

Newsletter

June 2023



by **Dr. Latisha Smith**, Educational Services Director

Hello, families! As I wrap up my first full year as the Educational Services Director at Tri-County, there is much to celebrate. All of our staff enjoyed the opportunity to partner with you in your child's care, learning, and growth throughout the year. We thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives during the important early childhood years. For those of you with children transitioning out of our programs, we hope you enjoy summer and wish you the best as your child begins kindergarten or transitions to a different care setting. For those of you with children continuing at Maywood, at one of our partner child care centers, or in our home visiting program, we look forward to more learning and fun during the summer months!

Here are a few highlights from last month and exciting things to look forward to in June:

- *Tri-County Head Start is piloting meal service to the Hawkeye Community College Child Development Center, one of our ECC Partners. Special thanks to Lyz, Tracey, Kandie, and Collin for making this happen!*
- *Tracey arranged for several teachers to receive training on gardening lessons with a special guest, Kathryn Gilbery with Black Hawk County Public Health. Kathryn will help teachers deliver lessons throughout the summer and potentially into the next school year. We are excited to offer this opportunity to our teaching staff and children at Maywood!*



- *At our April Professional Development Day, all Early Head Start teachers received a new CLASS® Infant and Toddler Social Emotional Kit. Each*



kit contains items that assist teachers in helping young children understand and regulate their emotions and behaviors. The kits are directly linked to CLASS® observations. We are excited at the potential for more positive outcomes

that result from new ideas and resources offered through the kits!

Finally, I would like to share data from Round 2 CLASS® observations. In total, there were 59 observations in our EHS (Maywood and Lily only) classrooms and HS (agency-wide) classrooms. These observations examine teacher-child interactions in the classroom including positive relationships among teachers and children, enjoyment, engagement, problem solving, and language skills.

- *For infant classrooms (Maywood and Lily only), the overall score in responsive caregiving increased from 4.82 out of 7 to 5.25.*
- *For toddler classrooms (Maywood and Lily only), the overall score for emotional and behavioral support slightly decreased from 6.12 out of 7 to 6.06 while there was a small increase from 4.66 out of 7 to 4.73 for engaged support for learning.*
- *The overall scores for preschool classrooms (agency-wide) either remained the same or decreased slightly. More specifically, emotional support remained at 6.13 out of 7. Classroom organization decreased from 5.67 out of 7 to 5.61 and instructional support decreased from 3.88 out of 7 to 3.73.*

We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our teachers this year. We also want to recognize the work of the Program Managers as they observed and offered support to teachers. While some scores did increase, several decreased as well. We know there is more work to do. We see CLASS® as a valuable tool for providing feedback and ongoing support to ensure quality

interactions are consistently evident in all of our classrooms. During Preservice Professional Development Week in August, we plan to offer Introduction to CLASS® sessions. We are excited to begin the year with this content and look forward to the potential it holds for both teachers and the children we serve.

National Head Start Conference 2023

The NHSA Conference took place in Phoenix, Arizona in May. Dr. Robert Welch, Dr. Latisha Smith, Lyz Schmitz, and Tracey Sauke attended the conference. Lyz and Tracey had the opportunity to showcase Tri-County as presenters of a session titled, Building a Comprehensive Nutrition Program: Tying Together CACFP and Farm to ECE. They highlighted our agency’s efforts to help children access nutritious and locally grown foods so they are ready to learn and grow. Farm to school and early care activities focus on classroom education through hands-on learning related to food, health, agriculture, and nutrition. Thank you to our entire nutrition team (Tracy, Lyz, Kandie, and Collin) for all they do for the children we serve!



Important Dates

Closed for Staff Appreciation, *June 1*

Closed for Teacher Workday, *June 2*

Summer Consolidated Care Begins, *June 5*

Agency Closed for Juneteenth Holiday, *June 19*

Policy Council Meeting, *June 26 from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm*



Summer Fun at the Waterloo Public Library!



Use the link below to access the online registration form for the Youth Summer Reading Program at the Waterloo Public Library. Starting June 5th (and after you've registered online), please come to the library to pick up your activity pack and one free book. Make it a great summer by reading every day!

<https://live-waterloopl.pantheonsite.io/youth-summer-library-program>

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Lily

by **Dusty Olson**, Program Manager

We wrapped up our normal school year last week. This has been a very exciting year. We have seen amazing growth in your children. The families, children, and staff made Lily a great place to be! As we move to summer session and next year, take some time to reflect on how much your little ones have changed and grown. We are proud of their accomplishments as well as your accomplishments as families.

The agency completed improvements to our Lily site including the trike track and new materials in the classrooms to support social and emotional development. We are excited for more things to come this summer and next year!

For those of you not joining us this summer, have a great time and we will see you in the fall or in the Waterloo Schools. For those families who are with us this summer, we will see you at Maywood on June 5th!

