems Collaboration to Support the Inclusion of Preschool Children with Disabilities. Topics at this free symposium include: Serving Children with Disabilities in Head Start: Past, Present and Future Goals and Implementing Head Start Performance Standards, Implementation of Education Law and Regulations: Federal (IDEA), New York State and New York City Regulations and more. Please see the Hoot Attachments for a flyer on the Disabilities Symposium and register [here](#).



HEAD START NEWS

HEAD START RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Head Start National Research Conference is back this year! In its 12th year, the theme is Collaboration and Coordination: Understanding Systems Supporting Young Children and Their Families. It will be from July 7-9, 2014 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. Register [here](#).



REGION II HEAD START CONFERENCE

The 10th Annual Region II Head Start Association Professional Development Conference will be from January 7th-10th, 2014 at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The theme this year is "Parents, Family, Community: Excellence For Our Children." See the THREE attached flyers for more info!

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

GREETINGS FROM SESAME STREET

Sesame Street has launched a new initiative call "[Little Children, Big Challenges](#)." The initiative offers resources for parents, caregivers and educators to help young children from 2 to 5 years old build resiliency on a daily basis. Topics range from confidence and independence to aggressive behavior and sibling rivalry. Materials are available online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

ENGAGING FAMILIES & SUPPORTING YOUNG CHILDREN

The ECAC has just made available an online training video on Engaging Families and Supporting Young Children presented by Dr. Mary McKay, Professor and Director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy & Research at New York University. The purpose of this online training is to support staff at all levels to develop and enhance skills that maximize family engagement and partnership across a range of provider organizations and settings serving young children and their families. There is a flyer in the Hoot Attachments. [The webinar and toolkit are online.](#)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CDA TRAINING AT BANK STREET COLLEGE

Registration is open for Bank Street's CDA Program! Enhance your career. Obtain a Child Development Associate Credential. This credit bearing Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential offered by Bank Street College is part of a national effort to forge a framework for high quality early childhood education and to create a community of learners. The program prepares students to strengthen knowledge and understanding of child development, early childhood curriculum and family engagement through a multidisciplinary approach. If you have any staff who need to renew their CDA, CEUs are available through their professional development courses. See flyer in the Hoot Attachments for more info.

OBESITY TRAINING FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS!

Childhood obesity can cause a variety of health problems. An important way to promote a healthy weight for children is giving them lots of ways to be physically active. Presented by the Office of Head Start National Center on Health, One Step at a Time: Helping Young Children Be Physically Active is a curriculum that can help. For more information, click [here](#).

BRAZELTON TOUCHPOINTS TRAINING

Bank Street College offers a two-day professional development opportunity designed to prepare early childhood professionals to incorporate the Brazelton Touchpoints approach into their work with parents and families. Financial aid may be available through the New York State Child Care Educational Incentive Program (EIP). To learn about the financial aid options, click [here](#).

For more information about the training, please contact Katie Masson at 212.961.3368.

USING YOUR ONLINE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Did you know that our Online Child Assessment Tool vendors also provide orientation and training on how to use their products? If you haven't seen these resources before, please take some time to check them out.

* => Teaching Strategies GOLD: click [here](#)

* => HighScope COR: click [here](#)

* => Pearson Work Sampling: click [here](#)





RESOURCES

COMMUNICATION SKILLS TRAINING

"More Than Baby Talk: 10 Ways to Promote the Language and Communication Skills of Infants and Toddlers", is a brief guide that describes ten practices that early childhood teachers can use to foster language and communication skills among infants and toddlers. The guidelines are based upon the latest research findings on optimal adult-child interactions for promoting strong language and communication skills among young children. This promising resource was developed at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For more info, click [here](#).

PARTNERS IN EARLY LEARNING

We heard a wonderful presentation at the last Citywide Director's Meeting from CUNY PDI. If you are interested in obtaining free copies of the *Partners In Early Learning: A Letter to Parents and Teachers* pamphlet for your staff and families, please fill out the form in the Hoot Attachments.

