



ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF
FAMILY ENRICHMENT NETWORK

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Head Start and Early Head Start Continue to Serve Our Community

Head Start and Early Head Start have enriched the community throughout the pandemic with services and programming to meet the needs of our preschool children and their families. Dating back to March 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Head Start managers and their teams planned for remote services for our Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families. Services were individualized to best meet the needs and interests of each of our 507 children and their families in Broome and Tioga Counties. Families received regular early childhood activities through the just established FEN Kids Facebook Page and Zoom classroom, and packets were regularly delivered or mailed to families with learning activities and resources. Families participated in virtual and remote home visits. Parents received needed resources in the form of diapers, pull-ups, wipes, and formula. These strictly remote services and programming continued until we reopened our program in July 2020.

In addition to the virtual offerings that were conducted throughout the spring months, the program developed new health and safety protocols and then educated staff and informed families to ensure that children, families, and staff were prepared for the program to reopen.

We conducted a one-time Head Start Summer Program for kindergarten bound children, and served children at our Cherry Street and Owego Centers. The summer program offered this six-week program to 64 children. Early Head Start reopened in July, and 128 infants and toddlers were served with an in-person program. Our 16 pregnant women participated in virtual and remote programming throughout the summer.

We used information from our summer program to ensure proper planning for the 2020-2021 Program Year, and we have successfully maintained in-person, virtual/remote, and hybrid programming at all eight centers in Broome and Tioga Counties. We appreciate our staff's dedication and our families involvement as we continue to work through the challenges of COVID-19.

To learn more about Head Start and Early Head Start, and to read the Family Enrichment Network Reopening Plan, visit our website at www.familyenrichment.org