



HOOOT MAIL

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EARLYLEARN NYC COMMUNITY

JANUARY 17, 2014

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

AS OF JANUARY 3RD ACS HAS A NEW COMMISSIONER, GLADYS CARRIÓN.

Dear Colleague:

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you as the new Commissioner of the New York City Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) in Mayor de Blasio’s Administration. As the Mayor made clear to me and the rest of the City, he cares deeply about improving services for children and families, understands the core of our mission, and is committed to the success of our agency.

ACS has a significant responsibility to protect and strengthen the lives of the children, youth, and families that we encounter in our child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education systems. We cannot do it alone, and I look forward to collaborating with providers, advocates, elected officials, and other City agencies to address the issues with which our families struggle, including homelessness, mental health concerns, special medical needs, substance misuse, and adequate access to education.

Building upon an existing foundation, my goal is to enhance ACS’ ability to be a “helping agency,” one which exists to make a difference in the lives of children and families. There is no greater responsibility than protecting the lives of children. I also want to deepen our work in preventive services so that families access the critical services that they need. As the number of children in foster care continues to drop, we must focus on well-being, in addition to safety and permanency, to improve outcomes for our children. Through this framework, we must ensure that our children graduate from high school, go on to college, get jobs and are able to maintain healthy relationships. ACS will continue to deepen our juvenile justice work, keeping New York City’s young people connected to family, community, and education while holding them responsible for their actions. And we will insist that our youngest residents have access to high quality early care and education, so that we do our part to deliver on Mayor de Blasio’s promise of Universal Pre-Kindergarten for all children.

Throughout my career, I met regularly with the children, youth, and families served across the various systems. I intend to continue to do this at ACS so that we incorporate their voices and perspectives in our work.

I am truly excited to become ACS Commissioner, and work side-by-side with our new Mayor and each of you to make better the lives of vulnerable New Yorkers. I looked forward to collaborating with you as we transform New York City to be more equitable for all.

Sincerely,

Gladys Carrión

Commissioner

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Important Dates

- 12/20 Deadline for Contractor Data Request (survey, board members, org charts)
- 1/22 ACS Policy Council Meeting
- 1/24 Family Worker Scholarship Application Deadline
- 1/27-2/1 Take Your Child To The Library Week
- 1/31 UPK Enrollment Deadline
- 2/1 Parents To The Rescue Meeting
- 2/1-4/30 Self Assessment



SOME REMINDERS...



UPK Enrollment Deadline

Dear EarlyLearn contractors,

UPK Enrollment during the expansion period must be completed by 4pm on Friday, January 31, 2014 (UPK eligible children are entered into the PreKIDS Vendor Portal and the completed enrollment packages are at the DOE Field Office. Please be sure to include the WES number on the packet.)

Please review your WES roster of enrolled EarlyLearn children to identify the children born in 2009; immediately enroll those children that –

- (1) were attending your program but were not able to get enrolled into the DOE PreKIDS Vendor Portal by the initial October 2, 2013 BEDS deadline, AND those that
- (2) were enrolled in your programs after October 2, 2013.

Until you hear otherwise from ACS, all programs are to enroll all of their EarlyLearn four-year olds in UPK. Let's take this opportunity to continue to maximize the UPK enrollment in EarlyLearn programs; it is imperative that we meet the target to ensure financial stability of EarlyLearn.

Reach out to Ayleen Guzman at 212.393.5156 with any questions.

Earlylearn NYC Contractor Surveys EarlyLearn agencies were asked to submit a Contractor Survey, sponsoring board member listing and staff organization chart by December 20, 2013. If you have any questions about this request, please contact : [Barbara Alicea](#) or [Alyson Grant](#)

Self Assessment

The Self-Assessment process for EarlyLearnNYC programs will begin on February 1 and end on April 30, 2014.

- Timeline: February 1, 2014 to April 30, 2014
- Look out for E-Bulletin for Submission Information
- Contact Team Leader if you have questions
- Trainings starting in the End of January

Sessions: Self Assessments Orientation

ERS Tools (IT-ERS, EC-ERS, FCC-ERS)

Updated NYC-PQAS

Developing Program Improvement Plan

UPDATES AND CLARIFICATIONS...



January City Wide Directors Meeting Recap. We would like to thank everyone who was able to make it to the January Citywide Directors Meeting this past Wednesday. For those who were not able to make the meeting, or who just want to make sure that they have the most complete info that was presented, we are attaching the PowerPoint. (Hoot Attachment Pages 2-44)

Updated Contact Info and Documents for Child Care and Dual Programs

Please see updated information in the Hoot attachments Pages 45-61

Use of Referral to Employer for Employee Information Form (CS-1069)

EarlyLearn programs must submit the current CS-1069 with applications or recertification's where paystubs are not available or do not provide sufficient information. The current form, revised 9/2010, replaces older versions. Any older versions are obsolete and should be destroyed. Effective immediately, old versions of the form will not be accepted. You may reference the Eligibility Manual for detailed instructions on when to use the CS-1069. Please see Hoot Attachments Pages 59-60 for revised forms in English and Spanish.

