

Tri-County Community Council, Inc.
Head Start/Early Head Start

Part: 1302 Program Operations

Subpart: B- Program Structure; C- Education and Child Development Program Services

Section: 1302.22 Home-based Option; 1302.31 Teaching and the Learning Environment

Subject: Group Socialization

Policy:

The Early Head Start Home Base option will conduct two group Socializations a month, a minimum of 16 group activities each year. Tri-County EHS will include developmentally appropriate activities, the main focus being the opportunity to strengthen and support the relationship between parents and their children, with attention paid toward individual child and family goals.

Procedure:

1. All families will be notified in writing about an upcoming socialization 1 week prior to the Socialization.
2. The EHS Center Director and/or home visitor will base curriculum on Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, & Twos.
3. The main purpose of socialization will be to encourage parents to observe and interact with their children, to learn more about how to meet the individual needs of their children and how their children respond to them and their environment.
4. Group experiences will be developed by the Educator with the focus on child development and include various activities at different developmental levels and inclusive of cultural experiences.
5. EHS will honor individual family needs based on goals established during home visits.
6. EHS recognizes that infants and toddlers and their parents have individual needs, therefore, socializations may be offered anywhere from 30 to 120 minutes at a time.
7. Transportation to and from socializations will be provided by Tri-County HS/EHS to any enrolled family requesting the service.
8. EHS will offer a safe, clean, and comfortable learning environment that meets the needs of both children and adults.
9. Each family will be greeted upon arrival by EHS staff, where at the time; an individual health check will be performed by the parent with the help of EHS staff and logged onto an individual form. The form will be stored in the child's file.
10. Parents will sign in the family.
11. Participants will follow hand washing routines before entering the socialization area.

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12. The EHS Center Director and/or home visitor will provide parents with places to sit that facilitate interactions with their children. EHS staff will model, and parents will be encouraged to sit on the floor next to their children.
13. The EHS Center Director and/or home visitor will provide young infants with a place to lie down or sit and mobile infants will be provided with a safe place to crawl. Toddlers will be given the needed space for gross motor activity.
14. The EHS Center Director and/or home visitor will provide appropriate areas for breast-feeding, diapering, toileting, hand washing and resting.
15. EHS staff will consistently model appropriate parent/child activities throughout the socialization.
16. The EHS Center Director and/or home visitor will provide activities to involve pregnant families.
17. The EHS Center Director and/or home visitor will share the agenda and snack menu for the current socialization with parents during the weekly home visit and post them at the site.
18. All participants will wash their hands before snack. Snack will be served Family Style with individual cultural needs taken into consideration.
19. Older siblings may be supervised by EHS staff or EHS volunteers in order to provide uninterrupted time for parents to observe and interact with younger siblings.
20. Parents are encouraged to share parenting challenges as well as successes with other parents. They will be encouraged to keep the content of the discussions child appropriate.
21. Socializations are intended for parents or legal guardians and their children aged birth to three years and may not be conducted with childcare providers and other substitute caregivers. Parents may occasionally, with permission of the EHS Center Director, bring a guest with whom the child is comfortable with.
22. Home Visitor will contact the family to find out why they did not attend socialization and document reason for missing socialization on Home Visit form.