

# PRE-K SPED NEWS

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## Director's Corner

Hello Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers!

Mental Health issues are very important to me as a teacher, psychologist, and former child therapist. Did you know that one of the most important things you can do for a child is *listen* to them? I read recently something that is so true: if you want to encourage your child to come to you with problems or concerns throughout their lives (think those teenage years especially), you must cultivate listening to them early on. You may think that pre-k concerns are little ones, but if your little one is willing to share it with you, then it is a big concern to them. If you treat it lightly, they will stop coming to you.

Practice being in the moment with your little one. Reflect back on what they say to you (you thought you saw a monster; how did you feel?). Use the opportunity to help them recognize or learn how to deal with emotions (You were scared? What can you do to feel less scared?) Remember that the *listening* is the most important part of the conversation for the adult!

Ann Marie Sasseville, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Prekindergarten Program for  
Children with Disabilities

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PRE-K?



- ★ Transportation for Half Day classrooms will be in effect until the last day of school
- ★ Like our new Facebook page! Search MDCPS Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities

### Florida's 2016-17 ESE Parent Survey

#### Make Your Voice Heard!

***Florida Department of Education is going strong! Surveys can continue to be accessed until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.***

Online Survey: <http://www.esesurvey.com>



## Communication Counts!

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has designated the month of May as Better Hearing & Speech month. During this time, Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists are encouraged to raise awareness about disorders affecting communication capacity and the resulting support that is provided by professionals within the field.

This year, the Pre-K Speech-Language Pathology Team will be sponsoring a "Walk for Communication." Students who attend PRIDE, their caregivers, and Pre-K ESE Staff will participate in this event. Along the route, parents and staff will receive "Key Strategies," which provide information to help enhance their child's communication skills. Students will receive picture messages that can be used as visual support tools.

This event will be held at the Pre-K ESE District Office on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

# May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

[www.nami.org/mentalhealthmonth](http://www.nami.org/mentalhealthmonth)



## FAMILY CORNER

Summer is almost here! The end of the school year can be fun for children, but can be a stressful time for parents if there is no plan in place for the summer months. Summer camps offer supervision, opportunities to meet new friends, and a chance to learn more about a particular interest. Parents in need of a summer camp should sign up soon since spots fill up quickly. Some camps offer reduced rates, scholarships, and are inclusive of children with special needs.

You can find summer camp listings below:

The Children's Trust organization has made it easy for parents to locate the right program in their neighborhood. Download their free app or search their website for summer camp information:

[www.TheChildrensTrust.org](http://www.TheChildrensTrust.org)

Miami Family Magazine provides an online South Florida 2017 Summer Camp Guide:

[www.familymagazine.biz](http://www.familymagazine.biz)

Dial 211 or call the Switchboard of Miami Helpline at 305-631-4211



**Four million children and adolescents in the U.S. suffer from a serious mental disorder that caused significant functional impairments at home, at school, and with peers. Approximately 50% of students age 14 and older who are living with a mental illness drop out of high school. Mental disorders in children are real and can be effectively treated, especially when identified and treated early. At Miami Dade County Public Schools, we recognize that early childhood is where learning begins and that social-emotional learning is a crucial facet of healthy developments.**

**The Department of Early Childhood Programs is celebrating National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Ethel F. Beckford/Richmond Primary Learning Center. For the second year in a row, the department is showcasing the social-emotional skill promotion that takes places daily in all early childhood classrooms. Guests will have the opportunity to learn about the Pyramid model, the approach used in the Head Start and VPK programs to teach and foster social-emotional skills. In addition, guests will observe the intentional and universal teaching of self-regulation, relationship-building, and social problem-solving, important skills that foster resilience and mental health in children.**

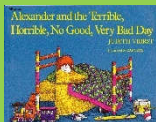
### Guest Columnist:

**Jacqueline Basallo,  
Disabilities Coordinator  
Head Start and Early Head Start**

## BOOK NOOK

"ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY"

BY JUDITH VIORST



"HOW FULL IS YOUR BUCKET?"  
BY MARY RECKMEYER & TOM RATH