For additional information, please contact your Resource Area representative.

WEEKLY PARENT FEES & MEMORANDUM #8

Clarification on Weekly Parent Fees and numbered Memorandum # 8 were sent to all EarlyLearn Providers.

Please see Hoot Attachment Pages 62-67 for more info.

TECH CORNER...

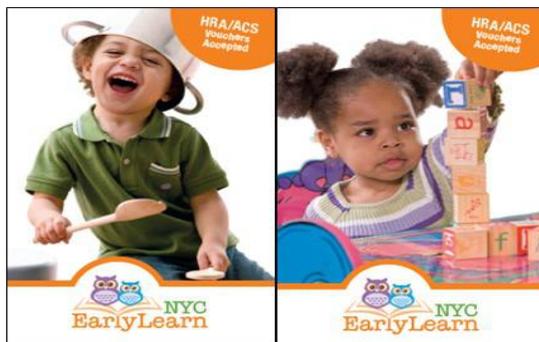
We all love and care for our environment, and we always consider the environment before printing. We know that when we send the Hootmail attachments in PDF, it's all in one file and you may want to print out the whole thing or just specific pages. To take a crash course on printing pages from a PDF file, please see the Hoot Attachments Pages 68-69 .



INFO FOR THE ENTIRE EARLYLEARN COMMUNITY

EARLYLEARN MARKETING MATERIALS

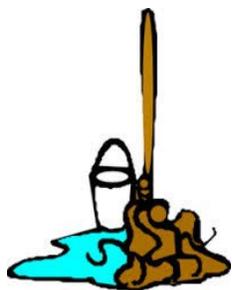
We hope that you are enjoying and using your EarlyLearn NYC marketing materials to recruit families. Marketing materials are available to all EarlyLearn sites. If your site has not received your marketing materials, we ask that you please check with your central office or contact [Tovah Gottesman](#).



PARENTS TO THE RESCUE

On behalf of the "Parents to the Rescue" planning team, Parent Council representatives and staff are invited to attend the "Parents to the Rescue" meeting on February 1st. This initiative aims to ensure that the perspectives of parents and staff together are front and center in the fight to secure critical early childhood education funding at all levels.

Please view the Hoot attachments Pages 70-73 for Parents to the Rescue memo and flyers for more information.



FACILITIES CORNER

Check out the Facilities Tip of the Month in Facilities Corner to keep your site safe, in the Hoot Attachments Pages 74-76.

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! "Sharing is Caring." Please forward the Hootmail to your staff and anyone interested as well!

EDUCATION & DISABILITIES NEWS

MATH AND SCIENCE

Those programs that have attended all of the Director's meetings will know that much of our agency planning is based on our citywide Child Outcomes data. Additionally, results from this data have helped us, as an agency, to target math and science development in our programs. As part of that intentional push, we want to make sure that we are sharing math and science resources with all of our programs. Attached to this newsletter Pages 77-88 is an National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) Policy Brief specifically around math and science. Enjoy.

MATH: Algebra in the Early Years?

Did you know that there is a whole section of the Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) dedicated to Math resources? We encourage all ELNYC programs to check it out [here](#).

LET'S TALK ABOUT SCIENCE

"Teacher, what's a polar vortex??" Winter is always a great opportunity to talk with your students about science, nature, and gives you some ideas for how to integrate current weather events into your curriculum Click [here](#) for the blog. Enjoy!

RESOURCES: CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) has been providing information and resources on children with disabilities decades. Unfortunately, on September 30, 2013, their funding ended. Click [here](#) to see their rich website and all its free resources are available until September 30, 2014. We encourage you to take advantage of their website and resources

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

11TH ANNUAL YOUNG CHILD EXPO & CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 2014 Young Child Expo & Conference April 23-25, 2014. The conference provides useful information to professionals in order to help all young children learn, grow and reach their full potential. This year they have over 100 speakers and over 80 presentations. Secure your spot and make it your Professional Development Day! Register [here](#)

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND CREDENTIALING PROGRAM (FDC) SPRING 2014 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) is pleased to offer the Family Development for Supervisors Credentialing Program, an intensive professional development training for agency leaders and supervisors interested in using empowerment-based leadership in their organizations. EarlyLearn contractors are eligible for the scholarship. This credential is one of the best ways to begin their formal education for the staff person who often works in social service/Family and Community Engagement, FCE, area. For more info see the Hoot Attachments Pages 81-110. DEADLINE is January 24, 2014

NOSOTROS

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

PLAZA SÉSAMO

¿Has oído hablar de Plaza Sésamo? Como maestro o padre de un niño que habla español, puede ser muy consciente de las horas de entretenimiento que el programa Plaza Sésamo ofrece a tantos niños por todo el país. Pero, ¿sabía usted que también ofrece un sitio web en español con información para padres y educadores? Vale la pena explorarlo. Comience su búsqueda [aquí](#)

EL PROGRAMA BEACON OFRECE CLASES DE INGLES

Hablar inglés no es un lujo...es una necesidad!

