

### Message from the Director

Dear Families,

This spring and summer has presented an unprecedented time in the history of our county. We have all been faced with a great deal of uncertainty. It is with great pride that we can share that the mission and vision of UAMS Head Start/Early Head Start continues to be our beacon of light that leads our work during this time.

**Our Mission:** To touch, heal, search and serve. This is obtained by offering health, education and social services in Pulaski County through programs, which promote the growth and development of infants, toddlers and preschoolers and strengthens family members for their roles as parents and contributing members of the community.

**Our Vision:** To provide quality child development programming for all eligible children using the Head Start/Early Head Start Model that enables families, children and staff to be empowered by creating a caring, safe and healthy environment that encourages learning and wellness.

During reopening for summer, and as we continue to reopen for the new school year, our priority is to create a healthy and safe environment for families and staff. We have the following steps in place to keep safety in the forefront:

- Professional deep cleaning of all Centers prior to opening
- We have purchased our own sanitizer/disinfected sprayer Clorox 360, to spray sites and classrooms.
- We are in the process of leasing the **ZONO Disinfecting and Sanitizing Cabinet**. That will allow teachers to sanitize and disinfect without using chemicals
- Modified drop-off and pick-up schedules to limit traffic and exposure
- Temperature and symptom monitoring for all children and staff entering our buildings each day
- Daily disinfecting of all classrooms, equipment and toys, and laundering of staff and child cloth masks and bedding
- Smaller class sizes and social distancing practices enforced between classrooms



## Parent Newsletter, Summer 2020

### Message from the Director

In the last several months, UAMS Head Start/Early Head Start has shifted to a virtual infant/toddler & preschool program, reopened summer programs and infant toddler care and is currently planning services for children and families for the new school year. In March, April and May teachers, home visitors, family service providers, and teaching assistants continued to engage children and families by using a variety of platforms to provide instruction; family service providers and home visitors checked in with families to ensure they had food, access to Wi-Fi, and connecting families with resources to address basic needs; and home visitors continue to provide weekly home visits remotely. Staff have been involved in delivering food and educational materials to families. Creating a healthy environment for families and staff meant that we needed to be ready to address all the emotions that our staff, the children, and their families may be feeling associated with COVID-19 and the Safer at Home order. One way to do this was to increase the availability of the mental health consultant. Taking the time to care for ourselves is extremely important, especially when times are stressful. The shift in service delivery was made possible by the ingenuity of our team, the access to technology needed to do so, and the will and determination of our staff to stay connected with children and families. The abrupt end of the school year leaves a sadness for all of us. While we understand it is necessary for the health and well-being of our communities, staff feel the loss of not being able to say good-bye in person and give hugs.



Finally, I just want to remind everyone to please be meticulous about mask wearing – and wearing your mask properly, covering both nose and mouth. Be vigilant about social distancing, hand washing, avoiding groups and other safety measures. As important as this has been thus far, it will become even more so in the days and weeks ahead. We will come back stronger and ready to take on any challenge as we have learned a great lesson on resilience and perseverance.

Wishing you all well!

UAMS Head Start is proud to run a Summer Program. We are happy to see our families. We are taking all recommendations and necessary precautions from the CDC to ensure the health and safety of our families.

Below is a tip sheet for your review.

**COVID 19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

**STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS**

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.





For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

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# Preparing to Reopen

Our staff spent two days deep cleaning their classrooms to prepare for our sites to reopen for the summer. We want to make sure we do everything we can to keep our students healthy and safe. A big thanks to our teachers who worked and continue to work on keeping their classrooms clean and helping their students understand and learn how to stay healthy and safe.



