Infant/Toddler Teacher
Opening at the New Hope Early Education Center in Mount Vernon. This position provides high-quality infant and toddler care in a full-day, full-year classroom. The teacher will structure a warm, loving, and healthy classroom environment and intentionally create experiences that support the development of infants and toddlers including physical health, emotional, social, motor, language, and cognitive development. The teacher will implement the Creative Curriculum, administer developmental screenings, regularly assess progress, and partner with parents. Prefer a degree in ECE or a related field, with direct care experience in an early childhood setting. A combination of education and experience is acceptable along with a commitment to immediately pursue training in caring for infants and toddlers, and a CDA. Associate or higher degree in child development, early childhood education, or a related field.

Infant/Toddler Teacher Aide
Opening at the Gambier Child Care Center. This position supports high-quality infant and toddler care in a full-day, full-year classroom. Minimum of one year experience working with infants and toddlers, and a CDA or willingness to immediately pursue training in caring for infants and toddlers, and a CDA. Recent ECE graduates encouraged to apply.

In Home-Based Education Services
KCHS has openings for preschoolers (ages 3 but not yet age 5, by Aug. 1, 2015) for full- and half-day preschool and child care at:

Mount Vernon
- 10/24 - Head Start Preschool Teacher, Part-time (30 hours/week, summers off)
- Working in a collaborative team environment, this position is primarily responsible for planning, teaching, and providing social services to support families at Danville. The teacher will assess and evaluate children’s progress and work with families of current Head Start and Early Head Start students. Past parents will sometimes continue their service on the Council as community representatives.
- The Policy Council helps us to set the direction of Knox County Head Start. The council:
  • Supports KCHS mission
  • Assists in developing program goals
  • Reviews and comments on agency plans for providing comprehensive education, health, mental health, and nutritional services
  • Addresses parent concerns during an open forum section of each meeting
  • Provides regular visits with degreed early childhood educators and child care teachers
  • Focus on children’s healthy development, nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack
  • Nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack
  • Degreed early childhood education teachers

If you are interested in submitting your nomination to run for office, please return the Statement of Intent by Sept. 30 to your family advocate or home educator. If you have questions or would like to talk to a current Policy Council member, talk with your family advocate or home educator and we will do our best to connect you with a current member.

Ballots will be sent home on Oct. 5. All enrolled families have the opportunity to vote. Completed ballots are due back to centers by Oct. 13. We will contact those elected to the new Council by Oct. 16.

To pre-enroll by calling 740-397-1344, online at www.knoxheadstart.org or at our offices.

KCHS Job Openings

Upcoming Events

- October is National Head Start month, and we are excited to be in our 51st year of service in Knox County. October also is the month we hold elections for the Knox County Head Start Policy Council. Please consider submitting your name and biography into the Policy Council elections at your center or within the home-based option, and help us to make KCHS the best program it can be. (Statement of Intent is due Sept. 30.)

The Policy Council also reviews grants, program budgets, employee handbooks, and hiring, making recommendations for approval to the KCHS Board of Directors. Every Head Start agency must have an active Policy Council, with 51% of members required to be parents of current Head Start or Early Head Start students. Parent members will sometimes continue their service on the Council as community representatives.

Policy Council members receive training in support of their responsibilities, and may have opportunities to attend state-wide leadership meetings. Donald Bovonnit, Jr., current Policy Council Vice Chairperson, is a member of the Ohio Head Start Association's Board of Directors, and also represents Ohio's parents on the Regional Head Start Board. Donald's involvement led to his being invited to speak at the National Head Start Association's Leadership Conference this month in Washington, D.C.

The Policy Council typically meets on the third Thursday of each month, from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the New Hope Early Education Center. Dinner and child care are provided, and parents receive a small stipend to offset transportation costs. The October meeting will be held on Oct. 22, the fourth Thursday this month, due to a scheduling conflict with the Region V Conference.

We also have immediate openings for our Home-Based Education Services for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and pregnant moms:

- Supports and encourages families
- Supports and encourages families
- Degreed early childhood education teachers
- Guides children’s healthy development
- Connects families to community resources
- Focus on children’s healthy development, nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack
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These Centerburg Head Start kids got to enjoy a brand new sandbox on their playground this month.

Connect with us!
The Importance of School Physicals


If you haven’t taken your child in for his yearly school physical or it isn’t scheduled, you have missed an important step in getting your child ready for the school year. Not to mention that some schools won’t let your child stay in school without one.

