

GLCAP Early Childhood Program

Family Engagement 2025/2026

Parent and Family Engagement in Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) is building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong relationships between parents and their children, and ongoing learning and development for both parents and children. Parent Training and involvement is a vital part of the Early Childhood Program. Centers will offer trainings for parents in a variety of methods, including Parent Corners, Facebook, Fliers, one-on-one and virtual group settings.

The document “Family Partnership Activities 2023-2024” outlines events throughout the program year for activities in addition to this document –see attachment 1.

Mandatory Parent Trainings

Per the Head Start Performance Standards, GLCAP will provide the following parent trainings in a variety of methods, including Parent Corners, Facebook, Fliers, one-on-one and in-person group settings.

Training	Information Provided	Date Flier was distributed or posted in Parent Corner or Posted on Facebook
Importance of Regular Attendance	Use the Attendance Works documents, see https://www.attendanceworks.org/	
Literacy	NCFL Resources (familieslearning.org)	
Language	https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/speech-and-language https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/language-literacy	
Medical and Oral Health Care	https://medicaid.ohio.gov/ https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/basics/childrens-oral-health/index.html https://www.aap.org/en-us/Pages/Default.aspx Health Literacy Tips Flier	
Emergency First Aid	Emergency First Aid Flier	
Environmental Hazards	Environmental Hazards Flier	
Health and Developmental Consequences of Tobacco products	https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/tobacco-use-prevention-and-cessation/cessation/ https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/tobacco-use-prevention-and-cessation/media/Ohio-Quit-Line-Brochure	

	Ohio Quit Line Brochure Healthy Breathing at Home Flier	
Exposure to Lead	https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/childhood-lead-poisoning https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/physical-health/article/lead-poisoning-prevention	
Safe Sleep	Infant Safe Sleep Ohio Department of Health Safe Sleep Flier or Brochure	
Healthy Eating	https://www.choosemyplate.gov/browse-by-audience/view-all-audiences/children/health-and-nutrition-information https://www.choosemyplate.gov/browse-by-audience/view-all-audiences/families https://www.choosemyplate.gov/eathealthy/budget My Plate for Preschoolers Flier	
Health Consequences of Sugar Sweetened Beverages	Sugar Sweetened Beverages Flier Stop Flier	
Child Mental Health and Social/Emotional Well Being	https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/mental-health-health-tips-families https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/mental-health/article/promoting-childrens-social-emotional-well-being https://consciousdiscipline.com/	
Appropriate Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety	https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety Pedestrian Safety Flier	
Understanding How to Access Health Insurance	https://medicaid.ohio.gov/ https://benefits.ohio.gov/	

Parent Committees (Using Parent Café Model)

Each center has a Parent Committee per the Head Start Performance Standards 1301.4 as follows:

(a) *Establishing parent committees.* A program must establish a parent committee comprised exclusively of **parents** of currently enrolled children as early in the program year as possible. This committee must be established at the center level for center-based programs and at the local program level for other program options. When a program operates more than one option, parents may choose to have a separate committee for each option or combine membership. A program must ensure that parents of currently enrolled children understand the process for elections to the policy council or policy committee and other leadership opportunities.

(b) *Requirements of parent committees.* Within the parent committee structure, a program may determine the best methods to engage families using strategies that are most effective in their community, as long as the program ensures the parent committee carries out the following minimum responsibilities:

- (1) Advise staff in developing and implementing local program policies, activities, and services to ensure they meet the needs of children and families;
- (2) Have a process for communication with the policy council and policy committee; and
- (3) Within the guidelines established by the governing body, policy council or policy committee, participate in the recruitment and screening of Early Head Start and Head Start employees.



GLCAP establishes the Parent Committee at each center within the month of September of each year. All parents of currently enrolled children are members of the Parent Committee. The Parent Committee is responsible for the following:

- Establish the committee of all currently enrolled parents in September of each year
- Elect a parent representative to the Policy Council in the counties of Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa and Seneca and in the EHS CCP Grant
- Elect a parent representative to the Policy Committee in the county of Lucas and the Policy Committee elect a parent representative to the Policy Council at Toledo Public Schools – see below.
- Advise staff in developing and implementing local program policies, activities, and services to ensure they meet the needs of children and families.
- The Policy Council/Policy Committee Members elected will report to the Parent Committee from which they were elected.
- GLCAP has established that the Parent Committee will assist with recruitment of employees by referring interested parties to the GLCAP website. Policy Council/Policy Committee will screen potential employees for hire/terminations and transfers. Each center will post the brochure, “Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, Career Opportunities” and the flier, “GLCAP Head Start Recruitment Flier” in the Parent Corner to identify the GLCAP Website for job announcements.

- Centers will have a Parent Café a minimum of 2x time this year.

