

# FAMILY NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Help Your Child Learn To Read	Page 2
Checking For Choking Hazard	Page 2
Never Left Alone in Car	Page 2
What Will My Child Learn?	Page 3
Making Choices	Page 3
Matching Game	Page 3
Living History Farms-	Page 4

**If you would like more information about the Drake University Head Start Policy Council, talk to your Family Engagement Specialist, Home Visitor, or Teaching Staff.**

## SCRIBBLING IS IMPORTANT!

The more children scribble, the more they learn about print. Just as children crawl before they walk, children scribble before they print.



**Your child's first writing will look like scribbles.**

Here is how writing develops:

1. Children's first marks will look like scribbles.
2. Soon their marks will be replaced by letter-like

marks.  
3. Then letters appear.  
Early writing is not about learning to properly form letters.

It is about practice. Make writing fun. Praise your child generously, just as you did

when they were learning to talk.

A final note- this process takes a L O N G time.



## POLICY COUNCIL

Parents share in the decisions made in Head Start. A group that helps to make decisions is the Policy Council.

- ⇒ You could serve on this group.
- ⇒ The group meets the second Tuesday of the month.



⇒ Talk to your Family Engagement Specialist, Home Visitor, or Teaching Staff if you would like

more information about the Policy Council.

Your voice is very important to Head Start.

## READING TO YOUR CHILD

**Ask your child questions about the book.**

Ask your child questions about the book.

The way that we read to children is as important as how much we read.

When looking at books with your children, ask them questions about the story and the pictures.

Questions could be:



“What is the dog doing?”  
or  
“Where are the kittens?”

Questions like these encourage children to become involved in the book. The most important part of the activity is to help your child use words.

Children learn most when they can be involved.

## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS LABEL?

**Drop small toys through a paper-towel or toilet paper tube.**

**If the toy drops through, it may be a choking hazard and could be dangerous to small children.**



Avoid choking hazards by buying toys appropriate for your child's age.



Items small enough to fit in a toilet paper roll are too small for kids younger than 3 years old to play with.



**Children should never be left alone while dropping off or picking up at Early Head Start or Head Start.**

## CHILDREN NEVER LEFT ALONE IN CAR!

Children should never be left alone in the car, even for a short period of time such as dropping off or picking up at Early Head Start or Head Start. If you have younger children, staff can help you identify ways to drop off and pick up so that no one is left in the car.

It is tempting to leave children in the car while running a quick errand.

Before you do, think twice. Stop and think about what could happen.

Accidents happen within moments of leaving a child alone.

Even if you will only be gone a few seconds, children should not be left alone in the car.

## YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

The curriculum used by Head Start is called the *Creative Curriculum*. The *Creative Curriculum* is based on objectives for development and learning that focus on all the areas that are most important for school success:

- social-emotional
- cognitive
- math
- literacy
- physical
- language
- social studies
- science and technology
- the arts

These objectives are built into every activity that happens in the classroom, which means that all day long, the teacher is helping your child build skills and knowledge in these important areas.

Your child's teacher will engage your child in meaningful experiences, such as playing with toys, enjoying books and stories, creating art, and going outdoors. In each of these experiences, teachers observe what children do and select materials that match their growing abilities and interests.



This is a picture of the dramatic play center. When children engage in dramatic play they deepen their understanding of the world.

## MAKING CHOICES

Children love to make choices. By making small choices when they can, it is often easier for them to go along when there is no choice. Making choices gives children a sense of power.



Would you like:

- ⇒ The red shirt or the blue shirt to wear
- ⇒ Orange juice or apple juice to drink
- ⇒ Strawberry yogurt

There are many ways that children can help to make decisions. Parents can provide two choices and have their child pick one. Examples might be:

- ⇒ or vanilla yogurt to eat
- ⇒ This book or that book to read
- ⇒ Make sure choices are available and appropriate.



Which book would you like to read?

## MATCHING NUMBER GAME

Try this simple number matching activity for kids using cupcake liners and paper.

You will need:

- Paper
- Pen
- Cupcake liners

1. Use the cupcake liners to trace

as many circles as you would like.

2. Write the numbers on the bottom of the liner and in the middle of the circles you have drawn.
3. Let your child match the liner to the circle on the paper.



## Drake University Head Start

3800 Merle Hay Road Suite 323  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Phone: 515-271-1854  
Fax: 515-635-0716

[www.drakeheadstart.org](http://www.drakeheadstart.org)



**HEAD START:**  
Educating Kids,  
Empowering Families,  
Changing Communities

## Living History Farms

For information about  
job  
opportunities at  
Drake University  
Head Start  
go to  
[www.drake.edu/hr/](http://www.drake.edu/hr/)

Day at Living History Farms!



Sat., Oct. 1

Please join us on  
October 1 from 9:00 a.m.  
to 3:30 p.m.

**Each enrolled child in  
Drake University Head  
Start or Early Head Start  
and one adult will be  
admitted free.**

Admission for  
other family  
members will be **6.00** each.

Children **1 year** and under  
are free.