

# Community Newsletter



## Stephanie Grant: presenter at CDS all staff training

Stephanie Grant's clinical work has been with children & their families.

Her focus areas are on infant mental

health (0-3 years) and children who have experienced trauma, particularly trauma associated with foster care and adoption. Before coming to Developmental Enhancement Behavioral Health she had a private therapy practice and worked as a therapist at inpatient psychiatric hospitals. She

held a full time faculty position in the Psychology Department at Southern Nazarene University and her research area has involved infant development, specifically social-emotional factors, such as empathy and attachment. She currently is an adjunct professor for Hope College and also provides a variety of trainings on topics such as trauma and infant mental health.

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" I love my work. It's not just what I do, it's a part of who I am. Whether it's working with kids and their families, teaching college students, or providing trainings to adults, I look forward to it and have no intention of stopping. I also love my family. I have an amazing husband who I really like to spend time with and we have three awesome permanent kiddos, though sometimes the number of kids we parent is higher than three when you combine our biological, adopted, and foster care children"

Information from Stephanie Grant's Development Enhancement Behavioral Health profile.



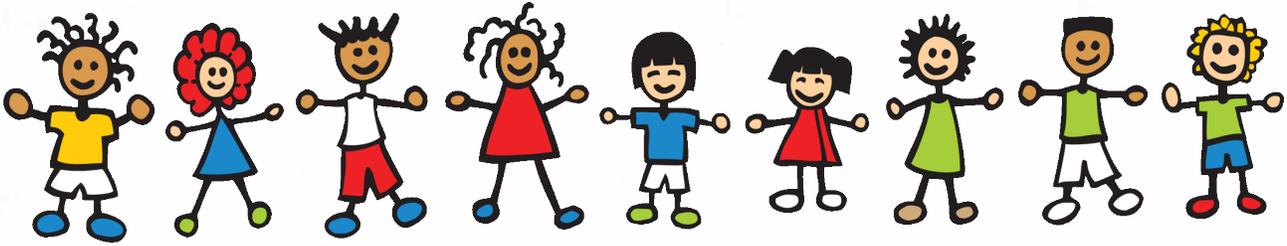
Challenge of Children is a free, one day conference for parents and caregivers. It will be held Thursday May 16th at Hope College. The conference is dedicated to informing, educating, motivating, and offering support and networking on child development, child guidance, and other issues related to parenting.

The conference is all day with Stephanie Grant as the key note speaker. She will also have two break out sessions alongside many other speakers dealing with a wide range of topics.

The site still has last years information but you can read more about the conference and the history behind Challenge for Children. Information on speakers and upcoming conference should be updated soon.

<http://www.challengeofchildren.org/>



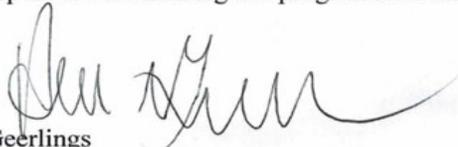


This year marks another successful year! This year we expanded our program to increase the number of full-day preschool classrooms to meet the needs of students. We continue to serve over 400 children through our federally funded Head Start, Early Head Start, and private pay child care. We remain committed to school readiness and student achievement in all our programs. Our dedicated staff work daily to prepare our students for a successful future.

This year, students in both Head Start and Early Head Start programs met or exceeded all benchmark expectations. The teachers and children work hard each day to learn many skills and the success of our program shows our impact on the students. Within our programs, we also strive to have more than just the academic needs met. This year, 100% of our children received both their recommended dental exams as well as received their immunizations. That is something to celebrate!

Additionally, this year we passed our CLASS review (Classroom Assessment Scoring System). The review is randomly assigned to organizations as part of federally-funded grants. It assesses classroom quality for the evaluation of programs and also provides feedback to teachers to see how their teaching methods were working within the classroom. By participating in this review, our organization received helpful feedback in ways we can grow and become more beneficial to all the children we serve as well as seeing our current strengths.

As always, I would like to thank all our teachers, teacher assistants, floaters, bus drivers, food service associates, coaches, advocates, and program administrators. Year after year, our staff shows their commitment to assisting families and enabling our children to succeed. We praise their service and energy spent toward making our programs successful.



Heidi Geerlings  
Board President



## CDS Annual Report information on Disabilities and Mental Health

CDS recruits children with disabilities and maintains a minimum of 10% enrollment for children who have a disability that requires special education services. CDS screens all children for possible delays and works closely with the local school districts on referrals for additional assessments and providing on-site special education services when possible. CDS does not deny placement on the basis of a disability when Head Start is an appropriate placement according to the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

- CDS Lakeshore Head Start utilizes the PLS-5 Screener (Preschool Language Scale) to help identify children with possible speech or language delays. From those screeners, 39 enrolled children were referred for further assessments.
- 23.12 % of funded enrollment were children with special education needs.
- 30 children entered the program with an IEP and 18 children received an IEP during the program year. 10 children entered with an IFSP and 14 children received an IFSP during
- 29 children were identified for a mental health consultation with our on-staff mental health consultant who works with teachers and families to support positive behavior and social/emotional growth in children.
- 13 children were referred to local mental health agencies during the school year.