Most of the time when the doctor sees your child it’s because the child is sick or hurt. By taking the child to the doctor at the start of every school year (or yearly at their birthday), the doctor gets the chance to see your child when he is healthy. The doctor will get to know your child’s medical history, any illnesses or injuries he’s had in the past, and will be aware of how he is growing and developing. This is why it is important to have a “medical home” (seeing the same doctor), so that doctor follows your child as he is growing.

Yearly physicals are really important for two to five year olds. Children younger than two should see the doctor more frequently. The doctor can also help determine if your child is ready to start attending school. By having your child take a physical when he is three years old, you’ll have enough time to find out if your child is ready or if he needs another year of preschool.

These yearly physicals are also a great time for you to talk to the doctor about concerns you may have about your child. These concerns can be about physical problems, behavioral problems, or anything else that you may feel just doesn’t seem right about your child. The doctor will be able to focus on the issue and determine if there is a problem.

A healthy child is able to learn better. When a child is healthy, he is on the path to becoming a healthy adult.

So when the teacher or school nurse keeps reminding you to take your child in for that school physical it’s not just because they have to have the information for the records (although they do). They want your child to be healthy to learn, for school, and to start on a healthy path toward adulthood. So remember, when getting everything ready for school don’t forget to make that doctor’s appointment. It’s just as important as the book bag and the school paperwork.

If you have any questions or need help in finding a “medical home” please contact:

Candy Thomas LPN, Health Services Specialist
740-397-1344 ext. 335

Families are Connecting to KCHS Through Social Media

Since August, 65 individuals/families have “liked”/followed our center pages on Facebook. Ten have joined us on Twitter and several more also follow us on Pinterest. Are you one of them?

If not, you may have missed out on some really helpful information for your family, such as:

• Announcements of upcoming parenting trainings and center events for families
• Photo galleries of our children, classrooms, and activities
• Tools to help the hyperactive child
• Get more accomplished around the house with kids at home
• Free webinar on “Managing Emotional Mayhem” in children
• Recognizing vision problems in young children
• Information on FREE community events and resources like Get Healthy Knox County, Farmers Market, and concerts
• Surviving a trip to the grocery store with little ones
• “Financial Friday” posts on improving family finances
• Helping kids to eat more vegetables
• First aid skills every parent should know
• And much, much more!

If you haven’t joined us on one or all of our social media platforms, please do! We work hard to bring you content that is meaningful and helpful. Additionally, there are private Facebook groups for parents who have attended or are attending the Conscious Parenting and Active Parenting trainings.

You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and YouTube. If you are having trouble finding us, please call Social Media Coordinator Carrie Haver at 740-397-1344, ext. 201.

Fire Alarms and Escape Planning

October is National Fire Prevention month. We want all of our families to be safe. Some fire facts:

• Three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms were not working.
• Only one out of three American households actually has an escape plan and practices it.
• A majority of Americans think they would have six minutes or less to escape before a fire becomes life-threatening.
• The time is often much less.
• Most of our Head start centers do field trips to the fire station and if smoke detectors are available we bring them back for our families.

Please consider these tips if you have not already incorporated them into your home:

Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area, every level of the home, and in the basement.

Place them on the ceiling or high on the wall. Test alarms once a month and replace batteries twice a year (it’s helpful to use the time change as a reminder).

Replace all alarms when they are 10 years old.

Make a home escape plan with a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with your household and practice it, especially at night in the dark.

Know two ways out of every room. Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from the home where everyone will meet.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS:

• Get out and stay out. NEVER go back for people or pets.
• If you have to escape through smoke, go low and go under the smoke to your way out.
• Call the fire department from outside your home.

Sign Up for SchoolConnects!

To receive text messages regarding parent events, center closings, and classroom updates from KCHS, just text the word JOIN to 56360. It is that simple!

Are You a Head Start Alumnus?

There is a new online community you may wish to be a part of if you previously attended Head Start or if your child attends Head Start. This worldwide network spreads awareness, pride, and fellowship while encouraging professional growth among Head Start’s 32 million graduates. A monthly e-newsletter, “Connections,” will keep you informed about what they are doing to keep the Head Start window of opportunity open for future generations and what your fellow alumni are doing in the US and around the world.

You can join the National Head Start Alumni Network online at: www.nhsa.org/national-head-start-alumni-network

Follow the network on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/OurHeadStart/