



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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## Challenge of Children Conference



The 34th annual Challenge of Children Conference will be taking place on Thursday, May 19, 2016 on Hope College's campus in Holland! This free conference is designed for parents and caregivers to discuss relevant topics related to child development.



Some of the workshop topics and titles include: Helping Your Child Succeed, Conflict Resolution in Special Education, Create and Manage Your Spending Plan, Trauma, Childhood Anxiety, Character Strengths, Signs and Symptoms of Autism, Anger in our Kids, Mobile Devices and our Children, just to name a few!

CDS Lakeshore Head Start is a contributor to the Challenge of Children Conference and CDS staff members will be on campus volunteering at the event!

Information from: [www.challengeofchildren.org](http://www.challengeofchildren.org).

Pre-register for the conference and workshops by May 15!

## CDS Open House

We invite you to come and visit a classroom, see what a preschool day entails, and meet staff!

- Tuesday, May 3rd, 4:30-6:30pm at Maplewood Head Start
- Thursday, May 5th, 4:30-6:30pm at Rose Park Head Start

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# CDS Golf Fundraiser



CDS Lakeshore Head Start’s annual “Caring for Kids” charity golf outing is scheduled for **Friday, May 20, 2016** at Macatawa Legends Golf & Country Club in Holland! This is a great opportunity to enjoy a day of golf with friends and co-workers, fantastic food, and excellent prizes, all while lending a helping hand to children in our community.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available and room for more golfers! Remember, it’s a golf scramble (best ball) so you don’t have to be a pro! We will also be hosting a silent auction during the event.



For more information or to register please visit <http://www.golfoutingpro.com/event/CDSofOttawaCounty>. All proceeds from this event will go towards scholarships, tuition assistance and support for the programs provided by CDS.

## CDS Program Updates

### Looking Ahead:

CDS Lakeshore Head Start is now accepting applications for Fall 2016 enrollment. A few of our Family Service Advocates will be working throughout the summer to recruit and meet with families to complete enrollment paperwork. The application can be found on our website at [www.cdsoc.org](http://www.cdsoc.org). Call or visit our administration office for more information!



### A Look Back:

CDS Lakeshore Head Start’s 2014-2015 Annual Report has been published and can be viewed on our website at [www.cdsoc.org/about/annual-report](http://www.cdsoc.org/about/annual-report). The financial audit and tax return are also posted. We are pleased to report there were no reported findings or issues needing attention. We are currently finishing up Year 1 of the new 5-Year grant funding cycle.





# Learn About Lead

## What is Lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in small amounts in the earth's crust. While it has some beneficial uses, it can be toxic to humans and animals causing of health effects.

## Where is Lead Found?

Lead can be found in all parts of our environment – the air, the soil, the water, and even inside our homes. Much of our exposure comes from human activities including the use of fossil fuels including past use of leaded gasoline, some types of industrial facilities, and past use of lead-based paint in homes. Lead and lead compounds have been used in a wide variety of products found in and around our homes, including paint, ceramics, pipes and plumbing materials, solders, gasoline, batteries, ammunition, and cosmetics...When lead is released to the air from industrial sources or vehicles, it may travel long distances before settling to the ground, where it usually sticks to soil particles. Lead may move from soil into ground water depending on the type of lead compound and the characteristics of the soil. Federal and state regulatory standards have helped to reduce the amount of lead in air, drinking water, soil, consumer products, food, and occupational settings.

The most important step parents, doctors, and others can take is to prevent lead exposure before it occurs. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. Children six years old and younger are most susceptible to the effects of lead.

Simple steps like keeping your home clean and well-maintained will go a long way in preventing lead exposure. You can lower the chances of exposure to lead in your home, both now and in the future, by taking these steps:

- Inspect and maintain all painted surfaces to prevent paint deterioration
- Address water damage quickly and completely
- Keep your home clean and dust-free
- Clean around painted areas where friction can generate dust, such as doors, windows, and drawers. Wipe these areas with a wet sponge or rag to remove paint chips or dust
- Use only cold water to prepare food and drinks
- Flush water outlets used for drinking or food preparation
- Clean debris out of outlet screens or faucet aerators on a regular basis
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys often
- Teach children to wipe and remove their shoes and wash hands after playing outdoors
- Ensure that your family members eat well-balanced meals. Children with healthy diets absorb less lead
- If you are having home renovation, repairs, or painting done, make sure your contractor is Lead-Safe Certified, and make sure they follow lead safe work practices

Excerpts and information from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.  
To view full article visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead>

# Addressing Chronic Absence in Head Start

Chronic absenteeism: the term sounds as though it belongs in the depths of a medical dictionary. Much like a disease, it's a condition that spreads rapidly, appears in clusters, runs in families, and has serious, detrimental effects. Unfortunately, it's infecting our schools. What are the risk factors? Is it preventable? Chronic absenteeism means missing 10% of a school year for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences.

Hedy Chang, director of Attendance Works, paints a picture of what this means in one example: "If you're chronically absent in kindergarten or first grade because of an asthma issue, then by third grade you're not reading at grade level and by sixth grade you don't like school because it was never a positive experience. Now maybe you're truant and you're skipping school. But you're losing sight of the fact that we never created an equal opportunity for this child to be successful in school." Chang highlights the value at the core of this growing problem: because chronic absenteeism is disproportionately affecting minorities, students with disabilities, and students from low income families, it's a matter of equity. A missed day of school is a missed opportunity for learning, and the implications are massive.

The premise is simple: students who regularly attend school are likely to do better and stay in school longer. The opposite reigns true, as well. Much like the cognitive and noncognitive skills that students begin to develop at an early age, foundations for good attendance are formed at an early age. To treat the disease, chronic absenteeism, we must first identify the source. The key is tracking absences and causes and identifying the effects, both short term and long term. By identifying students who are in need of intervention and partnering with their families to take proper preventative measures, we can help all children be successful.

*Article from:*

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## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services to children and families.

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