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# Parent Connection

*You are your child's first teacher*

## Director's Note

In April the Office of Head Start (OHS) conducted reviews of LACOE's Environmental Health and Safety, Fiscal, and ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance) units, including a detailed evaluation of your child's program. We are thrilled to share that OHS reported zero areas of noncompliance, which means no corrective action is required.

The strong leadership and work ethic of parents and staff set a new standard of excellence. For a grantee of our size, this is quite an accomplishment. Congratulations! Thank you for partnering with LACOE to maintain excellence for your children in the years to come.

## Summer Safety Tips

According to *thinkprogress.org*, this summer may be the hottest on record. Beat the heat by staying in cool areas like the library, drinking plenty of water, and wearing sunscreen or protective clothing.

## A Head Start on Screenings

Screening for health, nutrition, behavioral, and developmental concerns helps us work together to support your child's school readiness. Here is what to expect each year:

- Hearing or vision loss can affect your child's learning, and we can help you find affordable treatment.
- Reviewing what your child eats and drinks can help your program's registered dietician support your child's healthy growth.
- A quick check of your child's development and behavior can uncover concerns we can help with.
- Working together all year to observe your child's learning helps us track your child's progress and develop goals for your child's school readiness.

If developmental concerns are identified, your program may refer you for an assessment. For more information, talk to your teacher or health care provider, and see "Focus on Assessment."



*"Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a very large amount of gratitude."*

– A. A. Milne

## Parenting with CLASS™

CLASS™ (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) is all about improving the quality of teacher-child interactions, which impact learning, development, and lifelong achievement. CLASS™ measures how teachers:

- PROVIDE social and emotional support
- MANAGE children's time, behavior, and attention
- PROMOTE language development

You can use CLASS™ with your children, too. During story time, engage your child with these strategies:

- ASK open-ended questions—  
"What will happen next?"
- REPEAT your child's comment and add more—  
"Yes, that's a bear. The bear is sleeping."
- RESPOND to your child's comment with a question—  
"What makes you think that?"

Your parent-child interactions make a big difference. Remember, you are your child's first teacher.

SOURCE: Adapted from "Parenting with CLASS™ - Is It Possible?" by Betsy Murry (July 30, 2015) at [teachstone.com](http://teachstone.com).

## Focus on Assessment

Your Head Start program uses assessments to check for any special needs your child may have, including problems that are hard to see. Parents play a key role in asking for help and giving permission for these check-ups. If you think your child may have special needs, talk to your child's teacher. Remember, you are not alone—thousands of children receive services for special needs.

**Parenting tips, developmental milestones, and more... LACOE Head Start-State Preschool is your reliable source for early childhood education information.**



<https://twitter.com/lacoeheadstart>



[www.facebook.com/headstartstatepreschoollosangelescounty](http://www.facebook.com/headstartstatepreschoollosangelescounty)

## Upcoming Events Summer Reading Program 2016

### WHAT

Read with your baby, toddler, or preschooler.

### WHERE

Visit your local County of Los Angeles Public Library branch and receive free prizes for participation.

### WHEN

June – August 2016;  
visit [colapublib.org](http://colapublib.org) for more information.



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Los Angeles County  
Office of Education

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