



HOOTMAIL

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE NYC EARLYLEARN COMMUNITY

APRIL 29, 2014

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

EarlyLearn Monthly Disbursement Report

Effective April 2014, EarlyLearn Providers will be receiving a Microsoft Excel file from ACS' Division of Financial Services that provides remittance advice comprised of supporting schedules for your most recent payment.

Please see the Hootmail Attachments for the memo issued by ACS' Financial Services titled "EarlyLearn Monthly Disbursement Report: Remittance Advice Descriptions" – this document will describe what you can expect to see in the monthly pay for enrollment distribution spreadsheets. Please share this important information with your board members, directors and finance staff.



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IMPORTANT DATES

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| 4/30 | Self Assessments Due |
| 4/30 | 5th Annual Brooklyn Playdate |
| 5/4 | Universal Preschool in Sweden Presentation |
| 5/14 | Community Partnerships and Referral Training |
| 5/6, 5/8 | ACS Directors' Meetings |
| 5/7 | Program Roster Updates Due |
| 5/15 | Safe Kids Healthy Family |

REMINDERS...



SELF-ASSESSMENT FINAL DEADLINE, APRIL 30TH

ACS' Division of Early Care & Education remains committed to reflective practice in its support of all early childhood environments in New York City as Reflection-in-Action is the only means to building true excellence. To this end, EarlyLearn Self-Assessment 2014 was launched on February 2, 2014 and extends to April 30, 2014.

To download all documents and forms needed to complete the self-assessment process, please visit our website at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/acs/html/child_care/for_programs.shtml. Submissions should be submitted to sar@acs.nyc.gov.

ENROLLMENT RECONCILIATIONS

In efforts to have the most accurate information for the close of the Fiscal Year and to help with a clean starting point for the fall, ECE's Data Management Unit is conducting another enrollment reconciliation for our EarlyLearn programs. In mid-April, every EarlyLearn center received a program-specific roster of all the children our system had enrolled in the program since July 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Similarly to our reconciliation process in October 2013, programs were asked to review their enrollment and notify ECE of any changes/corrections needed. Any resolutions resulting in reimbursement adjustments would be issued within the June service month period. If you have not yet submitted your reviewed roster, please send by **May 7** to earlycare&education@dfa.state.ny.us (or indicate your program and let us know that no corrections are needed).

INFO FOR THE ENTIRE EARLYLEARN COMMUNITY

SESAME STREET COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Sesame Street's Community Engagement newsletter provides families and communities with information on ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle in children - educationally, physically, and emotionally.



All of their online resource can be found at www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits and can also be found on their social media pages below:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SesameStreetInCommunities>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sesamecommunity>
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SesameInCommunities>
- Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/sesamestreet/>
- iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/sesame-in-communities/id635364022>

For questions / to sign up for the newsletter, please email Jessica@sesame.org.

THE 5TH ANNUAL BIG BROOKLYN PLAYDATE



Come play at the Library! Brooklyn Public Library will be having their 5th Annual Big Brooklyn Playdate on April 30 at the Central Library of Brooklyn Public Library (10 Grand Army Plaza).

Please help them spread the word! Babies, toddlers, and their grown-ups will enjoy fun, developmentally appropriate activities as they turn Dweck Lobby into a playspace. Story time will be presented in the Youth Wing. Steve Light, preschool teacher and board book author, will be sharing his work. The Brooklyn Public Library is also welcoming volunteers for this event. For more information, please see and share the flyer in the Hoot Attachments.

Directions to the Central Library are available here: <http://www.bklynpubliclibrary.org/locations/central>

Please note that The Brooklyn Public Library cannot accommodate child care groups at this event.

INFO FOR THE ENTIRE EARLYLEARN COMMUNITY (continued)

ACS WEBSITE UPDATES

The [provider page of ACS' website](#) has been updated with all the materials that were distributed at the Head Start Directors' Meeting on March 28 (check under the Head Start Information section). Child Care programs should also look to the items numbered 1 — 7 as these are resources which you may find helpful as well.

SHOW US YOUR PRIDE!

