



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER HARCATUS HEAD START

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As the holiday season is here I want you all to be sure you are taking care of yourself. Holidays can be relaxing with family, but also stressful. Remind yourself to be a STAR. (Conscious Discipline) Enjoy Christmas break which is December 22 through January 2.

Reminder that on January 5th there will be no children as it is a workday to prepare for the week ahead due to break. Make sure before you leave on break that your timesheet is submitted with no mistakes and it has been approved by your supervisor. Conscious Discipline Parenting class for the month is at Twin City Learning Center on December 2nd. Encourage all parents to attend to try and win the \$100 Walmart Gift Card. I would love to see more parents at these events as each week it has been growing. In-Kind has been very good the last two months as well. I know we can do better though if every classroom and Home Visitor can meet the projected goal.

THANK YOU

As we wrap up the year, I just want to say a huge thank you for everything you've done for our students and each other. December can be a whirlwind, but your energy, kindness, and teamwork have made such a positive impact. You show up every day with heart, humor, and patience—and it truly makes a difference. Our students grow because of the time, care, and creativity you put in, even on the toughest days. You may not always see it but you are making a difference in their lives! I hope this month brings you little moments of joy, lots of laughter, and some well-deserved rest. Thank you for being the incredible team that you are. Let's finish the year strong and head into the new one refreshed and inspired! You're appreciated more than you know..

TEACHERS/

FAMILY ADVOCATES/ HOME

VISTORS:

Child Attendance: Please scan and email the attendance for the week of December 15th to Bev Statler prior to Winter Break.

Family Advocates/ Home Visitors Family Engagement Assessments are to be completed three times per school year. Initial Home Visit, Mid-Year (due by Dec. 19, 2025- prior to Christmas Break) and End of Year (due by April 1, 2026). Make sure you have added these dates to your planners.

Please work on your monthly reports throughout the month of December...they are due at the office on your first day back from Winter Break....January 5, 2026!



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER HARCATUS HEAD START

DENTALS

Dental exams were due on 11/15/2025 for Duration students and are due on 11/30/2025 for Double Session students. As of 11/21/2025, we have 45% of our children meeting this requirement. This would be an out of compliance finding and jeopardizes our Head Start Grant. Please review the Head Start Performance Standard below in regard to Oral Health Requirements.

Head Start Standard: I302.42 Child Health Status and Care.

(b) Ensuring up-to-date child health status.

(1) Within 90 calendar days after the child first attends the program or, for the home-based program option, receives a home visit, a program must: (i) Obtain determinations from health care and oral health care professionals as to whether or not the child is up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary medical, mental health, and oral health care, based on: the well-child visits and dental periodicity schedules as prescribed by the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program of the Medicaid agency of the State in which they operate, immunization recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and any additional recommendations from the local Health and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee that are based on prevalent community health problems; and (ii) Assist parents with making arrangements to bring the child up-to-date as quickly as possible; and, if necessary, directly facilitate provision of health services to bring the child up-to-date with parent consent as described in §1302.41(b)(1). (d) Extended follow-up care.(2) A program must develop a system to track referrals and services provided and monitor the implementation of a follow-up plan to meet any treatment needs associated with a health, oral health, social and emotional, or developmental problem.

Please continue to encourage parents to take their child to the Dentist. Assist them with scheduling appointments and inform parents that Head Start can provide transportation to dental appointments.