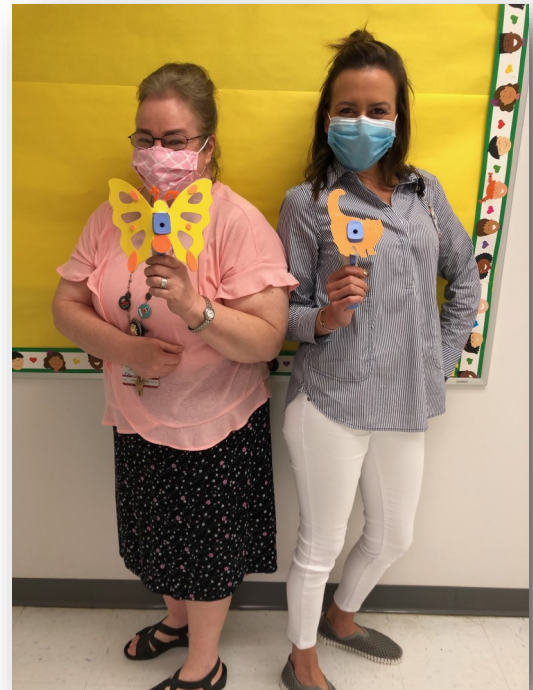


# School Happenings....



Our partners at the UAMS RED program, Research and Evaluation Division, created the book "[My Teacher Wears a Mask](#)" to help our students adjust to coming back to school and things being a little different. The book helps kids to understand that our staff members are wearing masks to keep them healthy and safe and not to scare them. Our Head Start and Early Head Start children have been reading the book in their classes and doing fun activities to get them more comfortable with wearing masks and seeing others wear masks as well.

UAMS Head Start has come up with a fun way to make getting your temperature checked less scary! Ms. Doan, pictured left, and Ms. Masching, pictured right, created some cute covers to go over the top part of our thermometers. The screening process can be a little intense for our students and we want them to feel safe when they arrive in the morning!



# Health and Safety First!



As part of our COVID-19 response and protocols, to ensure children, family, and staff stay healthy and safe, we have been completing daily temperature checks and health screenings once our students arrive in the morning. We are so glad we are able to resume education and excited to see our sweet students again!





# Ready Rosie

UAMS Head Start/Early Head Start is excited to announce that we have 450 families connected via ReadyRosie! Families will continue to receive weekly playlist from ReadyRoise throughout the summer months even if you are not in the summer program! This is a great way to stay connected to learning at home! We love hearing all of the great feedback and comments from our parents and caregivers! If you are not connected please reach out to your FES and we will send you a registration link. - It is easy as 1,2,3!

Step 1: Watch videos modeling games and conversations that support what we are learning in school.

Step 2: Do the activities with your child and have fun learning together!

Step 3: Share your experiences and expertise with me as I partner with you in your child's learning journey!

# Our Programs

We have three programs our families can choose from: **Center-Based, Home Based, and Pregnant Women**. You can click the following link to visit our website and fill out our online application for the program of your choosing.

<https://headstart.uams.edu/for-families/enroll/>

**Center-Based** serves children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old at 10 sites throughout Pulaski County. We are a federally-funded scholarship program that provides comprehensive, quality early childhood education and support services for families experiencing economic hardships.

The **Home Based Program** helps families provide quality early childhood education to their children through interactive child development activities including weekly home visits and family events.

The **Pregnant Women Program** helps families by providing quality prenatal and postnatal education to expectant mothers and their new babies using the Partners for a Healthy Baby Curriculum and assisting pregnant women in obtaining prenatal care. Services are provided in the areas of education, health, nutrition, mental health, disabilities, and social services.



# *We Love Head Start and Social Media*

Our Head Start/Early Head Start program now has a Facebook account AND a Twitter account!!! Follow us on Facebook at UAMS Head Start/Early Head Start and on Twitter at UAMS Head Start. We make posts daily and will keep staff and families updated on what is going on at Head Start and Early Head Start.

We encourage staff and families to share your Head Start stories with us. We want to hear how our programs have made a positive impact on your life and/or your child's life. You can share your stories on either of our social media accounts.



[UAMS Head Start/Early Head Start](#)



[@UAMSHeadStart](#)