

Early Language & Literacy Coalition Update



Happy Head Start Awareness Month

During the month of October, Head Start is celebrated across the nation to commemorate the positive impact it has on the lives of our children. Head Start operates on the premise that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to reach their full potential. Enrichment Services Program's Early Head Start and Head Start programs provide comprehensive education, health, nutrition and family support services that prepare Chattahoochee Valley children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond, making a life-long impact!

In celebration of Head Start Awareness Month, Enrichment Services Program is inviting community partners to be a 'Champion of Literacy'. Champions, here is the opportunity to virtually read your favorite children's book. This opportunity is each Thursday in the month of October at 10am. For more information, please contact Leona Watts-Barrow at lwatts@espcaa.org. [Follow this link to locate local early learning centers near you.](#)

Sharing The Basics

Here are some tips to spread the word to interested people:

- Bring up The Basics in conversations with your friends and family
- Watch, share and discuss The Basics videos with your colleagues, friends, and family
- Like, follow, and share posts from The Basics Chattahoochee Valley Facebook and Instagram pages
- Take pictures and videos of you using The Basics with children in your life to share on your social media channels
- Include links to The Basics Chattahoochee Valley website in your organization's email newsletter at cv.thebasics.org
- Create an organizational plan to incorporate The Basics in your programming with your clients

For questions, contact Grace Nagel at gnagel@unitedwayofthecv.org

Visit The Basics
Website

Find Us on
Facebook

Find Us on
Instagram



Celebration of Pre-K

Children enrolled in Pre-K demonstrate significant growth across all domains of learning, including language and literacy skills, general knowledge, math skills, and behavioral skills. Research also shows that simple, everyday interactions with young children — talking, reading and singing — can build their vocabularies, prepare them for school and lay a strong foundation for lifelong learning. As a community, we recognize the benefits of early learning and the impact it has on the child's life. Thank you to all of the early learning educators of Chattahoochee Valley! You help students have a great start and positive learning experiences.

[Muscogee County Schools](#)

[Phenix City Schools](#)

[Harris County Schools](#)

[Enrichment Services](#)



**Attendance
Works**

Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

Student Attendance and Engagement

During the coronavirus pandemic, it is critical for children to stay connected with school and continue learning. Monitoring when students miss opportunities to learn — whether in person or through virtual classrooms — is an invaluable tool for strengthening the efforts of educators, community partners and families to reduce the adverse impact of this pandemic on our community's school children. Attendance Works provides valuable resources and tools to help all sectors of the community promote school attendance and engagement. Everyone in our community can help students feel safe, connected, and engaged. Follow the links for



Healthy Homes, Healthy Families Project

Has sheltering in place and quarantine orders lead to weight gain or unhealthy eating habits?

Emory's Prevention Research Center has created an opportunity for families to create a healthy home environment. This intervention is designed to prevent weight gain by modifying the home environment. Coaches work with families to make changes in their home so that both their social and physical home environments are more supportive of healthy eating. All participants will be asked to complete nine 30 min. telephone interviews over a 9- month period. Some participants will work with a health coach to help make their home more supportive of healthy eating. All participants will receive a reloadable gift card for their time!

Eligible participants must:

- Be 18 to 70 years of age
- Be the only person enrolled in your home
- Not be pregnant
- Speak and understand English

This study is being conducted by:

Dr. Michelle C. Kegler
Director, Emory Prevention Research Center
1518 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30322

Call 2-1-1 or Text your zip code to 898-211 today to see if you're eligible!



Community Schools United

Community Schools is a proven strategy for increasing student success and strengthening families and community. United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley is excited to announce the launch of Community Schools United and the selection of Dorothy Height Elementary as the first school for full-service implementation.

Community Schools United focuses on the whole child by providing academic support, social emotional learning, health and wellness, family and community engagement and a safe and supportive climate.

The first Community Schools Director, Pam Romero said, "I am eager to bring the vision of the Community School strategy and United Way's mission together to remove barriers to learning and better serve our students, families, schools and communities in need." Pam grew up in a Community School in Harlem, New York. She has previously served as a Community School Coordinator in Maryland.

RESOURCES



Meeting Community Needs

2-1-1 is here to provide help when you need it the most.

Have you lost your job or looking for after school programs for your children?

Access to food during the pandemic?

Information about testing for COVID-19?

Simply dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898-211 to be linked to thousands of different types of community services, resources, and volunteer opportunities.

[Resources for families who are facing hardships.](#)

WEBINARS



Conversations on Early Childhood
"Transformational Equity"
A Conversation with Heather McGhee
October 23, 2020
11:30AM-1:30PM



Transformational Equity

As a part of the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) Speaker Series, Heather McGhee, a nationally recognized equity-focused policy expert, will speak about the role of transformational equity in expanding opportunities for individuals, families, and organizations.

McGhee examines how racism produces negative impacts on the economy for everyone, and how racial healing leads to a more equitable, prosperous, and opportunity filled life for all of us and our children. GEEARS recognizes the role that organizational transformation plays in helping to close the equity gap. Join in **October 23rd** at 11:30am -1:30pm.



Learning Tuesdays

As a Get Georgia Reading community, we're also part of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, a collaborative focused on the number one predictor of school success - third grade reading. Learning Tuesdays affirms the Campaign's commitment to learn with and from each other. The weekly webinars are Tuesdays, 3:00 - 4:30, and serve as a portal through which to access and explore the best science, ideas and programs. Attendees can expect to be informed, inspired and energized by an eclectic mix of presenters who will bring knowledge derived from research, practice and lived experience. Follow the link to find out about upcoming webinars and to register.



We Want to Hear From You

Share your joys and challenges with us as you care for yourself, the people around you, and the families you serve. Let us know what resources you find helpful. We're here to listen, support, and strengthen our community. [Email our team today.](#)

Common Agenda

The Early Language and Literacy Coalition works to create a community where all children thrive. Our collective impact approach supports, promotes, and complements community wide initiatives of Get Georgia Reading, The Basics Chattahoochee Valley, and Columbus 2025. We engage with a cross-sector of community partners to ensure all children become proficient readers by the end of third grade, paving the way to improved outcomes throughout school and life.

Early Language and Literacy Coalition Background

Early Language and Literacy partners in the Chattahoochee Valley recognize that literacy is much more than an education issue. Our efforts to change long-term outcomes must begin early—long before children enter kindergarten. We are focused on the root causes of why a child might not be reading. Root causes include early brain development and language-rich interactions with infants and toddlers, school attendance, summer learning loss, and the influence of physical and mental health on all aspects of learning and development. Far too many children in our community lack access to quality health care, housing, nutrition, and supportive learning environments. And far too many children experience the trauma of stress and violence in their homes and neighborhoods, inhibiting their ability to learn and grow. Children cannot learn when they are hungry, sick, or scared.



[View as Webpage](#)

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED®.