

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

Week of  
March 10, 2025

Springhill Head Start  
(616)791-9894

## Site Happenings

### Preparing your toddler for kindergarten transition

**Help them to develop independence at home.** Encourage your child to dress himself, take his coat on and off and hang it up, use the bathroom without assistance and wash his hands without constant reminders, and put on his own shoes.

**Focus on self-help skills.** Your child should know how to wipe her face after lunch without prompting and blow her nose without assistance. But be sure she is also comfortable asking an adult for help when necessary.

**Teach responsibility.** Start transferring small responsibilities over to your child, if you haven't already.

**Develop and follow routines.** Set up morning routines that will transfer into a school setting.

**Read aloud to your child.** Get your child a library card, take her to the library to check out books, and be sure to read to your child every day.

**Engage her/him in meaningful literacy activities.** Encourage your child to help you with thank you cards, shopping lists, or notes.

**Acknowledge his feelings.** Avoid talking about school too much or wait until the end of summer is near.

## Calendar of Events

### Family Engagement Event

**Thurs, March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Come Read With Us!  
**1:15 - 2:30pm**

**Spring Break!**  
**Fri April 4<sup>th</sup> - Fri April 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Children Return**  
**Mon April 14<sup>th</sup>**

## Reminders

### March is Reading for Readiness Month



### Reading and Storytelling

- Promotes brain development, imagination, language and learning
- Strengthens relationships
- Builds communication, social and emotional skills
- Promotes bonding and builds your relationship with your child

<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

## March is Reading Month!

In honor of Dr. Seuss's Birthday, March is National Reading Month! During this month, we want to dedicate time to promote the joy that comes with reading, helping to encourage our kids to pick up a book. As part of this celebration, the West Michigan Whitecaps, a local Minor League baseball team, offers a reading club. All students at Head Start for Kent County get the opportunity to be a part of this club. The Whitecaps Foundation provides all the materials, and every child who completes 15 minutes of reading a day during the month of March gets free admission to a Whitecaps home game! Be on the lookout for more information, being sent home with your student!

## Child Immunization Schedule: Why Is It Like That?

### How are the timing and spacing of the shots determined?

Scientists determine the age when the body's immune system will give the best protection to vaccination.

### Why do some vaccines need 3 or more doses?

For some vaccines, three or more doses are needed to fully protect your child. The doses need to be spaced out a specific amount of time to work best.

### Can the shots be spread out over a longer period of time?

The recommended schedule is designed to work best with a child's immune system at certain ages and at specific time intervals between doses. By waiting longer between doses, there will be a period of time that your child would be unprotected against vaccine preventable diseases.

### Does it overwhelm a child's immune system to give multiple shots in one visit?

Children's immune systems are not overwhelmed by vaccines. Infants and children are exposed to many germs every day just by playing, eating and breathing. Their immune system fights those germs to keep the body healthy. The amount of germs that children fight every day is much more than in any combination of vaccines.

For more information about vaccines and vaccine safety, visit <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center>

## **March is Reading Month!**

### 10 Tips to Keep Reading Fun

1. **Keep the Topics Interesting:** Let your child pick out the books they want to read.
2. **Read Aloud:** Listening to books read aloud helps children learn about fluency and expression.
3. **Set a Good Example:** Read for pleasure, talk to your children about how much you love to read, make it fun.
4. **Make a Special Spot for Reading:** Let infants and toddlers have access to their books, keeping them on a low shelf or in a basket that is accessible.
5. **Visit your Local Library:** Nothing beats a trip to the library! Many offer fun, interesting, and free events.
6. **Have a Read-In:** Leave on your pajamas, build a blanket fort, and snuggle up with a good book.
7. **Be Flexible:** Help your child find time to fit reading in that works well for your family. Avoid having hard and fast rules out reading as this is a time that should be fun and not a punishment.
8. **Reward Wisely:** Kids are smart, and they are paying attention, and the message we want to give them is that reading is its own reward.
9. **Reading is Reading:** Let your child select their own reading material, it's okay if that includes magazines or comic books!
10. **Books are Special Too:** Emphasize the special nature of books, let children know that books they receive as gifts are theirs and theirs alone.



# ENROLLMENT NEWS



Our application for the **2025/2026** school year is open!



Do you know a family that would be interested in enrolling with us? Help to spread the word about our amazing program to your families, friends, and coworkers!



<https://hs4kc.org/apply/>



For more information:  
Email: [enroll@hs4kc.org](mailto:enroll@hs4kc.org)  
Call: (616)453-4145 x4010

