

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Week of the Young Child Starts Monday

Charleston, SC – Each year, the National Association for the Education of Young Children celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers, and families with the Week of the Young Child™. This year's Week of the Young Child is April 8-12, 2019.

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Sites throughout Charleston County School District (CCSD) are set to participate in activities meant to inspire, encourage, and educate children and their parents in a variety of methods. Each day has a theme, such as music, working together, and the importance of family.

"This annual celebration of young children is an opportunity for the community to visit early childhood sites/centers/classrooms and see first-hand the nurturing, creative and stimulating activities that take place on a daily basis," said Ruth Taylor, CCSD's Executive Director of Early Learning. "It is important for us to forge collaborations with the community so they better understand how to support/advocate for exemplary comprehensive programs."

For example, at Ladson Head Start on Monday, the students and staff will create musical instruments by using materials like rocks and sand. On Tuesday at A.C. Corcoran's site, families will send in their favorite healthy recipe, and the staff will work with the students to put together a class family recipe book. Midland Park Primary students will have the opportunity make a maze on Wednesday; that same day at St. James-Santee Head Start/Early Head Start, children will be able to plant flowers. On Thursday, West Ashley Head Start students are scheduled to make "crazy" hats. Ladson Head Start will close out the week on Friday with Family Fun Day where parents can participate in games like sack races and bean bag tossing.

"In order to have students 'ready' to access the curriculum, we must also address core issues such as mental health (social/emotional), physical health and nutrition, parent engagement, and family support," added Taylor. "We must embrace that these young children are our future and will yield a positive 'return on investment' if supports and experiences are given and sustained at an early age."

Media outlets are also invited to attend the Week of the Young Child opening ceremony Monday, April 8, 2019 at 9:15 a.m. at West Ashley Head Start located at 1401 Ashley River Road, Charleston, SC 29407. The City of Charleston's Mayor Pro Tempore, Peter Shahid, will deliver a proclamation at the event.

For more information about the Week of the Young Child, contact CCSD's Head Start/Early Head Start Director, Dena Davis, at (843) 937-6342.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.