As we head into summer, it is important to remember a child's learning never takes a break. Make sure to look for opportunities to continue to foster this growth when you can. This might be going for a walk and talking about what you see, getting a library card and checking out books or taking advantage of summer reading program activities, or going to the park or local playground for some fun in the sun. Regularly reading to a child, perhaps prior to bedtime, is a great way to work on language development and conversations, as well as develop a better understanding of the world around us.

Again, thank you everyone for being a part of our program and our Head Start family. Have a great summer!



Donovan and Drew are working at the tool bench in the Gentle Giraffes Room (Lily A).



It was mustache Friday in the Furry Friends classroom (Lily B).



Back in the fall, the Kangaroo Krew (Lily C) designed and carved their jack-o-lantern. It is amazing how much they have grown!

Brighton, Hunter and Fernando enjoyed playing in the sand on the last few days of school in the Lively Lions classroom (Lily-D).



Waterloo Schools

by **Ashley Caldwell**, Program Manager

Happenings

Wow! The school year has ended, and it feels like it flew by so fast! It was amazing to see the great strides and gains your child has made in their academic and social-emotional progress. Many of our classrooms had the experience of seeing caterpillars turn into butterflies, as well as seeing chicks hatch. The excitement they expressed was contagious! I found myself just as

excited when I was visiting! Our classroom locations held their end of the year celebrations and families came to celebrate the accomplishments of their young learners.

Reminders

For our 3 year old parents, please make sure to look for information coming in the mail from your child's teacher in the fall. If you have questions or need more assistance, please call 319-235-0383.

At Home Activities

Summer can be filled with so many fun and exciting things to do! Visiting the local libraries, Grout Museum, Phelps Youth Pavilion, and even your own neighborhood, will give learning a whole new meaning. Reading books about going to kindergarten, seeing the amazing science activities at the Imaginarium, and also taking walks and engaging in planting and gardening are just a few of the many learning activities you can do while having fun!

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Maywood

by **Angie Barth and Haley Bradford**, Program Manager



MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

- June 1st and 2nd we are closed for Staff Appreciation and a Teacher Work Day to get rooms ready for summer.
- June 5th will be the first day of consolidated care at Maywood for the summer.

CENTER HAPPENINGS

- This past month we celebrated some of our agency's graduates in a class graduation ceremony! Some of our students will be taking their next step in their education journey and attend Kindergarten in the fall and we couldn't be more excited for them! Thank you to all the families that came out to support their children!

AT-HOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Waterloo Public Library Summer Reading Program
 - The reading program is starting up with many free activities to take part in! Access the website [here](#) so you can attend with your family.
- Become familiar with the community. Waterloo offers a handful of activities and events this summer that are completely free! Access what's going on this summer through this [link](#).
- Sunscreen Activity
 - Teach the importance of sunscreen by using sunscreen to "paint" on construction paper. Leave the paper out in the sun and come back a few hours later to see what happens!

REMINDERS

- Wear your sunscreen!
- Teach your children a plan in case they get lost. Help them learn to repeat their full name, your full name, and your phone number so that they can get help to return home.

Health

by **Pauline Jones**, Head Start/Early Head Start Health Coordinator; Shana Smith and Darcie Stone, UnityPoint Contracted Nurses

Emergency First Aid



Download the free Red Cross First Aid App to receive emergency information about what to do in case of an emergency as well as hospital locations and quizzes. Locate the app in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

Other great first aid steps you can take this month:

- Take training in first aid, CPR, or AED. Knowing how to spot symptoms and perform emergency aid can save a life. Contact your local fire department or Red Cross to learn what classes are available in your area. Many of these classes are free!
- Did you know you can take pet first aid? Pets require different types of first aid, and different first aid kit items. Learn how to help your furry friend in an emergency.
- Teach young children in your house how to call 911 and what to tell the dispatcher.



First Aid Kit Supplies Kit

<https://www.cdc.gov>

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic first aid supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- *Ace bandages*
- *Adhesive tape roll*
- *Antibiotic ointment*
- *Aspirin*
- *Band-Aids in assorted sizes*
- *Cold pack*
- *Cotton swabs*
- *Disposable gloves*
- *Gauze*
- *Hand sanitizer*
- *Hydrogen peroxide to wash and disinfect wounds*
- *Needle and thread*
- *Plastic bag*
- *Safety pins*
- *Sanitary napkins*

- Scissors and tweezers
 - Splinting materials
 - Thermometer
 - And don't forget medications!
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Nutrition

by **Tracey Sauke**, Dietitian

- In May we got to explore and taste radishes! Our June focus food is strawberries! We will make our own strawberry parfaits.

For more nutrition information make sure to check out our [June Nutrition News](#) featuring:

- Dairy: Why Include in Your Child's Diet
- In-Kind Credit Opportunities: Visit a Strawberry Farm, Track Family Meals
- June Menu

For helpful nutrition resources don't miss:

- [Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Nutrition](#)
- [Breastfeeding Mothers Guide](#)
- [Infant Nutrition](#)
- [Toddler Nutrition](#)
- [Preschooler Nutrition](#)



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