Logre obtener un mejor trabajo, ayudar a sus hijos en la escuela, y comunicarse mejor en varias áreas de nuestra vida diaria.

NO SE QUEDE ATRÁS... para mas informacion por favor vea el articulo paginas 111-112.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY WEEK FROM 1/27 -2/1

Come and bring your children to the Library, enjoy our special programs, get a Library card, check out books, or simply come and share a book together. For more info, please see Hoot Attachments Pages 113-114.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF MANHATTAN

Parents : Enroll now for Spring classes at Children's Museum of Manhattan (CMOM), for more info please see Hoot Attachments Pages 115-117.



HEAD START NEWS

PARENT GOVERNANCE

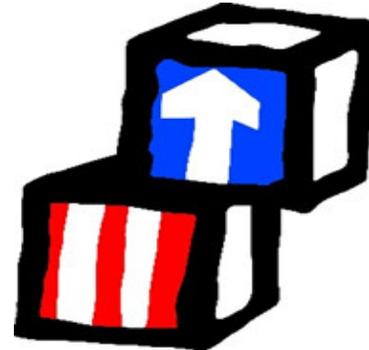
Dear Head Start/Head Start Dual Eligible Directors,
The next ACS Policy Council meeting is January 22nd 2014 at 150 William Street, 19th floor, Manhattan Room from 10:30 – 1PM. Please ensure your area representative candidate is present for the 2014 area representative elections. Only elected candidates will have a seat on the ACS Policy Council. These candidates must be a parent of a Head Start or Head Start/Dually Eligible child who is enrolled in the program as indicated on the F-12 Area Representative Eligibility Letter. Please see Hoot Attachments.

Page 118 for letter.

For additional information please contact [Miranda Harrison](#)

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](#).



RESOURCES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS (FAMILY CHILD CARE)

ACS/CUNY INFORMAL FAMILY CHILD CARE PROJECT (IFCC)

IFCC – a project of the NY Early Childhood Professional Development Institute (PDI) at the City University of New York - provides professional development training, technical assistance and other supports to informal and licensed family child care providers. See the Hoot Attachments Pages 119-128 for the IFCC winter newsletter and upcoming training schedule; please share these resources with your providers.

For questions, please contact IFCC Project Coordinator [Angelica Velasquez](#) or call, 718.254.7289 or 718.254.7369.

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Having a meaningful and engaging relationship with the parents/guardians of the children you care for is vital. PBS Parents' website is full of easy to share resources for families. Start browsing [here](#).

FOR INFANT AND TODDLER PROVIDERS

The 18th Annual Birth to Three Institute (BTI) conference will take place July 28-31, 2014 in Washington, D.C.. The goal of BTI is to disseminate information about best practices in the field, as well as research implications for improved practice. The theme for this year's conference will be "Nurturing...Relationships, Responsiveness, Readiness" We encourage all programs caring for children ages 0-3 to attend. For more information click [here](#)

CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FAQ'S

If you have any parents needing info on Child Care Financial Assistance, click [here](#) to share the knowledge.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

NOROVIRUS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

It's 'stomach flu' season! Infections by noroviruses are at their peak in January and February. Know what to do if a child in your program show symptoms of a norovirus infection (vomiting and diarrhea). This is a very contagious illness, so be prepared! Check out the handouts from the Center For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "Norovirus: What You Need to Know" for early childcare programs "and "Norovirus Fact Sheet" which is for parents, in the Hoot Attachments Pages 129-131.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE REFORM AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT CARE: A CLOSER LOOK CONFERENCE

Interested in learning more about the impact of health care reform on diverse communities?

The NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene and New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) will be having a conference on:

February 28, 2014 at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College.

The topic at hand is : Behavioral Health Care Reform and Culturally Competent Care: A Closer Look.

Registration is required. For more info, regarding this event email oca@health.nyc.gov

ONE MORE THING...

We are STILL listening for your feedback ...

Keep talking to us and let us know what you would like to see in Hootmail. Give us feedback on how Hootmail is working for you and ways in which we can help it to work better. We want Hootmail to be a useful resource to our EarlyLearn community and we welcome your ideas on how to make that happen.

Send comments, suggestions, pictures, and questions to Barbara.Alicea@dfa.state.ny.us

Bundle up and enjoy family time!