



March 2020

Blue Mountain Early Learning HUB

bluemountainearylearninghub.org

Newsletter

MORROW UMATILLA UNION COUNTIES

Early Childhood Partnership Team Meetings (ECPT)

Umatilla County

Tuesday, April 14
1:00 - 2:30 pm
InterMountain ESD • Pendleton

Union County

Wednesday, March 11 • 1:00 - 3:00 pm
DHS (Room ISB 147) • La Grande
<https://www.facebook.com/Union-County-ECPT-836224543130112/>

Morrow County Thursday,

April 9
12:00 - 2:00 pm
Port of Morrow • Boardman

Oregon Kindergarten Assessment Results for 2019-2020

Oregon Kindergarten Assessment results for 2019 have been released. The assessment is given each fall to entering kindergartners and provides a snapshot of students' foundational skills in three core areas of learning and development: early literacy, early math and approaches to learning. These results, including a breakdown by school district, are available online at <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Pages/Kindergarten-Assessment.aspx>. More analysis will be available at upcoming ECPT meetings and the Early Learning Hub governance March meeting. Our region made gains in each of the three core areas as compared to 2018. The most noticeable gains were made in early literacy. For more information contact Cade Burnette at cade.burnette@imesd.k12.or.us.

Census 2020 - Your Response Matters!

Health clinics. Fire departments. Schools. Even roads and highways. The census can shape many different aspects of your community.

- Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year.
- The results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.
- It's mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2: The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding: online, by phone or by mail. In mid-March, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census. For more information: <https://2020census.gov/en.html>



2020 Kindergarten Jumpstart: Taking Applications

The Blue Mountain Early Learning (BMEL) Hub is again partnering with school districts to offer the Kindergarten Jumpstart program throughout Umatilla, Morrow, and Union counties. Kindergarten Jumpstart is a 2 to 3 week, ½ day summer program held at the end of summer (must end within two weeks of the first day of school) that focuses on teaching children listening, learning, and behavioral skills, while preparing them for the full-day schedule ahead. The program helps familiarize children with the school and routines and allows for a much smoother start to the school year. Responsibilities and funding for the program will be shared between the BMEL Hub and the school district. For more information and to complete an application, please visit our website: <https://bluemountainearylearninghub.org/>

Professional Development Opportunities:

Children Bring Communities Together Conference

March 7 7:45am-4:15pm at BMCC in Pendleton
<https://umchs.com/children-bring-communities-together/>

Don't We Already Do Inclusion? Dr. Paula Kluth

April 10 9:00am-3:00pm at the Red Lion in Pendleton
<https://imesd.k12.or.us/profdev>

2020 Elementary Principals Conference

April 23-24 10 9:00am-3:00pm at the Graduate Hotel in Eugene
<https://imesd.k12.or.us/profdev>

2020 GOBHI Spring Conference: Every Voice Matters

May 6-May 8 at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend
www.gobhi.org/conference.

2020 Whole Child Summit COSA Conference

May 7-8 at the Mill Casino in North Bend, OR
<https://www.cosa.k12.or.us/events/2020-whole-child-summit>

Pioneer Relief Nursery's Ladies' Night Out

May 8 at Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton
<https://pioneerreliefnursery.org/2020/02/21/pendleton-ladies-night-out/>

Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub Governing Board:

Umatilla County:

Lori Hale, *Education*
Lidwinner Machado,
Human & Social Services
Katy Mabry, *Parent*

Morrow County:

Sheree Smith, *Health*
Marie Shimer, *Education*
Dorothy Powell, *Migrant & Second Language Education*

Union County:

Robert Kleng, *Chair, Education*
Kathy Bonney, *Business*
Carrie Brogoitti, *Health*

Other:

Dr. Mark Mulvihill, *InterMountain ESD Lead*
Maureen McGrath, *Umatilla-Morrow Co. Head Start Lead*
Linda Watson, *Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization Rep*
Lloyd Commander, *Tribal Representative*



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<https://www.facebook.com/BMELH>

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This Month's Parenting Article: *Music for Learning*

We have all heard that if you want to build your child's math brain, expose them to music. As parents we start playing classical music during nap and bedtime to calm them in hopes that we have a sleeping baby and the next Einstein. However, did you know the power music has on building the foundation for reading?

Learning to read is basically the ability to hear or recognize different sounds and then connect those sounds to letters of an alphabet. Listening to music from an early age helps the brain learn sound discrimination, hear different instruments, rhythms and developing language. Exposing your child to a variety of genres of music and in different languages only enhances their ability to build these skills.

Have you ever been curious about the why behind playing patty cake or teaching your child nursery rhymes? Often we think of these as just games or songs passed down through generations without realizing their importance. One of the indicators used to determine whether or not a child may struggle with reading is their ability or inability to rhyme and or delete or substitute sounds in a language. Think about the many nursery rhymes you know. The base of those fun songs is typically teaching rhyming, rhythm and building important parent/child connections. Some of my childhood favorite nursery rhymes are: Baa, Baa Black Sheep, Hickory Dickory Dock, Itsy Bitsy Spider, and Down by the Bay. Children can also practice deleting and substituting sounds with B-I-N-G-O and Apples and Bananas. Another great way for children to build these skills is to learn songs/rhymes from different cultures.

So, we have our child listening to music to build new neurons in the brain and to develop the ability to distinguish different sounds, but is there more we can do? Absolutely! The brain is a very complex organ that has many different parts and pieces with various roles. In child development, we often talk about how to engage the whole brain in hopes of enhancing learning. Typically, we are referring to the right brain and the left brain, yes, your brain has two sides.

The right brain is referred to as the creative side of the brain, this is the side we tend to think artists spend most of their thinking time in. The left side is the logic, linear, language side of the brain and

where those mathematicians live. This is a fun imagery to use but in reality, information and learning is constantly crossing to both sides of the brain, referred to as crossing mid-line. Interestingly where you learn rhythm is on the right side and where you learn language is on the left. So finding musically focused, cross mid-line activities is the power food for brain development. This could include boomwhackers, (lightweight, hollow, color-coded, plastic tubes, tuned to a musical pitch by length) and dance routines that engage both sides of the body.

Further, studies show us children who study music score higher than their peers on tests measuring the ability to analyze information and solve complex problems. 21st Century skills include flexibility and adaptability and the arts promote these skills in children. We've also learned that students who participate and attend live theater have increased tolerance of diversity and are more successful in social interactions. The performance arts allow students to experience what it feels like to be on a team and be active members of a community.

Here are a few apps and websites that help engage children in musical activities:

Mussila Music School (Android/Apple)

Mazaam-The Musical Genius (Android/Apple)

Loopimal (Apple)

The Learning Station (Youtube)

<https://family.gonoodle.com/> (check out the Kids Zumba!!)

<https://boomwhackers.com/>

"There is music in every child. The teacher's job is to find it and nurture it" Francis Clark

Ami Muilenburg is a Principal and Jacque Fox is a Teacher for the Milton-Freewater Unified School District which is a partner of the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub.

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