ACS & ACELERO LEARNING WORKING TOGETHER TO CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

In our day-to-day operations here at ACS, we're relentlessly focused on a principle fundamental to EarlyLearn/Head Start: to do all in our power to "close the achievement gap." We want all children, no matter their environment, to have the academic and emotional tools to succeed. For the last two years, the Robin Hood Foundation has provided ACS with funding to build a strong collaborative partnership with Acelero Learning and work with a select group of our programs to do exactly that: help them implement best-in-class resources based on years of research and experience. If you're interested in learning more, see attached and click [here](#) to contact Jesse.

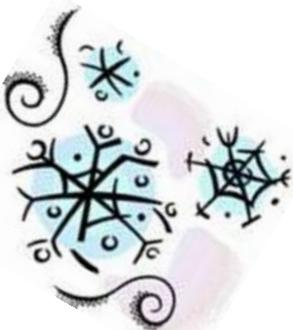
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AT THE NY BOTANICAL GARDEN

NYBG Children's Ed offers a strong variety of educational opportunities for pre-K children, including their Pea Pod Explorers Program, beginning again on February 4. Please see the flyer in the Hoot Attachment, call 718.817.8181 or email childed@nybg.org.

RESEARCH

THE NEW YORK STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

(ECAC was formed in 2009,) to provide counsel to the Governor on issues related to young children and their families. The new ECAC website is now live. Click [here](#) to view. The website provides the most up-to-date information on ECAC and contains links to recent webinars, training materials and resources.



TECH CORNER

We all love and care for our environment, and we always consider the environment before printing. We know that when we send the Hootmail attachments in PDF, it's all in one file and you may want to print out the whole thing or just specific pages. To take a crash course on printing pages from a PDF file, please see the Hoot Attachments.



NOSOTROS

RESOURCES IN SPANISH/ NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL PARA LA COMUNIDAD DE EARLYLEARN.

La alfabetización no sólo se aprende en la escuela sino también en todas partes. Los estudiantes pueden aprender acerca de la alfabetización leyendo las señales del tren y las cajas de cereales como también oyendo historias familiares en sus idiomas maternos y navegando la red Internet.

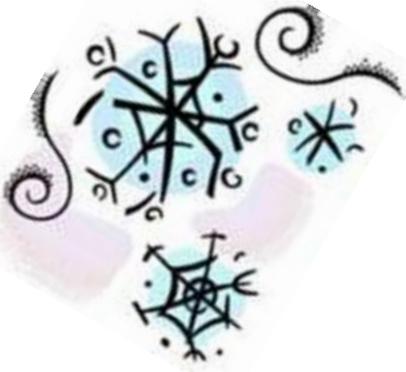
Como padres, pueden influir de forma importante en la alfabetización de su hijo— apoyándolo y ayudándolo a llegar a ser pensadores críticos y usuarios analíticos de la información.

Para mayor información y para aprender como apoyar el aprendizaje de su niño, diríjese al recurso: Abriendo la puerta al aprendizaje, por el Departamento de Educación de NYC: http://schools.nycenet.edu/offices/teachlearn/sls/Literacy_Guide_2008-2009_Spanish.pdf

SHARING IS CARING

We know how much you appreciate all the wealth of information and resources that comes with the Hootmail that you want to keep it all to yourself! But in the spirit of the holiday season "Sharing is Caring." Please forward the Hootmail to your staff and anyone interested as well!





SEASON'S GREETINGS

Because of you, the season of giving lasts all year long.

Together, through our shared commitment and resolve, we've ensured that New York City's young children and families have positive learning experiences. Thank you!

ACS would like to extend our warmest wishes of happiness and joy to all of our EarlyLearn programs and their loved ones during this holiday season. We look forward to partnering with you for even greater successes in 2014!

