

SPRING 2024

EARLY LEARNING NEWSLETTER

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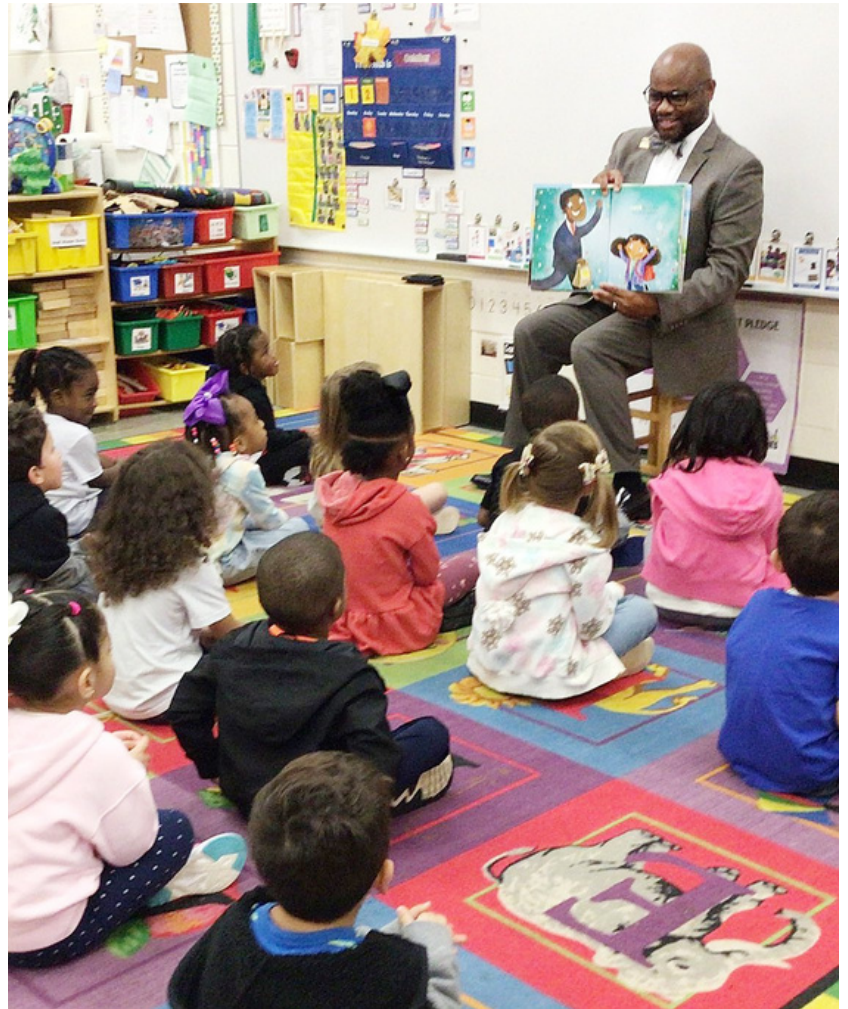
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HENRY
COUNTY SCHOOLS



**EARLY
LEARNING**



SPRING EDITION

Join us on a journey of creativity and discovery! As the weather warms and we prepare for spring, the opportunities to engage early learners are endless.

In this edition, you'll find ways to get moving and reading with your child, as well as resources and events centered around nurturing and growing young minds!

Spotlight Strategy:

Celebrate plants this spring! Read books about plants, point out interesting flowers you see, and allow your early learner to get their hands dirty with planting and watering activities.

HCS WELCOME CENTER



Our Welcome Center offers a range of tailored services designed to make the enrollment process seamless and hassle-free. Our dedicated team is ready to assist you with OLR (Online Registration) using our convenient one-on-one support from our administrative assistants. Additionally, we have bilingual staff members on hand to cater to the needs of our diverse community. We understand the importance of identifying and assisting homeless youth, and we have specialized programs to support. Furthermore, we offer services related to hospital homebound programs and can guide you through the enrollment process for various programs.

At the Henry County Schools' Welcome Center, we take pride in being the bridge between families and other District Office departments. Our collaboration with external community agencies enables us to cater to the unique needs of Henry County families effectively.

If you require assistance with enrollment or have any questions, please don't hesitate to visit us at 166 Holly Smith Drive in McDonough. You can also reach us at 770-957-3945. Our team is eager to serve you and support your journey with Henry County Schools!

For more information, please visit our website at:
<https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/147767>

LET'S MOVE!

