

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

**Week of  
February 3, 2025**

**Springhill Head Start  
(616) Number**

## Thankful for our Support Staff

**Dear Facilities and Maintenance Staff,**  
We appreciate your dedication to keeping our school clean and well-maintained, which contributes significantly to a positive learning and working atmosphere. The cleanliness and efficiency of our building are a testament to your hard work, and we are grateful for your consistent diligence.



## Reminders

We go outside twice a day, unless the temperature is **below 20 degrees**. This includes when it is lightly raining.

In the event we go out in the light rain, we provide students with raincoats and rainboots. Please remember to send extra clothing, hats, gloves, snowpants jacket undies and socks, just in case. Please label all your child's belongings to avoid it being misplaced.

***If your family needs clothing or assistance with resources, please contact***

***Ms. Lasaundra at (616)791-9894 ext. 2302***

## Calendar of Events

### February is conference month!

Your child's teacher should be contacting you to schedule your child's conferences, within the next week or so. Please be on the lookout for information coming soon! I want to take a moment to address the topic of classroom activities and celebrations, particularly those related to holidays.

### Classroom Activities and Holiday Celebrations

Because we do not Celebrate Holidays, our classroom environments are ones that embrace and respect the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of all students. To ensure inclusivity, we will be focusing on activities that are secular and celebrate common themes like friendship, community, and cultural appreciation, rather than specific religious or cultural holidays.

**Thanks for your patience and understanding!**  
**Springhill Staff**

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/hs4kc/events>  
[www.hs4kc.org](http://www.hs4kc.org)

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential."

 **Head Start  
for Kent County**  
Connecting Families and Community Resources

 **Readiness Program**  
Michigan's Nationally Recognized Pre-K Program  
These materials were created under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential.

# Medication Safety

We want to encourage our children to explore and discover their world, and at the same time keep them safe. Medicines are the leading cause of child poisoning.

Here are a few tips on how to keep children safe around medicine:

**Keep medicine up and away**, out of the reach and sight of children, even medicine you take every day. Put all medicines at or above counter height where children can't reach or see them.

**Consider places where children get into medicine.** Children often find medicine in purses or on counters or nightstands.

**Remember products you might not think about as medicine.** Products such as vitamins, diaper rash cream and even eye drops can be harmful if children get into them. Keep these items out of reach and sight of children.

**Save the Poison Help number** on your phone and post it where it's visible at home (on the refrigerator is a good place): 1-800-222-1222.

## Help Your Child Succeed in Preschool and Kindergarten

Build the Habit of Good Attendance

DID YOU KNOW...

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Share ideas with other parents for getting to school on time.

Visit Attendance Works at [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org) for free downloadable resources and tools!

**Family Collaborations:** These monthly activities help Head Start for Kent County parents advocate for and promote successful kindergarten transitions for their children.

## February



### Preschool Activities

Think about ways your family could be involved at school. The educators might suggest helping in the garden, or cutting out letters, or making a bulletin board for parents.

Could you share a family tradition with the class?

### Family Activities

Add to your child's word "bank." Use and explain new words. Play word games, sing songs, and make up silly rhymes like giggle, wiggle, jiggle.

Help your child label emotions when different feelings arise (happy, sad, mad, disappointed).

### Kindergarten Activities

Complete the kindergarten registration forms at home or school (where your educator can offer you support). Do you have questions about the kindergarten program? Call the new school for information or check out their website.



# CAR SEAT SAFETY

**BIRTH – 12 MONTHS:** Your child should always ride in a rear-facing seat. Children typically outgrow the infant-only seat before their first birthday. We recommend purchasing a convertible car seat (can be installed both rear-facing and forward-facing) or an all-in-one car seat (transitions from rear-facing, to forward-facing, to a booster) to help your child stay rear-facing as long as possible!

**1 – 3 YEARS OLD:** Your child should ride rear-facing as long as possible, and at least until the age of 2. We recommend using a convertible or all-in-one seat to help your child stay rear-facing as long as possible. Once your child outgrows the height and weight limits for rear-facing set by your car seat manufacturer, your child should ride in a forward-facing seat with a harness and tether.

**4 – 7 YEARS OLD:** Your child should ride in a forward-facing seat with a harness and tether until they reach the top height and weight limit set by your car seat manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it is time to transition to a booster seat. When in a booster seat, your child should always ride in the back seat of the vehicle.

**HARNESS FIT TIPS:** The chest buckle should sit at armpit level. The shoulder straps should be tight – you should NOT be able to pinch together the strap on the child's shoulders.

**SEATBELT FIT TIPS:** The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest, NOT the neck or face. The lap belt should lie snugly across the upper thighs or hips, NOT the stomach.