Belmont Day Care sent us pictures from their "Daddy and Me Dance", "Family Night", and "Easter Egg Hunt" celebrations. Belmont Day Care will also be celebrating their 3rd Annual Day of the Young Child on Saturday, May 3. To be featured in an upcoming Hootmail, send your pictures to [Okolo Jacobs](#) along with a brief description.



Belmont's 2nd Daddy and Me Dance, February 13th, 2014



Belmont's Family Night, March 28th, 2014



Belmont Day Care Annual Easter Egg Hunt, April 16th/April 17th, 2014

EDUCATION AND DISABILITIES

THE QUEENS LIBRARY: TODDLER LEARNING CENTER

The Queens Library will be having their toddler Learning Center workshops in various locations throughout Queens. There will be five free session workshops for toddlers and adults to enhance toddlers' educational and physical development. For more information and dates, please see the Hoot Attachments.



HEAD START

HEAD START KEY INDICATORS SCREENING FEDERAL REVIEW

Please see the Hoot Attachments for a copy of the e-bulletin and attachments that were distributed on April 22 regarding the Head Start Key Indicators Screening Federal Review. Please be advised that the attachments included a HSKI Certification that should be submitted along with your Self-Assessment packet.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HEALTH COVERAGE

The April 15th, 2014 extension to enroll in private health insurance has passed, however **Medicaid and/ and Child Health Plus** enrollment is all year long. Individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid and/ or Child Health Plus *may* still have an opportunity to enroll in private health insurance *if* they have had a qualifying event such as job loss, marriage, divorce, and birth of a child.

Please visit the [Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access'](#) (OCHIA) website for additional information on [Special Enrollment](#). Please share this information with the community, your staff and families.

TRAININGS / RESOURCES

MAY 6 & MAY 8 — EARLYLEARN NYC DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The Directors' Meetings in May will be on the borough-level. We will be discussing enrollment and recruitment strategies. Please pre-register for one borough only.

<https://acselnyc-maydirmtg-queens.eventbrite.com>

<https://acselnyc-maydirmtg-bronx.eventbrite.com>

<https://acselnyc-maydirmtg-mnhttn.eventbrite.com>

<https://acselnyc-maydirmtg-brooklyn.eventbrite.com>

Please bookmark our [eventbrite site](#) which provides a listing of all the upcoming trainings hosted by ACS.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND REFERRALS TRAINING, MAY 14th

There will be a training session on Community Partnerships and Referrals on May 14 from 9:30 to 1 at the ACS Children's Center: 492 First Avenue | New York, NY 10016.

It will provide the following:

- Panel of representatives from ACS/ECE Community Partners who will describe services which are available to contracted agencies (Cool Culture, CPPs, Food Bank, etc.)
- Strategies for identifying and developing Community Partnerships
- "Nuts and Bolts" of making referrals including how to deal with challenges

This training is for Family Service Coordinators and Directors of EarlyLearn programs.

Pre-registration is required: <http://acselnyc-engnet-commpart.eventbrite.com>

TRAININGS / RESOURCES continued

DAY CARE COUNCIL MEMBERS: FREE WORKSHOPS FOR STAFF AND PARENTS

The Day Care Council of New York will be sponsoring free workshops for staff and parents. Topics being covered for staff workshops are organizing parent advisory committee. The parent workshops will cover stimulating a child's educational development outside of the classroom, anger management, parenting skills, recognizing signs of child abuse, and child development. For more information or to arrange these workshops, please contact Hyacinth Barnes at (212) 206-7818. Please see the Hoot Attachments for the flyer.

SAFE KIDS HEALTHY FAMILIES, MAY 15

On May 15, Safe Kids New York City is presenting a one-day injury prevention conference, "Safe Kids Healthy Families." The information provided at the conference will help your staff more effectively reach high-risk families with strategies to reduce unintentional injuries in the home, at school, after school or daycare, on the road and at play. Please see the Hoot Attachments for more information.



Universal Preschool in Sweden: Inspiration for Progressive Early Childhood Education, May 5

Please see the Hootmail Attachments for a flyer about a wonderful opportunity on May 5 to hear about high quality preschools in Sweden from Swedish educators! It promises to inspire us and give us a chance to compare systems as well as learn from each other.