

Early Childhood Connections ~ MAY 2023

# NEWSLETTER



Parents as Teachers    Early Head Start    Head Start

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May 3	9:30-10:30 am	0-5 Playgroup at Hays Massey Park
May 3	10:00-11:00 am	0-5 Playgroup at Russell at Castle Park
May 11	10:00-11:00 am	La Leche at Crosspoint Church
May 15	12:00-1:00 pm	Policy Council at Early Childhood Connections
May 17		<b>LAST DAY OF CLASSES (Ellis)</b>
May 18		<b>LAST DAY OF CLASSES (Hays)</b>
May 19	9:00 –10:00 am	0-5 Rooks Playgroup First Christian Church
May 24		<b>LAST DAY OF CLASSES (Russell)</b>

Office Closed May 29 for Memorial Day

**NOW ENROLLING**

For the 2023-2024 School year

**Offering**

Center-Based Home Based

Pre-School Classes

**785-623-2430**



**Parent Teacher Conference's**

May 2023

Please check with your teachers on date and times.



Beginning On June 5, 2023  
the Office will have  
summer hours.

Monday—Thursday

6:00 am-4:00 pm



# USD 489 DRIVE-THRU SUMMER LUNCHES

FREE

MEALS FOR ALL CHILDREN  
AGES 1-18 YEARS

MON-THURS  
MAY 30-  
JULY 27

FRIDAY MEALS SENT  
HOME THURSDAY



11:30AM -  
12:45PM

HAYS HIGH  
SCHOOL  
EAST PARKING LOT



SCAN FOR MENUS



CHILDREN MUST  
BE PRESENT  
TO GET MEALS

PARENT PICK-UP FORMS  
AVAILABLE ON-SITE



THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER



USD 489 EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS

# BLOCK PARTY!!

## May 4, 2023



5:00 to 7:00

CrossPoint Church

*(directly to the east of the Connections Complex)*



**All Connections families are invited  
to join us for a free block party!**

**Pizza Bounce House  
Obstacle Course Games Music**



Early Childhood  
**Connections**  
*"Live the Possibilities"*

**Do you receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits?**



**Your child may be eligible for free Head Start or Early Head Start services!**



**Office of Head Start**

Head Start and Early Head Start programs deliver free, comprehensive services to children ages birth to 5 and their families in core areas of early learning, health, nutrition, and family well-being. For more information on Head Start programs, please visit <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/programs/article/head-start-programs>

**If you are in the counties of Ellis, Russell, Rush or Rooks - complete an enrollment inquiry by scanning this QR code. Someone will contact you!**

[www.usd489connections.com](http://www.usd489connections.com)



**It's easy to prove eligibility with any of the following:**



A copy of notice of SNAP approval



Other documentation of eligibility or benefits from the SNAP agency, such as a screenshot from a SNAP mobile app



Your household's SNAP card (Electronic Benefit Transfer [EBT] card)

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# Comming This Summer!



June 26, 2023

Hays Aquatic Park

4:00 to 6:30 pm



Free Admission for each Connections child  
and two caregivers.

Open to all Connections Families  
Please bring your own towels and swim diapers.



KANSAS

**Big Brothers Big Sisters.**

ELLIS COUNTY

## Could your child use the support of a Big?

As a parent, you recognize the potential of your child better than anyone. But sometimes, life presents changes that are often outside of your control, especially in times like these. We can help!

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**At no cost to you**, we can provide a one-to-one adult mentor - a Big - for your child. A Big is someone who will encourage your child academically, support them emotionally, and foster positive social skills.

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# HOW TO ENROLL A LITTLE

## 1. Contact your local office.

Phone: 785.625.6672

Email: [ellis@kansasbigs.org](mailto:ellis@kansasbigs.org)

Website: [www.kansasbigs.org](http://www.kansasbigs.org)

Address: 1200 Main, Suite 102; Hays, KS 67601

## 2. Begin the enrollment process

A Match Support Specialist will contact you to gather information about your child's personality, interests, needs and goals. We'll use this information to best fit your child with a Big.

