Orange County Head Start-Early Head Start Team Shield

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| *Why do we exist? OCHS/EHS Mission Statement:*  “Engaging and Strengthening Families to Prepare Children for School and Life” | *What do we want to be and how do we want to be perceived?*  -As a program where the “best” people want to work  -As experts in early childhood care, education and development  -As a supportive program which adapts and integrates best practice with community needs and strengthsand empowers families and children  -As resourceful, knowledgeable, compassionate, fair, trustworthy, reliable, effective resource and of good quality  -Culturally responsive and competent  -As responsible for identifying & overcoming barriers to accessing our services  -As an organization that operates within the Head Start parameters to meet or exceed HS goals and standards and is accountable to funding sources and greater community  -As a community partner (in the village which raises the child); known by and a part of the community  -Inclusive and accepting of differences  -As accessible, understood & valued by the populations served including hearing accurate and positive “good word of mouth” about us |
| *What do we value or believe in?*  -In our great opportunity and capacity to influence through our program  -In families, their right to accessible and accurate information, and their ability to make changes with our support  -In supporting families access to healthy, safe environments, quality health care and healthy foods  -In the importance of having hope, in strengthening families/ protective factors, resiliency, and the strength of relationships…between staff, between child and parent, between child and teacher, between staff and families, and between staff and the community  -In children and the change they can have in the world through high quality education & services  -In the importance of family and culture, and strengthening heritage & other languages  -In diversity and that everyone should be heard, valued, and included…families, children & staff  -In our resource rich community, our partnerships, a shared vision to improve quality of life for all  -In the value of staff and their experience, the “team process”, professional development, and being open-minded to differences and changes | *What must we do in the next five years to be successful?*  -Keep working on community partnerships  -Keep evolving in response to community needs  -Be creative and innovative in community outreach/marketing what we do and recruitment efforts  -Improve parent ability to engage with children and the community  -Improve our “team” relationship with parents so they are heard and a part of program development  -Create systems that strengthen relationships between staff, between staff and children, between staff and families, and staff and community including prioritizing face-to-face communication  -Continue and improve strong team collaboration  -Find effective ways to attract and retain well-qualified, competent and committed staff; train and support good staff  -Individualize professional development to improve our practice  -Convene focus groups with teacher and service delivery staff to include their input into program and large-scale planning  -Keep evolving to better use technology while maintaining high standards  -Find the balance between focus on goals, outcomes, data and providing direct care and services  -Establish systems for collecting reliable data about children, families, program management, community involvement and unique organizational initiatives  -Set realistic program goals and be accountable to them. |