



CONNECTIONS

Connecting home, school and community

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The school year is nearing the end and we wish you a great summer! Find ways to help your child continue their learning over the summer. Be sure to look through the summer calendar for ideas. Summer slide happens when children forget what they have learned during the school year due to lack of practice. Here are a few things you can do to help prevent the summer slide:

- Take time to read to your child every day for at least 30 minutes
- Find letters in street signs, billboards, and grocery stores (or anywhere!)
- Take field trips to the library and enroll in summer reading programs
- Draw letters in a box of sand or squirt water to form letters onto the sidewalk
- Make a drum out of a box. Count the beats and make up a song.

Most importantly, have fun! Keep the learning going!

~Lucy McClintic

Congratulations to these parents who helped their children achieve 100% attendance for the month!



Driver Orenda Jones with parent Zinnia Baker from Baker 2



Driver Teresa Snead with parent Laquita Thompson from GR 110



Driver Ethel Norris with parent Diamond Bond from MH 119



Driver Cheri Coon with parent Stafanie Boettcher from S.Cedar 2

5 WAYS TO HEAD OFF THE Summer Slide

FILL KIDS' SUMMER BREAK WITH READING!

It's a fact: Kids who don't read over the summer fall behind their peers when school starts up again, and the effects of this "Summer Slide" can last a lifetime.

Kids can lose about **two months** of grade level equivalency in math and reading over the summer.

Summer Slide hits **low-income** kids the hardest, resulting in a significant achievement gap.

Over time, this loss can create a gap of **2 to 5 years** by the time kids reach high school.

Teachers spend **4-6 weeks** of a new school year re-teaching older material.

TIPS to Prevent Summer Slide:

- 1 Keep them engaged and learning while they're out of school.** NovelList can help! You'll find it on your library's website, so you can access it anywhere.
- 2 Encourage kids to read at least 20 minutes every day.** Need ideas? NovelList's Recommended Reads lists provide suggestions based on genre and subjects.
- 3 Read to your kids!** Find quality read-alouds by pasting this search string in NovelList: **AW Y AND RS Y AND RV read-aloud**
- 4 Transform car rides into reading time.** NovelList has audiobooks to interest every kid, perfect for short or long car rides.
- 5 Visit your local library with your kids.** Let them pick out books on their favorite topics and they'll read more often!

Made with In LibraryAware • libraryaware.com

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Dear Parent,

I know. You're worried. Your child comes home with a story about THAT child. The one who is always hitting, shoving, maybe even biting other children. The one who has to hold my hand in the hallway and has a special spot at the carpet. The one who had to leave the block area because blocks are for building, not throwing. The one who poured his neighbor's milk on the floor because he was angry. On purpose. While I was watching.

You're worried that THAT child is taking away from your child's learning experience and that she takes up too much of my time and energy. You're worried that she is really going to hurt someone someday – and that "someone" might be your child, and that your child is going to start using aggression to get what she wants. I know, and I am worried too.

I worry about ALL of them. I worry about your child's pencil grip, and another child's letter sounds, and that little tiny one's shyness, and the one who always seems hungry.

I know you want to talk about THAT child, but there are so many things I can't tell you. How he was a premie, has food allergies, and his parents are in the middle of a horrible divorce. I can't tell you his asthma medication makes him hyper, that in order to get to school, he has to take 2 busses starting at 7 am, or that he has been a witness to domestic violence.

That's ok, you say. You understand I can't share personal or family information. You just want to know what I'm DOING about THAT child's behavior.

I can't tell you that she receives speech and language services and is often aggressive because she can't communicate. I can't tell you I try to meet with her parents EVERY week. When we do have a chance to talk, mom usually ends up in tears. I can't tell you I tracked her behavior incidents for 3 months, and now she only has 5 incidents a week instead of a DAY.

The thing is, there are SO MANY THINGS I can't tell you about THAT child.

I can't tell you his classroom job is to water the plants, and that he cried when one of the plants died over spring break. I can't tell you when a classmate is crying, he rushes over with his favorite stuffed animal, that he offers his food to others at lunch, or that he finally learned how to use the toilet.

If ever, at any point, YOUR child becomes THAT child...

I will not share your personal family business with other parents. I will communicate with you frequently, clearly, and kindly. I will advocate for your child and family to receive the services you need, and I will work with those service providers to the best of my ability. I will also make sure your child feels safe at school and gets extra love when he needs it most.

I will continue to look for, and find, good, amazing, special, and wonderful things about your child. I will remind her and YOU of those good, amazing, and special things over and over again.

And when another parent comes to me with concerns about YOUR child...
I will tell them all of this, all over again.