Movement is essential for young learners! Physical activity not only helps with fine and gross motor skills, but also can promote cooperation, communication, and brain development. Below are some tips to promote health and physical activity for your young child:



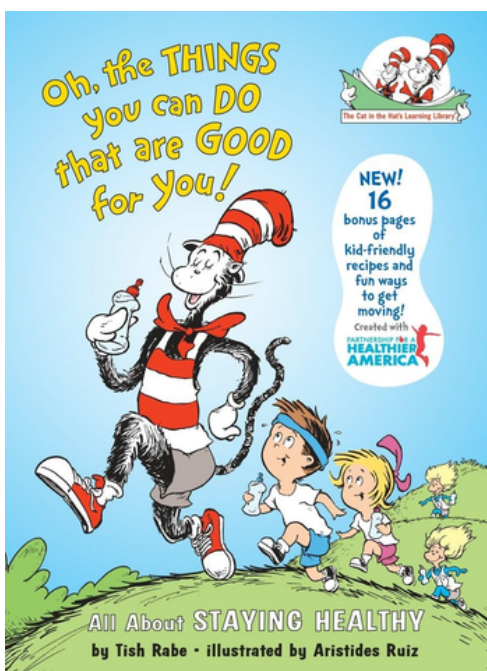
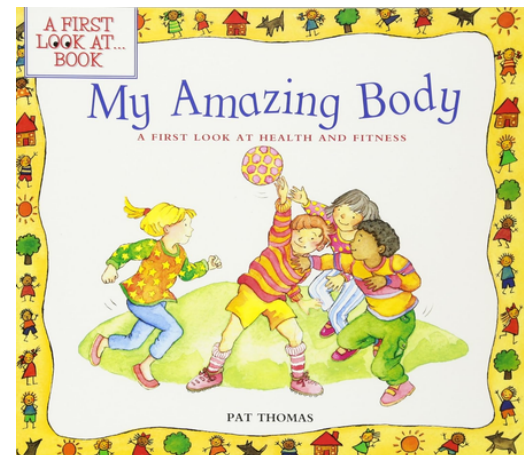
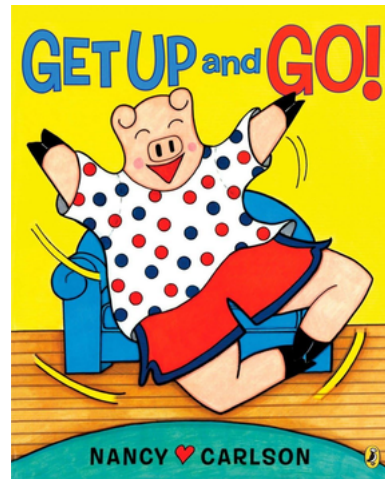
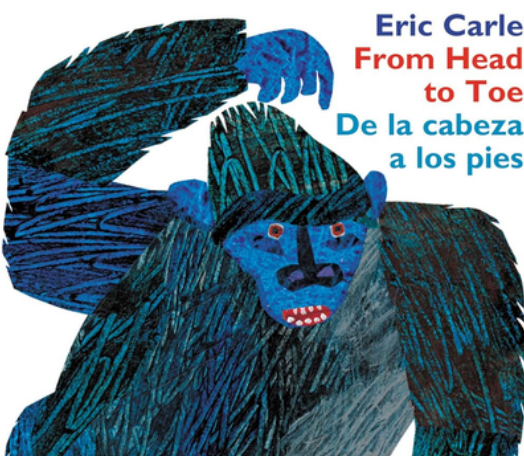
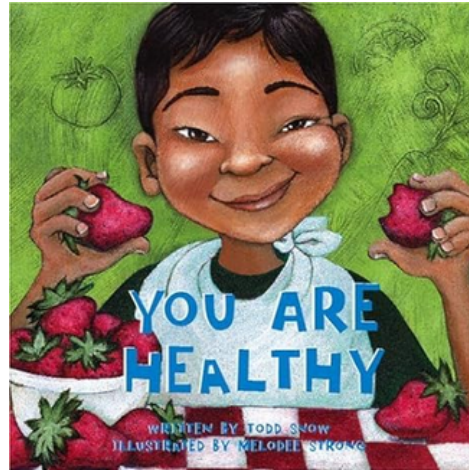
**Enjoy the sunshine
at a Henry County
Park!
To find a location
near you, scan the
QR code**

- Get outside as much as possible! Sun exposure helps the body produce vitamin D and serotonin, which children need for strong bones and emotional well-being.
- Play alphabet hopscotch outside! Write letters or vocabulary words with chalk inside each space, and challenge your child to hop from letter to letter or word to word.
- Find a safe space to practice animal walks such as bunny hops, frog jumps, bear crawls, crab walks, donkey kicks, inchworms, and any other animal movement you can think of.
- Create an obstacle course using items from around the house, like hula hoops, pool noodles, broomsticks, chairs, and blankets.
- Limit noneducational screen time when possible, especially within one hour of bedtime. Too much screen time can lead to anxiety, social development delays, and difficulty sleeping in children.



LET'S READ!

Reading to your child daily has a positive impact on their brain development and introduces them to a diverse vocabulary. Check out these kid-friendly books about health and movement!



Look for these books at
your Local Henry County
Library Branch!

To find your closest
location, scan the QR
code.



