



April, 2015

Topic of the Month

How do you plan to recognize and celebrate the Week of the Young Child?

We are planning to have thank you plaques made up for all our childcare centers which we'll distribute during the Week of the Young Child. The Mayor and the coalition members will also be recognizing childcare centers during the "Chat & Chew" event that's coming up at our train depot. – **Dan Kibodeaux, Hattiesburg Coalition**

We plan to have our Kindergarten Readiness Event, sponsored by the Early Care and Education focus group, at the April Super Saturday! This is an opportunity for everyone to come and see what is necessary to be ready for and successful in kindergarten! – **Connie Jo Williams, Pascagoula Coalition**

Cleveland Excel By 5 will celebrate by getting the week kicked off with its "5th Annual Spring Fling...Saturday in the Park". The celebration will take place a local park on April 11. There will be fun, food, and games for the entire family (fishing, kite flying, character story-time, hula-hoop, jump rope, face painting). We're providing teachers with a list of daily activities (NAEYC website) that they can do as they participate in the "Celebration of Our Youngest Learners". Our local radio station will help by giving a "shout out" to all of our childcare providers, schools, early care educators and any other community members who help shape the lives of our young children. –**Patsy Clerk, Cleveland Coalition**

We are currently planning a pre-kindergarten night for parents to give information and discuss kindergarten expectations. -**Lisa B. Lucius, Pontotoc Coalition**

Biloxi Excel By 5 will be joining the city of Biloxi to recognize the childcare centers, Early Head Start, and Head Start at a Biloxi City Council meeting on April 7, 2015. A Proclamation will be presented by the mayor regarding the Week of the Young Child. Each childcare center, Early Head Start, Head Start, and schools will be recognized and receive a certificate of appreciation. During the Week of the Young Child, Biloxi Excel By 5 members will visit the centers, Early Head Start, Head Start to deliver treats and some supplies. –**Susan Hunt, Biloxi Coalition**

Plans for "Week of the Young Child" in Petal include the following: There will be a Mayor's proclamation of WOYC in Petal. An article will appear in the local newspaper thanking those who teach and care for young children and highlighting the importance of the early years. Petal Excel By 5 yard signs will line Central Avenue and Main Street. Small thank you gifts will be taken to every childcare provider in Petal by the coalition. –**Nadine Coleman, Petal Coalition**

We are making little happies to take to the staff of the childcare centers at the beginning of the Week of the young Child. Later during the week, we will be delivering cakes to the centers to show our appreciation for their dedication. –**Judy Bechtel, Stone County Coalition**



We have an article that will be featured in the International Reading Association's May/June issue of Reading Today talking about how we involved our whole community in the one book one district reading of *The Swan*. The Clarke County Early Learning Partnership also presented to the MS State Board of Education in Jackson on March 19th. The presentation focused on how we involve the whole community in making sure our students receive a quality start at a young age and the successes we are seeing from that effort. **–Lacia Donald, Central Clarke County Coalition.**

Our plans for Week of the Young Child include a Letter to the Editor, cookies for the childcare workers, a letter to parents from the mayor for having their child enrolled in a McComb Excel by 5 educational partner center, and possibly a notice added to Domino's pizza boxes about the Week of the Young Child. We will also offer suggestions to center directors for activities that can take place during that week. **-Carol Rawlings, McComb Coalition**