



HOOTMAIL

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE NYC EARLYLEARN COMMUNITY

APRIL 8, 2014

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

Behavioral Management

The NYC Administration for Children’s Services and Department of Education are committed to ensuring that all children and families leave our early childhood programs and enter kindergarten ready to succeed. This means that children have a strong foundation in all domains of development and that families are ready to support their child’s learning.

EarlyLearn NYC and Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs are responsible for structuring an environment in which children and families feel secure and supported in their growth. Teachers and school leaders should work with children and families to ensure that children in their program develop their social emotional skills and approaches to learning as outlined in the [NYS Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core](#) and the [Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework](#).

Children in EarlyLearn NYC and Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs should never be expelled or suspended for behavioral reasons.

For additional guidance, please download the full document from our website: http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/downloads/pdf/earlylearn/Behavior_Management_10_21_12.pdf

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Important Dates

- 4/9** ACS City-Wide Head Start Policy Council Installation Ceremony
- 4/10** Ensuring Effective Program Governance Training
- 4/11** Silent Crisis: A Forum on the Impact of Chronic Stress on Early Childhood Learning
- 4/11** Father’s Resource Fair
- 4/15** Medicaid and Child Health Plus Enrollment
- 4/23** Annual Education Fair
- 4/24** Education Town Hall
- 4/30** Self-Assessment Due



Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Gladys Carrión
Commissioner

SOME REMINDERS...



Silent Crisis: A Forum on the Impact of Chronic Stress on Early Childhood Learning

Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership and Central Harlem Healthy Start are coming together with Healthy Start-Brooklyn and with Columbia University - Downstate Healthy Start to engage the community in a conversation on the growing body of research on early brain development. Research on brain development finds that trauma and chronic stress can have potential change on the brain's "architecture" and its harmonious evolution. The forum on **Friday, April 11** will bring together a diverse panel of experts, providers and advocates – please encourage your staff to attend. RSVP online at <https://april11-silentcrisis.eventbrite.com> and see pages 2 — 5 of the Hoot Attachments for additional information.

Father's Resource Fair, April 11

ACS' Bronx Borough Offices and The Bronx Vision will be holding their 3rd Annual Father's Resource Fair on **April 11**. The fair will provide meaningful resources for fathers and community service agencies. Please share the flyer on page 6 in the Hoot Attachments with your families; encourage your staff to attend as well.

Annual Education Fair, April 23

ACS' City Wide Head Start Policy Council and ACS' Family Community Engagement Unit will be holding their Annual Education Fair on **Wednesday, April 23**.

- Representatives from CUNY colleges in the 5 boroughs will participate in a panel discussion.
- Information about education programs including the **NEW GED**, ESL, Computer Skills and additional training programs.
- Admissions process and the support that is available especially for people who are on public assistance.
- COPE Program

Please share this information with your staff and families. A flyer is included on page 7 of the Hoot Attachments.

INFO FOR THE ENTIRE EARLYLEARN COMMUNITY

Upcoming Trainings

"Ensuring Effective Program Governance" trainings (a three-session series) are targeted at Executive Directors and Governing Board Members and are designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the roles and responsibilities of the governing board. The first session is on **April 10** from 4:30 to 6:30. Click [here](#) to register (pre-registration is required to ensure space capacity).

Please bookmark our [eventbrite site](#) which provides a listing of all the upcoming trainings hosted by ACS.

DHS' Early Childhood Education Week, April 7th – April 11th

ACS is very excited to be partnering with the NYC Department of Homeless Services (NYC DHS) on their "Early Childhood Education Week" initiative during April 7 — April 11. The goal of this campaign is to encourage families with children residing in shelters to enroll in EarlyLearn and UPK programs. All shelter directors were invited to DHS headquarters for a kick-off event on Friday, April 4. ACS provided information on EarlyLearn. Additionally, each shelter director received a list of EarlyLearn programs in their area as well as a list of age-appropriate children in their shelters who may be eligible for our EarlyLearn programs. Please note that you may be contacted by shelter directors or NYC DHS requesting additional information or a visit to your site.

Safe Kids Healthy Families, May 15

On May 15, Safe Kids New York City is presenting a one-day injury prevention conference, "Safe Kids Healthy Families". The information provided at the conference will help your staff more effectively reach high-risk families with strategies to reduce unintentional injuries in the home, at school, after school or daycare, on the road and at play. Please see pages 8 — 10 of the Hoot Attachments for more information.

Week of the Young Child

April 6 to 12 is the Week of the Young Child (sponsored by National Association for the Education of Young Children). Let us know what you're doing to celebrate – Open Houses, Recruitment Fairs, Special Events! Submit blurbs and pictures to okolo.jacobs@dfa.state.ny.us by next Friday, April 18 to be included in the next edition of Hootmail.