Language Development

3 YEAR OLDS	4 YEAR OLDS	5 YEAR OLDS
By three years old, children should be able to engage in simple conversation, ask simple questions, describe actions in a story, say their own first name, and talk well enough for others to understand most of the time.	By four years old, children should be able to say sentences with four or more words, repeat words from a nursery rhyme or song, talk about events from their day, and answer simple questions.	By five years old, children should be able to tell a made-up story, answer simple questions about a story, keep a conversation going, and use/ recognize simple rhymes.
ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT		
• Help your child develop language skills by modeling real sentences with “grown-up words”. For example, prompt your child to say, “I want a banana” rather than “need nana”. • Read consistently to your child! Stop while reading and ask questions like, “what’s happening in this picture?”	• Sing simple songs with catchy lyrics, or recite nursery rhymes with your child. Encourage them to try to sing or chant on their own. • Provide a blank notebook or journal so your child can draw about their day. Ask your child to describe their drawings. • Play show and tell with your child. Let them show you a favorite object and answer questions about it.	• Play rhyming games with your child while driving! For example, “Let’s name all the words that rhyme with cat!” • Encourage mealtime conversation, where your child both participates and listens. • Play make believe games with your child, encouraging them to tell you an imaginative story with descriptive details.

You are your child's first teacher and you know them better than anyone else. If your child is not meeting identified milestones, it is important to act early and to discuss any issues with their pediatrician. For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control's Milestones website at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

You can also download a free Milestones Tracker app on your iOS and Android devices in English and Spanish.





The Exceptional Student Education Preschool Program serves preschool children with disabilities who reside within the Henry County School district. We offer diagnostic services to determine eligibility and assist in supporting individual student needs. If found eligible, early intervention services may include, pre-academic supports and services, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, deaf, hard-of-hearing services, vision services, transition support, parent support, training, and other services and supports as deemed educationally necessary by the IEP team. These services are delivered through facility/school-based and community-based approaches, based on individual student needs.

Eligibilities Served

AUTISM

DEAF /HARD-OF-HEARING

EMOTIONAL AND

BEHAVIORAL DISORDERED

INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED

ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED

OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRED

SIGNIFICANTLY DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED

SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY

SPEECH-LANGUAGE IMPAIRED

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURED

VISUALLY IMPAIRED

For more information visit our website at

<https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/88416> or you can contact us at
770.957.8086

Our Preschool Special Needs Team

LAURIE VAN PATTEN

ESE Coordinator,
Special Education

DEBORAH CREECH

Administrative Assistant

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Did you know that you can register your soon-to-be Kindergartener completely online? Henry County Schools has made the process quick and easy with our registration portal.

Please visit <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/147767>



Every parent wants their child to experience success in school. The start of your child's educational career can be filled with many emotions. For many children, this is the first time they will experience an educational setting. Below are some suggestions to help prepare your child for Kindergarten next fall.

Get READY for SCHOOL - Encourage your child to:

- Express emotions in appropriate ways--explain feelings in words your child can understand and encourage your child to do the same.
- Share supplies like crayons, toys, or books.
- Dress independently including buttoning and zipping clothing and tying their own shoes.
- Listen carefully and follow directions.

Get INVOLVED at SCHOOL - We encourage you to:

- Attend and actively support school activities.
- Participate in the PTO, school advisory committee, or volunteer for school events.
- Talk with your child about school and their learning experiences daily.
- Visit Henry County Schools' website for information about school activities.

Get READY to LEARN - We encourage parents and students to:

- Engage in rich discussions about stories read and what's going on in the world around them.
- Practice identifying letters and letter sounds.
- Count basic items and identify numbers 0-20 while completing routines like grocery shopping, cleaning the house, or making dinner.
- Identify basic shapes and colors present in places you visit.

HCS EVENTS

March 26th: Kindergarten Kickoff

April 1st-5th: Spring Break

April 6th-12th: Week of the Young Child

May 24th: Last Day of School



COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Henry County Schools - <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/>



Henry County Library System - <https://henrylibraries.org/>



Henry County Parks and Recreation -

<https://www.henrycountyga.gov/309/Parks-Recreation>



Ferst Readers - <https://ferstreaders.org/>



Bright from the Start - <http://www.decal.ga.gov/>



CDC Developmental Milestones -

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>



Department of Public Health -

<https://www.district4health.org/locations/henry-county/>

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



2024 Henry County Schools Board of Education

Our award-winning Henry County Board of Education is comprised of six members. Pictured from left to right are Pam Nutt (District 1 Representative), Annette Edwards (District 2 Representative and Vice Chair), Sophe Pope (District 4 Representative and Chair), Interim Superintendent Carl Knowlton, Holly Cobb (District 3 Representative), and Makenzie McDaniel (District 5 Representative). Board members are elected by the citizens of Henry County to a four-year term of service. The Board meets at least once a month. Remaining meetings for the 2023-2024 school year are scheduled on:

April 15

May 13

Each meeting date has a Study Session at 4:00 p.m. and a Business Session at 7:00 p.m. The general public is invited to attend all meetings and can also stream each meeting at home.

For more information about the Board of Education Governance Team, visit <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/9>

For more information on Board of Education meetings, visit: <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/domain/8>