

SOUTHWEST HRA HEAD START

Section: Early Childhood Development
Subject: Center-Home Activities
Revised: May, 2003; Feb. 2010

REGULATION REFERENCE:

45 CFR Part 1304 (Nov. 1996) Performance Standards 1304.40(e)(3)

POLICY:

Center-Home Activity Letters reinforce the child's learning and encourage the parent to spend time with the child in constructive activity(ies). These activities are designed to inform parents about the unit topics presented in the classroom, support parents in their efforts to find opportunities to spend quality time with their child, and strengthen their role as the primary influence in their child's life.

PROCEDURE:

1. Pre-printed Center-Home Activity Letters are available for most themes. However, if pre-printed sheets are **not** available, the teaching staff will complete the "Center-Home Activity" form (see next page) for each child.
2. Information/activities included on the letter relate to the theme for that unit and offer parents a choice of "example" activities to do with their child. The letter also encourages parents to develop other activities according to their own interests and abilities.
3. Audio tapes of these letters will be available for parents with low or no reading skills (these will be identified by teachers or Family Case Managers after enrollment or first home-visits and an In-House Referral to the Assistant Director for ECD will be utilized to acquire a small audio tape player for these parents).
4. These letters (or audio tapes) will be sent home with the children with each new unit (most units are one week--a few are two weeks).
5. During the teaching staff's first home-visit (before the child's first day in the classroom), the Center-Home Activity Letters will be discussed with the parents. They will be asked to work with their child on the example activities or develop an activity according to their own interests and abilities. Each family will be given a packet of supplies needed for doing the Center-Home Activities. The packet is labeled with the child's name and contains a box of crayons, safety scissors, a pencil, a pencil trimmer, and a small bottle of glue.
6. The parent **may** come to the Head Start center and verify the time spent with their child by verbally explaining the activity(ies) they did with their child or showing the end results. They could then sign a "Parent Involvement Activities Form" for time spent working with their child. This time is not considered as "in-kind" BUT does apply toward awards at the end of the year.

CENTER-HOME ACTIVITY LETTER

Child's Name _____ Date _____

Unit of Study:

Length of Unit:

Classroom Goals:

PARENT-CHILD ACTIVITIES

These are examples of activities that will enhance the learning activities presented in the Head Start classroom and will, also, promote quality time for you and your child. According to your child's and your own interests and abilities, choose one or more of these activities (or be creative and develop your own activity) to do with your child-- and HAVE FUN!