



Write Start

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE LACOE HEAD START AND EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITY

Executive Director's Message: Teach a Child, Change the Future

Early educators make a profound difference in children's lives. You may not see it today—in fact, you may never see it yourself—but the children you teach are forever changed for the better.



Keesha Woods

Our babies need adults who help set them on their way to success, now as much as ever. Unfortunately, there is a severe educator shortage. To find more caring, talented people to touch children's lives, let's make sure they know that early learning is a place where you

can build a brighter future—not only for children, but for yourself.

With strong emphasis on professional development, individual coaching, continuing education, and staff wellness in caring, safe environments, our programs are ideal for those who want to care for young children year after year, decade after decade. But they're also a perfect place to learn and hone skills before transitioning to a career in elementary or as a coordinator, coach, or administrator. In early learning, children and educators grow together.



LACOE HSEL and Partners Are Actively Recruiting Teaching Staff

LACOE HSEL has partnered with the Los Angeles Mayor's Office's ECE Workforce Development team to address more than 200 teacher vacancies throughout our agencies, including in the positions of Associate Teacher, Teacher, Parent Educator, and Family Service Advocate.

The goal of the partnership is twofold. First, we are focused on filling the current vacancies. Second, as a longer-term goal, LACOE will build a pipeline of educators to draw from for future openings.

On June 29, LACOE hosted the first in a series of ECE Educators Job Fairs on Zoom. The target audience for the virtual job fair was recent LAUSD Division of Adult and Career Education (DACE) graduates, ECE professionals currently transitioning between jobs, and a cohort of the Mayor's Office College Promise students who have completed their AA and are now entering into BA programs.



LACOE Immigration Resources

LACOE regularly updates resources on immigration issues that affect our school communities.

Please visit: <https://www.lacoe.edu/Homellmigrant-Relations>

For social media visit: @lacoeimrel
Facebook and Twitter.

DA Mental Health and Wellness Supports through LACOE EASE



LACOE HSEL is partnering with LACOE Employee Assistance Service for Education (EASE) to support mental health and wellness for delegate agency employees working in LACOE's Head Start, Early Head Start, State Preschool, and General Child Care programs. EASE is an employee assistance program that provides support services to the educational sector. Dr. Emily Hernandez, EASE Director, and her team bring a wealth of experience and commitment, currently supporting more than half of all school districts and community colleges in Los Angeles County.

With support, we see improved outcomes – interpersonal relationship, feeling and sense of support, employee turnover and absence, and employee performance.

Mental health supports in employee benefits packages are often limited. Through this partnership, EASE is offering the same supports to our delegate staff that are available to LACOE staff: six consultations per year (100% confidential), training, and support groups. EASE is also offering mental health consultation and observation for classroom behaviors. This two-year partnership is effective July 1, 2021.

For more information, you may contact the EASE Hotline (800) 882-1341 or EASE Office at (562) 922-6683.



Transition Is in the Air

After many months of being safer-at-home, most of us have transitioned to in-person learning and working experiences. As is true for any transition, developmentally typical transitions are full of feelings from sadness to hope and everything in between, like layers of anxiety and apprehension.

As children experience transitions, whether daily hellos and goodbyes or moving from one learning environment to the next, they need adults to be present with them to help them make sense of what they are feeling and cope with strong feelings. Adult responses and emotional availability are influenced both by the feeling the child is having and by the adult's own history of access to an emotionally available adult when they were children themselves.

The developers of the Circle of Security talk about the importance of "Being-With" children when they are experiencing a full range of feelings. They introduce "Shark Music" as the soundtrack that confronts caregivers, created by their own experiences with emotionally unavailable adults.

To learn more, check out Being-With and Shark Music, available in English and Spanish:

<https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/resources-for-parents/>



Policy Council Highlights

New Parent Office Assistants

Please welcome three former Policy Council members as newly hired Parent Office Assistants. Ingrid Olivarez is with the Governance Team, Tania Alday is with the Public Policy and Special Projects Team, and starting in August, Sandra Rodriguez will be with the Governance Team.

Policy Council New Officers

Lluvia Cornelio was elected as the PTA President, and Lauryn Andrews is the new Recording Secretary.

LACOE County Board Liaison to the Policy Council

The Policy Council members said goodbye and thanked Ms. Ellen Rosenberg who served as the LACOE Board Liaison from 2019 to 2021. Ms. Rosenberg will be missed; she was present at Policy Council meetings and always spoke highly and in support of HSEL programs, staff, and Policy Council. The LACOE Board has four new members, and we look forward to learning who will be selected as the new liaison.

Parent Preparation Will Help Ease Children's School Transitions—You Can Help!

Here are five ways educators can assist parents with building a stronger partnership between home and school.