## 3. Get matched with a Big Brother/Sister!

Once a best fit match is identified, your Match Support Specialist (MSS) will contact you. Then you and your child will meet his/her Big and the mentoring relationship begins. Your MSS will provide ongoing guidance and support throughout the length of the match which can lead to a lifetime friendship.



# ¿Beneficiaria su hijo(a) de tener un mentor?



Nadie ama a su hijo(a) mas que usted. Aunque hay veces que en la vida se presentan circunstancias difíciles que varias de la veces están fuera de su control. Aquí es donde nosotros le podemos ayudar.

**Ha un precio gratuito**, podemos proveer un mentor (Big) para su hijo(a) para pasar tiempo individualmente. El mentor es alguien que podrá invertir tiempo con su hijo(a) y brindarle ese apoyo adicional en su vida. El mentor motivara a su hijo(a) en su educación, les ayudara a desarrollar comportamientos sanos y motivarlos a tomar decisiones positivas.

**85%**

**De los Niños(as) ( Littles ) que han participado han compartido que el ser emparejado con un mentor les dio confianza en sus habilidades**





KANSAS

**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters**®

ELLIS COUNTY



**COMO  
INSCRIBIR A  
SU**

**Hijo(a)**

## 1. Llamar a su oficina local .

Teléfono: 316.290.8806

Correo electrónico:

[dchavez@kansasbig.org](mailto:dchavez@kansasbig.org)

Página web: [www.kansasbig.org](http://www.kansasbig.org)



## 2. Comenzar el proceso de inscripción.

Un especialista de inscripción infantil lo contactará para tomar más información sobre la personalidad de su hijo(a), sus intereses, sus necesidades y metas. Usaremos esta información para emparejarlo(a) lo mejor posible con un mentor (Big).

## 3. ¡Ser emparejado con un mentor(a) (Big)!

Al encontrar un emparejamiento adecuado, su especialista de apoyo (MSS) lo contactará. Después, usted y su hijo(a) podrán conocerlo(a) y ¡su relación comienza! Su especialista de apoyo (MSS) les proveerá guía e apoyo al transcurso del emparejamiento que en fin puede desarrollarse en una amistad de por vida.

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**1200 Main Street, Suite 102, Hays, KS 67601**

# Pool Safety Facts

for Parents and Kids



## Did you know?



**Drowning is silent.**  
There can be very little splashing, waving or screaming.



**Watching your child in the water is your responsibility.** A lifeguard's job is to enforce rules, scan, rescue and resuscitate.

**Drowning is quick.** Once a child begins to struggle, you may have less than a minute to react.



**Swim lessons are essential, but skill level varies.** Many children who drowned in pools reportedly knew how to swim.



## Make sure kids learn how to swim and develop these 5 water survival skills.



**1** Step or jump into water over his/her head and return to the surface.



**2** Float or tread water for one minute.



**3** Turn around in a full circle and find an exit from the water.



**4** Swim 25 yards to the exit.



**5** Exit from the water without using the ladder.

Watch your kids when they are in and around water, without distraction.



**SAFE  
KIDS**  
WORLDWIDE.

Learn more at [safekids.org](http://safekids.org).

## spring flower fruit pizza

*make a colorful and fun  
treat to celebrate spring!*

whole grain sandwich thins  
or English muffins  
ground cinnamon  
vanilla Greek yogurt  
sliced fruit, like berries,  
oranges, kiwi or bananas

1. Lightly toast each sandwich thin. Sprinkle each with ground cinnamon. Let cool.
2. Top each sandwich thin with 1 tablespoon of vanilla Greek yogurt and sliced fruit.



Your child can help spread yogurt & make flower designs with fruit!



## pizza primavera de flores con frutas

*prepara una golosina colorida y  
divertida para celebrar la primavera!*

panes integrales finos para  
sándwiches (sandwich thins)  
o muffins ingleses  
canela molida  
yogur griego de vainilla

rodajas de frutas, como frutos  
rojos, naranjas, kiwi o bananas

1. Tuesta ligeramente cada pan para sándwich. Espolvorea cada uno con canela molida. Déjalos enfriar.
2. Cubre cada rodaja para sándwich con 1 cucharada de yogur griego de vainilla y fruta en rodajas.



Tu hijo puede ayudar a untar el yogur y hacer diseños de flores con la fruta.