With so much love,

Your Head Start Teacher

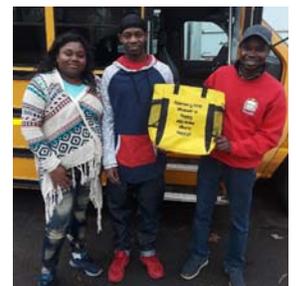
Adapted from: <http://missnightmutter.com/2014/11/dear-parent-about-that-kid.html>

The Parent Pep Talk VISIT: Parentpeptalk.org Advice and understanding from Parents, Pros and Kids



The Parent Pep Talk is a heartfelt and humorous podcast filled with advice and understanding from empathetic experts, honest parents, and teens who are willing to talk. It's for all parents looking for a little perspective, a few well-tested tips, and the feeling that you're probably doing a lot better than you think, even if it doesn't always feel like it. New episodes on the 1st and 15th of every month.

The Parent Pep Talk is brought to you by: 



Driver Khaliku Kaba presents parents LaTisha McCray and John Hodges from the Miller 1 classroom with a celebratory tote for helping their child achieve 100% attendance for the month!

Make Dental Care a Family Affair

After your child knows why it's important to brush their teeth, it may become easier for you to help them do it every day. Small children are quick to pick up on things that their parents do — they're very good at copying things that they hear and see. Make it a family affair. If they see their parents and older siblings brushing their teeth twice a day, they will want to brush their own teeth too.



First take them to the store and let them pick out their own toothbrush and flavored paste. This will get them excited for toothbrushing.

Some parents have found that their children enjoy brushing when their parents play their favorite song. The two minutes goes by very quickly and the children have fun dancing to their favorite song while they brush. Remember you don't have to brush your teeth in the bathroom. Make it a two-minute dance party. You may also try Sesame Street: Healthy Teeth, Healthy Me: Brushy Brush PSA. This is a great song that you and your child can listen to while brushing. Kids love it!!!

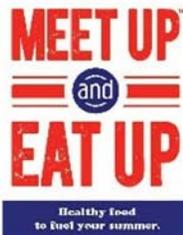
Excerpts from: <https://www.123dentist.com/brushing-is-a-team-sport/>

HIRING SOON!!

CACS Head Start will have the following jobs available for the 2019/2020 school year:

Teachers
Teacher Assistants
Program Assistants
Family Advocates
Early Intervention Services
Bus Drivers
Education Coach

Please tell neighbors, relatives and friends! Jobs will be posted on our website at www.cacsheadstart.org



Meet Up & Eat Up

Did you know the Meet Up and Eat Up summer meal program provides a place where kids 18 years and younger can gather for healthy, free summer meals at thousands of sites in Michigan? To find a site near you, visit <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/>.

Ingredients

- 1 cup low-fat vanilla yogurt
- 1 kiwi
- 4 large strawberries (about 1/2 cup)
- ice cube tray (or paper cups)
- Popsicle sticks or paper straws



Strawberry Kiwi Yogurt Pops

Directions

Cut fruit into small pieces. Mix fruit and yogurt. Divide into ice cube tray or paper cups. Freeze. Enjoy! Try again with different flavors!

Summer Food!

Ingham County Food Resources

A complete list of food distributions, meal sites, and pantries can be found on our website <https://www.cacsheadstart.org/about/resources/>.



How to *nurture* your child's social-emotional health



Actively listen



Share feelings and beliefs



Do what you say



Limit electronic time for everyone



Surround them with healthy adults



Reach out and hug them



Use open ended questions about everything



Recognize positive choices



Respond calmly when their emotions are elevated



Model forgiveness



View their behavior as a window to their needs and feelings



Play and exercise together



Set and respect boundaries



Ingham Intermediate School District
A Regional Educational Service Agency

Adopted from Mental Fills Counseling Tools

El hogar: ¡Lugar donde comienza el aprendizaje!

Las conversaciones en el carro, al vestirse y al prepararse para acostarse exponen a los niños a un lenguaje rico y les pone en el camino para ser lectores exitosos. Estas conversaciones deben ser en el lenguaje que la familia hable con soltura para que los hijos puedan crecer hablando el idioma de su familia, aprendiendo muchas palabras y conceptos. La investigación demuestra que los niños que aprenden bien el lenguaje de su familia para la edad de 5 años pueden leer bien en inglés en el tercer grado—aún cuando su lenguaje materno no sea el inglés. En cada familia se le enseña a los hijos a caminar, a hablar, como comportarse y lo que es importante en su familia. Las familias desempeñan un papel esencial en el aprendizaje de cada niño y es por eso que desde hace mucho tiempo la ley de Head Start requiere que los programas apoyen a las familias para esmerarse aún más en la tarea de enseñar a sus hijos las habilidades que más adelante los ayudaran a tener éxito en la escuela. La investigación demuestra que entre más participan las familias en el desarrollo de los niños cuando ellos están pequeños, más aprenden. **Recuerde que las familias realmente son los primeros y más importantes maestros para sus hijos.**

