

Illinois Valley Head Start

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Important Dates

November

2- No School
6--No School
Election Day
12—No School
Veteran's Day
15- Early Dismissal
P/T Conferences
16—No School
Parent Teacher
Conferences
22-23—No School
Thanksgiving

Letter from the Director

Hello Parents, Families and Guardians,

My name is Amy Hess and I am the Interim Head Start Director. I have been with Illinois Valley for two years and I am very excited to have the opportunity to lead the Head Start Program. I have worked in the area of early childhood education for 30 years and I am passionate about early learning and literacy. I am originally from Bunker Hill and I lived in Arizona for a long time. I Recently I moved back to this area with my husband and two daughters to be closer to family.

Illinois Valley Head Start has had a long and successful history in the four counties that we serve: Macoupin, Jersey, Greene and Calhoun. At Illinois Valley Head Start, our team is on a mission to continue providing comprehensive services for your families while ensuring that your children have the best preschool center or home visiting experience possible. As parents, family members and guardians, you are very important members of our team. Please support our hard working teachers and share your positive experiences with other parents and families with young children. Let us know if you have concerns or questions and we will work hard to address them. Speak with your Policy Council member, FCD worker or Head Start staff members if you want to learn more about our programs. Most importantly, thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us!

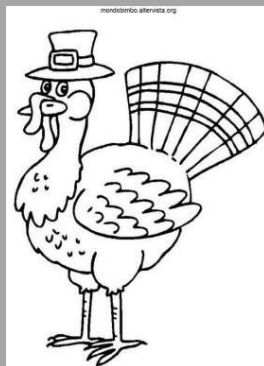
Sincerely,

Amy Hess

REMEMBER

Call your child's teacher or school to report an absence as soon as possible.

All absences must be reported!



REMEMBER

The Parent Handbook and other important information can be found at the IVEDC Facebook page and webpage.

TRANSPORTATION

Illinois Valley Head Start will provide bus transportation to and from the Head Start center via pick-up and drop-off locations whenever possible; however, the location of some Head Start children may require parents to transport their own child to school. Families individual needs will be assessed to determined priority for busing of each child. Sometimes families require a door-to-door pick-up and drop-off. The reasons why these families have more personal accommodations are confidential, but we assure you that it is in the best interest of each child.

Parents cooperation and promptness are expected in order to retain bus privileges. Head Start bus routes are limited to 1 hour each except in cases of inclement weather when, for the sake of safety, the route may take longer.

It is the intention of Illinois Valley Head Start to always provide safe and secure transportation to and from school. To keep your child safe and secure, we need the support of our families by keeping a consistent pattern of transportation for their child. When children are inconsistently moved from riding the bus to being picked up from the Head Start center, it is difficult for our staff to make sure each child is where he needs to be. This inconsistency in schedule may create an opportunity for a child to be incorrectly placed on a bus or left at a center. Although the children are always supervised, this also creates a problem for parents who now have to meet their child in a place not expected.

It is very important that you keep a schedule of pick-up at the Head Start center **OR** bus transportation daily. This keeps our bus routes secure and timely for other families. If a situation should arise that you need to change your child's schedule, please contact the Head Start center as soon as possible. We understand emergencies happen and those situations will be considered. Failure to comply with a transportation schedule for your child may result in changes to your child's transportation services.

If you have any questions or concerns about transportation for your child, please feel free to contact me at 217-839-4431 or mbrunnworth@ilvalley-edc.org. I will be happy to assist you in any way I can.

Melissa Brunsworth
Head Start Facilities & Transportation Coordinator

Help Your Child Succeed in Preschool: Build the Habit of Good Attendance

Early School Success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward.

Missing 10 percent of preschool (one or two days every few weeks) can

- Make it harder to develop early reading skills.
- Make it harder to get ready for kindergarten and first grade.
- Develop a poor attendance pattern that's hard to break.

High quality preschool programs have many benefits for your child. The routines your child develops in preschool will continue throughout school. You can make the most of preschool by encouraging your child to attend every day!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Work with your child and his/her teacher to help your child develop strong attendance. Your enthusiasm is a big boost to success.

Talk about it – sing about it – make it an adventure!

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before
- Share ideas with other parents for getting out the door on time

Before the school year starts:

- Find out what day preschool starts and start the exciting count down!
- Make sure your child has the required shots.
- Attend orientation with your child to meet the teachers and classmates.

Ready – Set GO!

- Develop back-up plans for getting to preschool if something comes up
- Ask family members, neighbors or other parents to lend a hand if you need help dropping off or picking up your child
- Schedule medical appointments and extended trips when preschool is not in session
- If your child seems anxious about going to preschool, talk to the program director, teacher, your doctor or other parents for advice. If the problem persists, make sure the program is a good fit for your child.

Your Child's Development

As parents, we are always wondering about our child's development. If this is your child's first experience in a school setting, you are welcome to volunteer in your child's classroom to see how he or she is adapting to school. Also your child was screened using the DIAL 4 assessment or the Ages & Stages. Your child's teacher will inform you if she feels that your child may need further evaluation after several weeks of school and vision and hearing screening are complete.

If your child is already receiving special education services, you may see me at his or her IEP meeting. I attend as many of these meeting as scheduling allows. You may contact me with any concerns or questions at amilcic@ilvalley-edc.org or at (217)-839-4431.

Amy Milcic
Disabilities Coordinator



Learning Through Play

"It's so much more than play time."

IVEDC has recently opened two new Home Based Socialization Buildings; one in Carlinville and one in Jerseyville. Our Home Based program offers weekly visits to your home, for 90 minutes, for ages birth to five. Our Home Visitors work with Parents on building skills that encourage child/parent interactions therefore enhancing Child Development, giving parents the tools they need to be their child's most influential teacher. Our new Socialization sites, which we are calling "Learn and Play," will be used for our monthly gatherings and play dates, giving the children and parents time to interact and play with one another and also time to be with peers; which encourages their social development.

Did you now that young children learn best through play? Our curriculum provides the teachers with a lot of ideas for teaching your child while he or she plays in the 'centers' which are set up around the classroom. The toys and materials help your child learn skills such as counting, problem solving, and exploring a new environment. If you would like more information about helping your child learn through play, you are welcome to contact me by email at sfaul@ilvalley-edc.org or by phone at (217)839-4431 ext. 240.

Thank you.
Sarah Faul, Education and Operations Manager