

TO: Venango/Crawford County Head Start Families

FROM: Rina Irwin, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Head Start Virtual Learning

DATE: December 2, 2020

Beginning Monday, Dec. 7, all Venango and Crawford County Head Start classrooms at our Grant Street, 7th Street, East End, Willow and Cranberry centers will transition to virtual learning until further notice.

Children already enrolled in the Wrap Care program are permitted to continue attending in person, but we are unable to accept new children into Wrap Care.

Although our Venango and Crawford county Head Start children cannot physically be in our centers for the time being, we are still fully committed to providing high-quality education to them remotely.

The primary tool our teachers will be using is Google Classroom, which many families should already be familiar with and have access to. If you do not have login information, or have general questions about virtual learning, please contact your Center Director for more details.

Those who do not have technology or the ability to access Google Classroom will be provided with hard copies of take-home activities and materials.

Our team of Family Engagement Specialists will also be in regular contact with Head Start families to make sure their needs are being met and connect them to any resources within the community.

Additionally, we are in the process of developing a plan to distribute meals to Head Start families during the virtual learning period. More information will be released at a later date, but any family interested in taking advantage of these free meals should contact their Center Director.

Throughout our 50-plus years of existence, Child Development Centers, Inc. has never faced a situation quite like this. We are not alone when it comes to facing challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are focusing our attention on the long-term future of our organization so we can continue serving the community for decades to come.

The decision to switch to virtual learning will allow us to keep our doors open for the majority of our working families that have no other options for childcare and alleviate some of our staffing shortcomings.

As we have continued to say throughout this entire year, thank you again for your patience with us and for understanding the hurdles we are attempting to overcome.