

Parent & Community Outreach Program

August 2016

Child Care -

The Child Care Center will kick off the new school year with two full-time staff & two part-time staff returning for the upcoming school year. I am in the process of hiring one full time and two part-time workers before school begins. Currently I am configuring the number of openings that will be available for enrollment. With the 4 year old program in full swing these has taken many of our preschool kids into that program. This change makes it possible for us to enroll more infants. Last school year we had 4 high school teen parents graduate so we will be recruiting new young parents. We have one returning high school parents. We have many staff that are on the waiting list to enroll their infants into the program, but we give teen parents that first priority to the slots.

Some other GOOD NEWS about the Child Care Center is that we have reached a higher level of quality of care. The State of MT has the Stars to Quality rating for child care centers in MT. We are considered a small center but we have reached a level 2 rating. This is a huge accomplishment for us since we are a small center and in a rural community. In order to meet this quality all staff have to be highly trained and our program has to pass many standards of assessment in various areas of child development.

Secondly, I have been notified that we have received a \$2000.00 Outdoor Play Area grant. We will be reimbursed up to \$2000.00 to purchase some kind of outdoor play equipment. I have done some work with Mr. Rouse and Tim to purchase a play sand area to add to the current new playground.

Parent Outreach/HiSet Tutoring – Jeri Gobert worked throughout the month of June to continue tutoring parents that are going to be taking the HiSet test in June and July. The HiSet test is the new GED. We offer tutoring to anyone between the ages of 18-99 years of age that want help improving reading skills, math, writing, science, and social studies. When we help parents be successful in learning they are more likely to encourage and support their students learning. Since Jeri started working in January of 2016, she has had 5 parents pass the HiSet test and 3 are scheduled to test in August.

Families in Transition – This program is designed to help students that are considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. To be considered homeless a student does not have a “fixed”, “regular” or “adequate” living environment. Students that are doubled up with other families in one home are considered homeless. A majority of our homeless students fit that criteria of being doubled up. We do have students that do live in hotel rooms, tents, broke down pull trailers, and abandoned homes with no water or electricity. We hope to do more training with staff and community this year to re-educate on homelessness in our community.