

Head Start Health Services Newsletter: April 2009

Emerging Research

Study Explores Link Between Preterm Birth and Autism

Nearly twice the number of extremely low gestational age newborns than expected screened positive for autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to a recent study. Study results and an accompanying article urging more research on the connection between preterm birth and ASD were published in the April 2009 issue of *The Journal of Pediatrics*.

Featured Topics of the Month

Healthy Diet Yields Healthy Pregnancy

Good nutrition is vital for a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) features [Nutrition Tips for a Healthy Pregnancy](#), a food guide pyramid for pregnant and breastfeeding women, information about which foods to be careful of, and tips on how to avoid a foodborne illness.

Social and Emotional Development from Birth to Preschool

April is [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and encourage individuals and communities to support children. Visit the ECLKC for more information on how parents, teachers, and caregivers can [promote positive behavior](#) from birth through preschool.

From Our Federal Partners

Protecting Children from MRSA

Schools are a common site for the spread of a contagious skin infection called Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a [MRSA fact sheet](#) that answers commonly asked questions about MRSA and how to prevent its spread among students at school.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Updates WIC Eligibility Guidelines

The USDA has updated [income eligibility guidelines](#) for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) for 2009–2010. WIC provides nutritious foods, referrals to health care, and information about healthy eating for low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk.

Ask OHS

Do you have a question about Head Start? Submit your question to OHS-PolicyQuestions@acf.hhs.gov. Questions and answers that would be helpful to your colleagues will be published in the next issue of this newsletter.

We Want to Hear from You

If you have suggestions for future Head Start ECLKC Health News Alert topics, please email your comments to ceceliag@headstartinfo.org.