Orange County Head Start-Early Head Start Team Shield

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| *Why do we exist? OCHS/EHS Mission Statement:*“Engaging and Strengthening Families to Prepare Children for School and Life” | *What do we want to be and how do we want to be perceived?*-As a program where the “best” people want to work-As experts in early childhood care, education and development -As a supportive program which adapts and integrates best practice with community needs and strengthsand empowers families and children-As resourceful, knowledgeable, compassionate, fair, trustworthy, reliable, effective resource and of good quality-Culturally responsive and competent-As responsible for identifying & overcoming barriers to accessing our services-As an organization that operates within the Head Start parameters to meet or exceed HS goals and standards and is accountable to funding sources and greater community-As a community partner (in the village which raises the child); known by and a part of the community-Inclusive and accepting of differences-As accessible, understood & valued by the populations served including hearing accurate and positive “good word of mouth” about us  |
| *What do we value or believe in?* -In our great opportunity and capacity to influence through our program-In families, their right to accessible and accurate information, and their ability to make changes with our support -In supporting families access to healthy, safe environments, quality health care and healthy foods-In the importance of having hope, in strengthening families/ protective factors, resiliency, and the strength of relationships…between staff, between child and parent, between child and teacher, between staff and families, and between staff and the community-In children and the change they can have in the world through high quality education & services-In the importance of family and culture, and strengthening heritage & other languages-In diversity and that everyone should be heard, valued, and included…families, children & staff-In our resource rich community, our partnerships, a shared vision to improve quality of life for all-In the value of staff and their experience, the “team process”, professional development, and being open-minded to differences and changes | *What must we do in the next five years to be successful?* -Keep working on community partnerships-Keep evolving in response to community needs-Be creative and innovative in community outreach/marketing what we do and recruitment efforts-Improve parent ability to engage with children and the community-Improve our “team” relationship with parents so they are heard and a part of program development-Create systems that strengthen relationships between staff, between staff and children, between staff and families, and staff and community including prioritizing face-to-face communication-Continue and improve strong team collaboration-Find effective ways to attract and retain well-qualified, competent and committed staff; train and support good staff-Individualize professional development to improve our practice-Convene focus groups with teacher and service delivery staff to include their input into program and large-scale planning-Keep evolving to better use technology while maintaining high standards-Find the balance between focus on goals, outcomes, data and providing direct care and services-Establish systems for collecting reliable data about children, families, program management, community involvement and unique organizational initiatives-Set realistic program goals and be accountable to them. |