- 1. Get to know the adults around your child—**Communicate with the new school. Become comfortable asking questions and asking for advice.
- 2. Bridge the jump—**Keep teachers, babysitters, other parents, and family members involved in the transition process.
- 3. Focus on your family's strengths—**Share the successes from home.
- 4. Focus on your child's strengths—**They are individuals and have their own strengths and needs. Share info about health, learning style, and personality.
- 5. Team up—**Network with other parents from school or the community who are also transitioning.

Parent preparedness is just as significant as a child's preparedness when it comes to a successful school transition. The more prepared the parent is, the more confident and prepared the child will be.

Adapted from *Parents as Teachers (PAT)*, Parent Page: Parent Preparation.

Parent Spotlight:

Parent Spotlight: Trisha Talbot,
Plaza de la Raza Child Development Services
Parent and LACOE Head Start Policy Council Member

How did you learn about Head Start/Early Head Start?

I learned about the program searching the web for a school for my firstborn to attend. She is now almost 11.



Trisha Talbot

Why did you choose Head Start?

I chose the Head Start program because it was close to our house and she would start learning the basic skills of socializing with others her age and start her journey through the education process.

How has your agency supported you with your HS children's learning?

Plaza has helped all three of my children be social, and it created an environment that they were comfortable in to better grow their social and emotional skills. They created a stepping-stone to help them with motor skills, language, reading, and writing.

How has your agency supported you with your personal goals?

The agency has been a huge support at home by setting goals with us parents to accomplish with our children and helping meet those goals by creating packets or boxes of supplies to take home to continue the subjects learned in class at home.

What advice would you give to another parent looking for a school for their infant/toddler?

I have always given other new parents my opinion on my experiences with Head Start. It is always a good idea to enroll them early. They learn, play, take naps without realizing they are in a classroom environment. I believe it has helped my children be amazing elementary students. I hope many new parents find it just as special.



Important Dates to Remember

August - September 2021

August	National Immunization Awareness Month
Aug 19	Directors' and Managers' Meeting
Aug 21	Special Needs Network 16 th Annual Back to School, Family Inclusion Event and Health Resource Fair—Los Angeles, CA
September	National Childhood Obesity Month
Sept 2	Directors' and Managers' Meeting
Sept 6	Labor Day—LACOE Offices Closed
Sept 8	International Literacy Day
Sept 14	Policy Council Meeting
Sept 16	Directors' and Managers' Meeting
Sept 20-23	NHSA 2021 Fall Leadership Institute—Washington, DC
Sept 30	Directors' and Managers' Meeting

Los Angeles County Office of Education
Head Start and Early Learning Division
is now on...

twitter

facebook

Events, parenting tips, developmental milestones, and more... LACOE Head Start and Early Learning Division is your reliable source for early childhood education and early care information.



Facebook: @lacoehheadstart
<https://www.facebook.com/lacoehheadstart/>



Instagram: @lacoehheadstart
<https://www.instagram.com/lacoehheadstart/>



Twitter: @lacoehheadstart
<https://www.twitter.com/lacoehheadstart/>

WELCOME BACK
The Resource Center is Now Open!!!

HOURS OF OPERATION*
Mondays - Wednesdays:
7:00 AM - 12:00 PM | 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

SAFETY GUIDELINES
For your health and the health of others, we ask that you please familiarize yourself with our new safety measures.

LOCATED AT
10100 Pioneer Blvd, Suite #100
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

All staff and visitors must enter through the 1st floor conference center and check in with security.

*Weekly hours are subject to change. Please call (562) 401-5532 or (562) 940-1770 to verify daily schedule with our staff. Contact us at HS_resourcecenter@lacoee.edu

Write Start Submissions

The Write Start welcomes your articles pertaining to Head Start and Early Learning division activities and events. Please submit them to thewritestart@lacoee.edu. The deadline for the next edition is **Friday, August 20, 2021**.

Welcome Back to the LACOE Head Start & Early Learning Division Resource Center!

We are happy to announce that the Resource Center is now open! As we reopen, we're focused on maintaining a safe and welcoming space for everyone. For your health and the health of others, we ask that you please familiarize yourself with our new safety measures

(Please note that all materials checked out prior to Library Closure are due by August 27, 2021).

For any questions please contact us at:
HSResourcecenter@lacoee.edu.

An official newsletter of the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Head Start and Early Learning Division, 10100 Pioneer Blvd., Ste. 325, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 (562/940-1770). prekkid.org. **Superintendent:** Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D., **Board of Education:** Betty Forrester, President; James Cross, Vice President; Judy Abdo; Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.; R. Michael Dutton; Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D., and Monte E. Perez, Ed.D., **Executive Director:** Keesha Woods. Produced by the LACOE Communications Department in partnership with the Head Start and Early Learning Division Write Start Team. **Contributing writers for this issue:** Patricia Greene, Colin Legerton, Dawn Meggerson, Stephaney Roy, Kevin Smith, Shanita Smith, Gabriela Trejo, Keesha Woods, and Sandra Ybanez. **Editor:** Colin Legerton. **Graphics/layout:** John Paster.