Month	Activity
September Date Held:	- Hold election for Policy Council Representation - Hold training for Policy Council reps - Identify Parent Facilitator(s) and provide training - Update from Center Specialist and Home Base Coach (if applicable) - Identify an activity – Make it Take it
Winter (November and February) Date Held:	Hold two separate Parent Café events
May: Final family Engagement Event of the year Date Held:	Special Activity/End of Year Celebration ✕ Suggestion - Ice Cream Social at the center with the children (Think of innovative ways to include parents)

- Each center will have a Food Experience/training monthly with children and post pictures to Facebook for parents to view. These events are considered a Nutrition training for parents.

Parent Interest Survey

Each parent is asked to complete a Parent Interest Survey at the time of enrollment or at the Family Connections Meeting. A report will be generated for each center indicating parent interest in various topics. If a topic has been identified of interest to several parents, a parent training will be planned and/or the identified topic of interest will be included in the next Parent Café event.

School Readiness

Performance Standard 1302.34 Parent and family engagement in education and child development services states center-based and family childcare programs must structure education and child development services to recognize parents' roles as children's lifelong educators, and to encourage parents to engage in their child's education. GLCAP will offer parent participation in the area of education through home visits, parent teacher conferences, direct communication with the parent's child's teacher, At-Home activities, Parent Idea Form, volunteering in the classroom and explanation of school readiness goals.

Center Specialists and Teacher Coaches will present the School Readiness Goals through the center newsletter to parents. GLCAP has five areas of school readiness goals and will assign one goal per month as follows:

October	Social-Emotional 3. Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations. b. Solves Social Problems
	Social-Emotional 2. Establishes and sustains positive relationships a. Forms relationships with adults
November	Cognitive 11. Demonstrates positive approaches to learning
January	Language 9. Uses Language to express thoughts and needs
	Language 10. Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills a. Engages in Conversations
February	Literacy 16. Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet
	Literacy 15. Demonstrates phonological awareness a. Notices and discriminates rhyme
March	Mathematics 21. Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes
	Mathematics 20. Uses number concepts and operations
April	Science and Technology 26. Demonstrates knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials
	Physical 5. Demonstrates balancing skills

Parent Cafes

A Parent Café is peer to peer learning that is facilitated by a Parent Facilitator. Parent Facilitators will be trained by the Family Advocate at the center to host the Parent Cafés. In 24-25. Parents that are identified as leaders will be asked to host the parent meetings (Parent Cafés).

Conscious Parenting/ACT Raising Safe Kids - Parent Training

The ACT Raising Safe Kids Program, developed by the APA Violence Prevention Office, teaches positive parenting skills to parents and caregivers of children from birth to age 10. GLCAP plans to offer ACT as follows:

2025/2026

Dates/Times	Location	Staff Assigned for Child Care	Trainers
October	Sandusky County at Migrant/Seasonal Head Start - Fremont Center- 6:00-7:30 p.m.		Gabriel Maxwell Joan Oliver
October	Fostoria Center- Target Seneca Co Parents 5:00-6:30 p.m.		Shirley Bovee Biola Hammer
October	Genoa Center 3:30-5:00		Cynthia Brown Michelle Foos
October	Father Focus-Wood County @Jordan 10:00-2:30 (?)		Andrea Roper Stacie Reitzel
October	Target Lucas County Child Care Parents 13 th Street Time 5:30-7:00		Michelle Rodriguez Carrie Corley
November	Sandusky County @ MSHS 10:00-2:30		Cynthia Brown Joan Oliver
November	GLCAP Early Childhood Program - FCC/NWO Child Care @ Library		Andrea Roper Stacie Reitzel
December	Lucas County Head Start at GLCAP Sylvania/Bancroft Centers 8:30-10:00		Michelle Rodriguez Carrie Corley
January	Grannie Thomas/IB Northwood		Andrea Roper Stacie Reitzel Biola Villarreal

February	Seneca County @ Tiffin		Michelle Foos Tonya Lentz
February	PBR Time TBD		Cynthia Brown Rob Sundin
March	Clyde Center @ Library 9:30-11:00		Joan Oliver Michelle Foos
March	Father Focus Lucas County Time TBD		Michelle Rodriquez Rob Sundin
April	GLCAP Early Childhood Program- Sandusky County @ Stricker 5:00-7:00		Joan Oliver Cynthia Brown
May	Napoleon 5:00-7:00		Joan Oliver Gabe Maxwell
June	Father Focus All counties at Stricker TBD		Michelle Foos Joan Oliver

Budget for Parent Activities

\$15 per child for Direct Operated Centers - **Center Specialists will monitor and track the spending of these funds for Parent Activities at the center level.**

\$15 per child for Home Base - **Home Base Coaches will monitor and track the spending of these funds.**

\$15 per child for Child Care Contract and Child Care Family - **Family Advocates and PFCE Specialists will monitor and track the spending of these funds for their assigned centers.**

ACT Raising Safe Kids Budget – separate budget.