

NCWVCAA HS/EHS Nutrition and Safety September Newsletter

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Topics Discussed

- * Building a Culture of Safety When Transporting Children
- *Hunger Action Month
- *Safety Preparedness as a Family



Transporting Children Safely

At NCWVCAA, we are taking transporting of children safely a **#1 priority!** We are **“Building A Culture of Safety”** when transporting children on the school bus or when a parent is transporting their own children. Bus Drivers and Bus Aides must adhere to NCWVCAA policies and procedures, HS Performance Standards, as well as state and national regulations and requirements in training. All staff received training on Active Supervision and discuss Attention Management, Attitude, and Stress. All these systems as well as monitoring will have a positive outcome when transporting children safely.

Active Supervision is a redundant system NCWVCAA HS/EHS apply to know the whereabouts of the children the entire time they are in the staff’s care. Bus Drivers, Bus Aides, Teachers and any other applicable staff utilize Daily Sign In/Out Forms during transitions starting from the Bus or a Parent Transport and is used throughout the entire day. Staff set up their environment to be able to see and hear all children at all times. The staff will position or “use zoning” as a way to keep children safe and be able to anticipate behaviors and engage and redirect. Staff must utilize Supervision

ID Cards and a white board as another system to use visually to scan, count and confirm counts of all the children.

Attention Management is a way to identify and limit distraction while transporting children, setting priorities and staying focused. Staff assessed these areas to be able to understand how to manage their attention more effectively to ensure the children are transported safely. Staff also understand that their attitude and stress impacts their driving, feelings, how others interact with them, and the children. Staff identified factors of stress and discussed ways to positively handle stress.

It is also very essential for families to understand the importance of keeping their children safe when they are transporting them. Along with Active Supervision Training, parents receive training on transportation procedures such as loading and unloading procedures. Parents also are given information on policies and procedures for releasing to authorized adults, pick up/drop off procedures, car seat safety, and understanding the importance of never leaving their child alone in a vehicle.

Building a culture of safety for transporting children takes everyone being responsible! With continuous trainings for parents and staff, monitoring, redundant systems and updating policies and procedures, NCWVCAA HS/EHS will provide an environment for all children to be able to learn and grow safely. If staff or families have any questions regarding safe transportation contact the Safety Program Specialist or Education Program Specialist for assistance.



September is Hunger Action Month

It's a simple fact: A child's chance for a bright tomorrow starts with getting enough healthy food to eat today. But in America, 1 out of 6 children may not know where they will get their next meal. Across the U.S., over 13 million children face hunger.

Feeding America is an organization that works to help in this cause. September is recognized as Hunger Action Month to increase the awareness about the hunger issues child and their families face. Children facing hunger are more likely to repeat a grade in elementary school, experience developmental impairments from lack of nutrients, and may experience social and behavioral problems.

The Feeding America nationwide network of food banks secures and distributes 4 billion meals each year through pantries and meal programs throughout the U.S. and leads the nation to engage in the fight against hunger. If your family is struggling with hunger visit www.feedingamerica.org to search for local food banks in your area.

Be Safe and Healthy: Plan for Emergencies

As a parent and caregiver, one of the jobs you do best is keeping your family healthy and safe. If you are like many people, some issues can feel overwhelming, like thinking about emergencies or disasters.

Head Start staff are here to help you plan, prepare, and recover if there is an emergency. Therefore, we share with you our plans for what we would do and how we would communicate with you if an emergency happens.

Please make sure we have your current emergency contact information. This is key for helping communicate with you in case of an emergency. It helps us share important information that will help keep your child safe.

If any of your contact information has changed (Did you get a new job? Change your phone number?

Move to a new location?), let us know, and we will update our records.

HS/EHS classrooms practice monthly emergency evacuation drills including but not limited to fire, tornado, flood, etc.

Each child in a center-based site has an evacuation kit of their own, to ensure the children get the necessities they need in an emergency.

We are also here to suggest materials you may need for your own emergency plans and supply kits.

<https://www.ready.gov/kids/make-a-plan>

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If you want to know more about how to provide support to your family or receive help in planning or coping with emergencies, let us know. We are here to help keep your family safe and healthy.



September 15-21, 2019 is Child Passenger Safety Week. To celebrate this week, look for community agencies that can help provide safety checks on your existing car seats or if you are need of one there are other agencies you can contact. For checks go to local fire departments, police departments, or your car insurance agency. Did you know, car seats have an expiration? They do... 6 years from the manufactured date. So if you are have one, check the label on the seat. If you are in need of assistance finding agencies in your community, please contact your Family Resource Coordinator or Family Educator. For more information on car seat and passenger safety visit www.nhtsa.gov

If you have question regarding nutrition or safety, please contact:

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