

CHILD OF THE WEEK

“Child of the Week” is an extra-special time of the year for Head Start children and their parent(s). This is a time when parents, friends, grandparents or any other significant adults in the child's life are requested to visit the center to recognize their child's special week. Home Visitation Teachers plan special activities in the home to encourage the uniqueness of their parent/child relationship.

PURPOSE:

- * To make children and their parent(s) special for the week.
- * To create a classroom community by getting to know each child and their family
- * To ensure that the parent(s) visit the center at least once during the year.
- * To have 75% of the agency parents participate in this *Parent Involvement* activity.

PROCEDURE:

Teachers should have parents sign up for their children's week at the beginning of the school year. Parents have the option of which day they attend. Classrooms schedule a separate week for each child and encourage the parent to visit the classroom for one or more entire days. Special activities are planned to make the parent and child feel very special for this day. If the parent cannot attend, the child is still the special person for the week. A calendar is then posted in the center with the child's name on the week and day(s) the parent(s) will attend.

Remember the in-kind!

Home Visitation programs generally celebrate Child of the Week with the parent at the home visit during the week. During the home visits, fifteen minutes or more is set aside for special parent/child activities. Usually the parent and child will select what special activities they will work on during the visit or for the remainder of the week. On cluster days there is a special Child of that Week in the classroom. Each Cluster Monday a child will be designated.

Family Outreach Workers will encourage parent participation in this event. They will provide active support and participation in any cluster, special event or PAC sponsored event.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR PARENT AND CHILD:

- * The children can make invitations for their parents.
- * Children can decorate a chair for the special visitor and/or make special crowns for them to wear.
- * Children can make special place mats for the child and his/her parent to use during lunch.
- * Child and parent are introduced to the class.
- * Classmates draw or paint a friendship card/picture for the special child.
- * If a parent cannot attend, the child is still the special child for the week.
- * Child and parent may share family history through discussion or photo.
- * During group time, the parent may tell the class why his/her child is special.
- * Classmates plan to do something special for the class parent during the week.
- * Classmates each say a nice comment about the special child. The teacher records, and reads it to the group and posts it.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLASSROOM/CLUSTER:

- * Make a wall chart with the name of each child and the date of his/her week. This helps the child see when their week will come and shows that they get a turn also.
- * Tape a paper tree on the wall - leaves are hearts with the child's name or picture on it.
- * Mobiles can be hung from the ceiling with hearts on it and children's name or pictures are on the hearts.
- * The Child of the Week can put his/her hand print on a "Just for You" poem and give to their parent.
- * Make pictures of "Feeling" faces.
- * Shaved crayon and wax paper decorations for the room.
- * Take a trip to the post office to mail letters to parents.
- * Set-up dramatic play post office with shoe boxes, symbols and papers for children to send the Child of the Week pictures and letters.

NOTE: Please present all chosen activities in a developmentally appropriate way and incorporate into your established daily routine.