

# Petal Pre-K Partners

The Coleman Center is proud to  
partner with and support:

*Asbury Play School*

*Carterville Christian School*

*L. C. Learning Academy*

*Mimi's Playhouse*

*Oasis Training Center*

*PRVO's C.H. Johnson Head Start*

*Petal Excel By 5*

*Petal Family YMCA*

*Petal Primary Pre-K*

*Petal Primary Pre-K SpEd*

*Petal Primary Pre-K Blended*

*Play-School Child Care Center*

*4 In-Home Childcare Providers*

We hold quarterly partnership meetings with our partners which basically serve the same purpose as our collaborative PLCs. We offer the same opportunities to our partners as we do to our collaborative.

Our Mission is to serve all families & children in the Petal School District in locating, accessing and navigating resources specific to each family's physical, emotional and/or educational needs in order to ensure the well-being of the family & children, resulting in successful school and life experiences.

The mission of the Center for Families & Children is to serve all families and children in the Petal School District in locating, accessing, & navigating a viable resources specific to each family's physical, emotional, &/or educational needs in order to ensure the well-being of the family & children, resulting in successful school and life experiences.

<b>RELATIONSHIPS</b>		<b>EARLY LEARNING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learning begins at birth, &amp; parents are their child's first &amp; most important teacher.</li><li>• A child's social/emotional, intellectual, &amp; physical development is critical to a child's success in school &amp; life.</li><li>• Experiences from birth to age five significantly impact the degree to which a child will be successful in school &amp; life experiences.</li><li>• The well-being of the family is critical to a child's opportunities for learning and successful life experiences.</li><li>• Strengthening the family, as a whole, will positively impact the community.</li><li>• Communities providing personalized, holistic, &amp; sustained family support systems result in opportunities for children, families, &amp; the community to thrive.</li></ul>		
<b>FAMILY SUPPORT</b>		<b>INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>



## A Peek Into Our Preschool Partnerships



**201 W. Central Avenue**

**Petal, MS 39465**

**601.584.4704**

# Transitions from Birth to Four Years Old

The Petal School District and The Coleman Center believe that learning begins at birth and that parents are their child's first teachers. Parents can join the *Parents as Teachers Program*, a free home visiting program whereby parents and child meet with a certified parent educator to discuss child development, developmental skills and milestones, behaviors and health related concerns. These monthly visits are primarily for children ages newborn to 3 years whose families reside in Petal.

For children who are identified with learning or developmental delays, the Petal School District partners with *First Steps* (a program of the Mississippi Dept of Health). This program offers comprehensive evaluation and therapy for a child age birth to 3 years either in the home, in a child care center or at The Coleman Center.

Another way for families with preschool age children to engage is in a weekly *Playshop*. The goal of *Playshop* is to build a "family" with those attending while supporting the developmental skills of the child and coaching the parenting skills of mom and dad. This Tuesday morning playgroup time (10:00-11:00) helps to promote a child's development through themed activities in literacy and language, fine and gross motor, intellectual and social emotional activities.



# Transitioning from Pre-K to Kindergarten

All of our partners, whether it be our **early learning collaborative**, our **private childcare centers**, our **at-home childcare providers** or our **family YMCA**, receive the following opportunities to ensure a smooth transition from pre-k to Kindergarten:

1. Professional Learning Communities
2. Quarterly Partner Meetings
3. Access to Numerous Community-Wide Preschool Learning Opportunities and Events
4. Developmental and Health Screenings
5. Referrals for Services
6. Access to Preschool STEAM Lab and Computer Lab
7. Preschool Assessments such as the STAR, Brigance, Peabody and ASQ
8. OWL Curriculum and Supplemental Materials
9. Manipulatives & Tools to Enhance Learning Centers
10. Up-to-Date and Pertinent Professional Development

At the beginning of each school year, a **Transition Folder** is started on each pre-k child that will provide information to the Primary School about the child such as sample work, assessment scores and/or developmental/academic checklists, a photo of the child, a sample of the child's handwriting, a sample of their artwork, and a note from the child's parent to their child's future Kindergarten teacher. We also hold a **Kindergarten Readiness Night Event** each year in April. At this event, parents come with their entering kindergartener for a special evening of exploring the school, getting a sneak peek at what a kindergarten classroom looks like, and getting questions answered. All of our preschool partners are there to support their families and help with this time of transition. For children who need a little more time adjusting to going to "big school", we offer **Panther Prep** each June. This is a two week "summer school" for entering kindergarteners to give both them & their parents a little more adjustment time.

# Petal Early Learning Collaborative

The **Early Learning Collaborative** Act established state pre-K programs, known as "**Early Learning Collaboratives**," or ELCs. All collaboratives are overseen by the **Mississippi** Department of Education, even though individual providers may also have other oversight agencies.

The Petal Early Learning Collaborative was one of the very first collaboratives in the state. It consists of three four-year-old classrooms at Pearl River Valley Opportunity's C. H. Johnson Head Start and one classroom at Petal Primary School.

The Petal Early Learning Collaborative has been successful every year, meeting or exceeding expectations in every area. Our teachers and assistants are dedicated to meeting the needs of every child in their classroom.

**Before any successful and collaborative partnership was formed, a strong, communicative RELATIONSHIP was established between our Petal Early Learning Collaborative (which includes Head Start), Petal Primary School, the Petal YMCA, two part-time child care centers, four full-time childcare centers and four at-home childcare providers in Petal.**

