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Dear Parents

I'm hoping that your child has adjusted to his/her new environment by now. Normally by the second or third week you can see and feel and hear the difference in your child's demeanor. Please take time to visit your child's Head Start Center to observe the interaction that takes place during the day. Developing in a setting with children their own age is also motivational for children. They enjoy learning with each other. A meal tastes so much better when they are eating family style and learning about new foods that are introduced to them. Small group activities and large group activities help children listen, and follow direc-

tions. Children also develop their social skills when they share their lessons, hopes, and dreams with each other and teachers. The teachers cannot replace you as a parent, but they eventually gain the trust and love of your child. When you have any questions or concerns about your child, about the activities at the center or you want to make any recommendations please contact the center's area manager. If you do not get answers to your concerns/questions please feel free to contact the Family Services Department in the main office at (956) 399-9944. Your input is very valuable to us. I again encourage

you to visit your local Head Start Center and take advantage of the local training opportunities that NINOS, Inc. offers. I share with you that we are 580 employees, and 44% (255 employees) are former/present Head Start/EHS parents. Vacancies are posted at the centers and I encourage you to apply for vacant positions. Have a good year and this will not be the last time you hear from me.

Sinceramente

Community Partners: Early Head Start and Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

All children are different and learn at their own pace. Positive early experiences are essential prerequisites for later success. It is important to notice when your children begin to learn new skills to determine their developmental progress or possible developmental delays. Young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays benefit from early intervention from at early age.

The ECI program provides intervention services to children from birth to 3 years of age to minimize potential developmental delay and

improve outcomes for children, families, and communities. NINOS, Inc. Early Head Start Program partners with two ECI programs in the Cameron and Willacy Counties. Region One serves infants and toddlers in Brownsville and Port Isabel, while Easter Seals ECI services infants and toddlers in the other areas of Cameron and Willacy.

If you want to learn more about ECI and the services they provide, ask your family service worker or visit the pro-

gram website:
www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/serachprogram.asp

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION



Making a Difference: Reading to Your Child

As a parent, you have the ability to improve your children's learning potential simply by making books a part of their everyday lives. Regardless of which languages your children are learning, reading helps build the foundation for language and literacy. Reading books together can be a fun way to help your children increase their attention span and vocabulary as they learn about new concepts. You can find a variety of books in English and Spanish at the Parent's Lending Library at each of the NINOS, Inc. centers.

Parents are their children's first teacher, and the parents can help

make reading a special experience with your children.



NINOS Needs your In-Kind!

Please be reminded that in order for continued funding all Head Start/Early Head Start programs are mandated to match 20% of their grant with non-federal monies (in-kind). The agency requires every center to collect in-kind according to its enrollment. There are many ways parents can help the agency meet the 20% match. Parents are encouraged to volunteer, but first parents must meet the volunteer guidelines to be in the classroom. Any non-classroom activity such as homework assignments, dona-

tions for use at the center, cutting the grass, painting the center, attending center committee meetings, attending HSPC meetings and other activities which are allowable can be documented as in-kind. Please check with the area manager for guidance. It is very important that all parents volunteer and help the agency reach this goal in order to keep Head Start/Early Head Start in existence. The community also contributes by not charging rent at several sites or charging a mini-

mal amount so the agency can document some of the monetary value of the rental fee. Also, presenters that give their time at meetings or trainings are also considered as in-kind. The amount that must be reached this year for Head Start is \$4,675,000 and for Early is \$555,000 for a total of 5,230,000.

The agency must reach this goal by the end of the fiscal year March 31, 2016. Please check at your child's center to view the amount that has been collected.

Commissioner Garza reads to Port Isabel Children

As part of October Awareness Month, NINOS, Inc. invited elected officials and community leaders to read to and interact with the children. Mrs. Maria de Jesus Garza, "MJ" Port Isabel's City Commissioner Place 2 visited

the Esperanza B. Garza Head Start. She read "The Four Elements of Fire" to the children. Ms. Garza is a retired educator from the Point Isabel Independent School District.

