



# Oahe Child Development Center

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## **Early Head Start & Head Start News**

[www.oahechild.com](http://www.oahechild.com)

September/October 2011

### Head Start/Early Head Start Resources

Greetings from Cindy and Mandy,

We are the Family & Community Partnership Specialists for the Head Start/Early Head Start program. Part of our job is to provide resources to families. There is an awesome website called [militaryonesource.com](http://militaryonesource.com) that is intended to assist anyone that has connections to the military. Please check it out if you are interested!

We also have a parent room at the Pierre Center, located straight in the main entrance and to the left-- Room # 117. The parent room is a great resource and offers a phone to make local calls and a computer with internet access. There is a lost and found drawer, so if you are missing gloves, hats, etc., please check in there. Policy Council and Board Meeting Minutes are posted, as well as brochures on various subjects. A parent library cabinet containing self help books and videos are also available for check-out.

The parent room is available for use Monday – Thursday 7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Congratulations to the Newly Elected 2011-2012 Oahe Child Development Policy Council**

**Mellette County:** Trista Olsen

**Hyde County:** Michelle Carey

**Sully County:** Peggy Barber (Vice Chair)

**Jones County:** Angie Dolloff

**Hughes & Stanley County:** Angela Hertel, Katey McGruder, Amy Leetch, Darrell Moffit (chair), Jennifer Schrempp (Secretary), and Jamie Rolf

**Community Representatives:** Kristie Maher and Janice Lucas

We are off to a great start to our program year. The staff is excited to have children back in the buildings and see the families on a daily basis. At Oahe Child Development, we try to always encourage family involvement. We believe that if we can get parents involved in their child's education at a young age, that pattern will carry on throughout the child's educational years. Evidence of studies of the power of parent involvement is clear and convincing! It does matter! Some benefits of parent involvement that carry on throughout the child's educational years are listed below:

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Children enroll in more challenging academic programs
- Better school attendance
- Improved behavior at home and school
- Increased motivation and better self-esteem
- Greater enrollment in post-high school education

We are proud of the Oahe Child Development programs. Our annual report, which tells about our program, is available on our website at [www.oahechild.com](http://www.oahechild.com). If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy, please call and we will get a copy to you.

**Tri Co. 1**  
**Miss Lisa**

In the Combination Option Classroom, we have been learning about our five senses. As a listening activity the children decorated two foam cups with stickers then we put either beans, cut up straws, buttons, or beads in the cups. After the activity was finished, we gathered in a circle and made music. The children loved to listen to their cups and their friend's cups to hear what was inside of them. Other activities included painting with different tools (sight) and making applesauce (taste).

Also in the classroom, we've been learning about our daily routines such as circle time, free play, outside time, breakfast/lunch and group time. The children have made wonderful progress since the beginning of the year. We are excited to get to know your children more as they continue to grow.



**Pierre Center Class A**  
**Miss Annette/Miss Karen**

Class A started off a new school year. The class has been learning rules and following routines of the classroom. Each student is a part of the classroom doing jobs we call our "School Family Jobs".



We also learned about bus safety, pedestrian safety, and currently we are working on fire safety.



Our class made applesauce. They peeled, measured, and tasted the home-made applesauce. Yum! Yum!

Thank you for sharing your child with us as we look forward to a great school year!



## Jones County Head Start/Preschool Early Head Start—Miss Misti

AND WE ARE OFF!!!

We are off to a great start for our new year here in Jones County. We finally have a playground to play on and even have had the nice weather to use it. This year we have 27 children between the Head Start and Preschool program. We have an awesome bunch of children with lots of energy.



Some of the things we are learning here in Jones County are getting to know our friends, the letters A and B, counting, and just the routines of school. We are looking forward to our first Family Fun and Food Night on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Our parent topic will be taking back control and the children will be playing Minute to Win It.



## Early Head Start Miss Nerissa

Early Head Start has gotten off to a great start this year! We have lots of new families enrolled in our program and



are excited to get to know everyone. We have a new home visitor joining us this year. Her



name is Brita and she is working with five of our Early Head Start families in the Pierre - Ft. Pierre area. She is also a teacher's aid in the combination option classroom. We also have Miss Kristin and Miss

Nerissa serving 11 families each. Kristin serves families in Pierre, Ft. Pierre, Blunt, Onida and Harrold. Nerissa serves families in the Pierre-Ft. Pierre area.



Our first social this year was walking in the Pierre homecoming parade. We had a good number of families come out to



help support Head Start and the Pierre Governors. Our second social had a great turnout as well, we made pinecone

bird feeders and the children had a great time playing and getting to know each other. We are excited to see what the year has in store for us!

## Legos and Play dough: Summer Fun Activities!

By Bonnie Reimers; Education Specialist

(based on research from the Nat'l Association of Child Care Professionals.)

The winter soon will be upon us! We know with our South Dakota weather there will be some chilly days or some days that are just plain too cold to be outside. When the outside keeps your child inside, you can enhance your child's fine motor skills with just two FUN materials, play dough and Legos! Among the many skills learned through playing with play dough and Legos is the development of strength and dexterity in hands. Simply through rolling, pinching and shaping play dough, children develop strength in finger and wrist muscles. Connecting Legos together develops hand muscles and the pincher grasp, the touching of the thumb and fingers that is necessary for holding and controlling pens, pencils, silverware, brushes and other tools. Children can experiment with these materials however they like. Along with fine motor skill development they provide opportunities for problem solving and experimentation of many math-related skills.

Play dough can be made or purchased. There are many great recipes available! If you need one, ask your child's teacher. Legos are an investment, but one worth making. Both are guaranteed to provide hours of enjoyment while building fine motor skills and cognitive development.

## Greetings!

We have started off the school year with great attention: with our attention-scopes that is! I have had the opportunity to visit every classroom and teach how we can use our "attention-scopes" to focus our attention on those who are talking as well as ways to build listening skills (eye watching, ears listening, voices quite, bodies calm). Ask your child about these skills and use them at home.

In addition to spending time in the classroom, I have been trying to get lots of requested information out to parents. If you have not yet received information you have requested, please know it is coming. You can always call and request information or inquire about different services (counseling, domestic violence, etc.) for which I can refer you. Please be aware that Common Sense Parenting class will begin October 18<sup>th</sup>. These classes are free if you mention your child attends Head Start. Call 224-3189 for more information.



Tip: Reduce stress by: decreasing clutter and noise in your environment, have 10 minutes of quiet time a day, go for a walk, and regularly reward yourself for jobs well done. If you don't remember stressed spelled backwards is desserts!

Amy Stephens, M.S  
Behavioral/Mental Health Specialist

If you ever feel you may have missed a SchoolReach voice message or just want to check to be sure, you can dial our Message Retrieval Line. From whichever phone(s) you want to check for messages to, dial toll-free: 855-955-8500 and follow the prompts to hear any/all messages sent through School Reach over the last 30 days. Please contact the school if you suspect your phone number is not being called by the system or if you ever have a change of number.