



May, 2015

Topic of the Month

How does your coalition sustain its efforts during the summer months?

We will be having our Safety Fair in conjunction with The Stone County Library Summer Reading Program on June 10th. We will also continue our Story Time each Wednesday at the Stone County Library. The coalition intends to meet and do some planning fall. **-Judy Bechtel, Stone County Coalition**

We use this time to plan events for the upcoming year. Our resource center is closed during the summer due to funding. We have not had a summer event in the past, but we are going to plan one for next year. **- Sherri White, West Point Coalition**

Although we do not have a summer EB5 event, we have extended hours every day during the summer at our Resource Center from 9 am until 3 pm. We have numerous activities for the younger children. I work on my Pre K curriculum and other PGSD directives. **-Connie Jo Williams, Pascagoula Coalition**

Hattiesburg stays busy during the summer with continuing visits to our childcare centers - they're all still busier than ever during the summer. We're also busy planning for back-to-school events and getting all the arrangements made for those events, including sponsorships, venues, etc. This year, we're doing the inaugural "Countdown to Kindergarten" in Hattiesburg and it's going to be open to parents and children in our three-county area. No "summer break" for us! **- Dan Kibodeaux, Hattiesburg Coalition**

The Oktibbeha County Excel By 5 Coalition has only one event planned during the summer, the Back to School Bash and Health Fair. Our efforts during the summer are focused on that event. We have one coalition meeting scheduled before the event to help us get everything ready. Some local agencies sponsoring community events have invited us to set up our booth as publicity for our coalition's work and to share information with the families. **-Ellen Goodman, Oktibbeha County**

Horn Lake plans to be busy promoting Excel By 5 during Summer 2015 at the following events: Magnolia Fest, Summer Reading Programs for toddlers through pre-school age on Thursdays in June and July, Juneteenth celebration, 4th of July celebration, In the Park After Dark Movies, and in September - daycare/school Kindergarten Skills. **-Carson Culver, Horn Lake Coalition**

The LOU Excel By 5 will not rest during the summer months. Inspired by our Community Playdates in the fall and winter, we will be hosting an outdoor Community Water Playdate at a local park in June. We will provide activities for young children that incorporate water play. The event will be the day before Father's Day, so we are trying to market it as an activity fathers can do with their kids. Our Early Care and Education group will begin planning for their second professional development mini-conference in late June. At the conference, participants will be able to receive five contact hours. During the next few months, our Family Resource Center will be open until 5:00 PM every weekday, and closed on Saturdays. **-Chelsea Herbert, Lafayette County/Oxford/University Coalition**

Our coalition just purchased a movie site license for the Family Education Center (FEC). We are planning several 'Family Movie Nights' for the summer to keep families engaged. Our child care centers will also be in the FEC for weekly field trips to do art, music and physical fitness activities. We will have our schedule ready by the end of May. **-Patrice McCullum, Moss Point Coalition**