EDUCATION AND DISABILITIES

Pearson's Ounce Online

Info only for programs that use Pearson's Ounce Online Scale: Pearson has announced some significant changes to how users will be able to access their website, including information about browser compatibility. These changes will take place in July 2014. Please see pages 11 — 12 of the Hoot Attachments for more information and reach out directly to Pearson with technical questions.

CLASS Scores

For Self-Assessment 2014, each site must submit a set of CLASS scores for one (1) classroom only. If the Department of Education or ACS staff have evaluated a classroom in a site using the CLASS, please submit this score. Self-Assessment submissions that do not contain a CLASS score are considered incomplete.

As needed, you are gathering additional scores for your agency by using an outside vendor or your own CLASS reliable staff member. We wanted to share some information about the national distribution of scores (as gathered by the Office of Head Start) to provide you with some benchmarks to understand how your ratings are comparing to the national averages.

Please take a look at this chart from the Office of Head Start (more information at <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/sr/quality/2013-class-data>).

OHS CLASS Descriptive Statistics, 2013			
National Distribution of Grantee-Level Domain Scores			
Domain	Lowest 10%	Median (50%)	Highest 10%
Emotional Support	5.5417	5.99	6.44
Classroom Organization	5.0556	5.62	6.17
Instructional Support	2.1061	2.71	3.35

Our goal, as a community, is to have all of our scores place at the median or above! If a score is less than the "Lowest 10%" score, then it is a serious cause for concern. **For Head Start / Dual Eligible programs, scores in the lowest 10% jeopardize our Head Start grant and put us at risk for re-competition of the grant.** As you complete the Self-Assessment process, thoughtfully consider what your CLASS scores are indicating about your practice and begin to plan, as necessary, for the classroom and staff development that your results outline. More to come on this topic in the next Hootmail!

EDUCATION AND DISABILITIES (CONTINUED)

Info for High Scope COR Users Only (disregard if you use another online child assessment tool)

As you know, EarlyLearn NYC will be switching to the NEW COR Advantage system in **September of 2014**. To help programs to prepare for this, we will post regular items in Hootmail that you can read and review, which will help give you the information and resources that you will need to make the transition a smooth one. Please see the Hoot Attachments for 3 important documents and share with your staff: the COR Advantage Desk Reference Poster, the COR User Guide and the COR FAQ page. This will get things going. More to come!

Education Town Hall Meeting, April 24

The next Education Town Hall meeting will take place on **April 24th** at the ACS Children's Center. The first session will begin at 9:30am. In this session, we will start where we left off in our discussion about best practices and begin to talk about the task of being an education leader in a data driven environment. Pre-register online: <http://acselnyc-eddirtownhall.eventbrite.com>.



HEAD START

Handouts from March 28 Head Start Directors' Meeting

The provider page for our website (http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/child_care/for_programs.shtml) will be updated soon with the materials that were distributed at the March 28th Head Start Directors' Meeting. Please bookmark the page now and check back for the documents under a section that will be titled "Head Start Information."

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health Coverage

The 2014 Open Enrollment deadline to complete an application for Marketplace health insurance for individuals and families was Monday, March 31. However, if individuals have had difficulties in the application process and were not able to enroll through no fault of their own, they will have until 11:59pm on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 to complete the enrollment.

Please visit the NYS Health Plan Marketplace website for more information (<https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov/>) and share the FAQs About the Open Enrollment Deadline with your staff and families: <http://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/sites/default/files/FAQs%20about%20the%20Open%20Enrollment%20Deadline.pdf>.

Please also share this important information on the potential consequences of not having health coverage in 2014: <https://www.healthcare.gov/what-if-i-dont-have-health-coverage/> and health coverage options which may be available to an individual outside Open Enrollment periods: <https://www.healthcare.gov/how-can-i-get-coverage-outside-of-open-enrollment/>.

FINANCE

ACS EarlyLearn Financial Protocol: EarlyLearn Assessment Tool

ACS' Division of Financial Service has issued the *ACS EarlyLearn Financial Protocol: EarlyLearn Assessment Tool*. This tool will be used to rate the financial health of EarlyLearn programs and to calculate the financial component of your Fiscal Year 2015 VENDEX score. Please see the Hoot Attachments for the ACS EarlyLearn Financial Protocol.

RESOURCES

Free Information Technology Webinars

The New York State Community Action Association is offering several free webinars related to information technology in April and May (Presenting with Prezi, Finding What You Need Fast, MS Word – Table of Contents, MS Word as Image Editor). For more information and to RSVP, please visit their website: <http://nyscommunityaction.org/category/news/event-news/>