



LAGUNA DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

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What's Inside

EHS

- SUNNYSIDE
- CHINATOWN
- NEW YORK
- TURQUOISE SPRINGS

PHS

- PAGUATE
 - VILLAGE
 - CASA BLANCA
 - ENCINAL
 - SEAMA
-
- FAMILY SERVICE PROVIDERS
 - HEALTH AID
 - DISABILITIES COORDINATOR
 - ERSEA / CHILDCARE MANAGER
 - PROGRAM ASSISTANT
 - SOCIAL WORKER

Upcoming Events

09/01- No School
(Labor Day)

09/05- Grandparents Day

09/08- No School
(Encinal Feast)

09/12- Take Home Activity
+ Classroom Nutrition Activity
(Guacamole Dip)

09/19- No School
(Laguna Feast)

09/25- No School
(Pagate Feast)



SEPTEMBER 2025



Sunnyside Classroom

August: We made it through the month of August. The children have adjusted well to their new environment and are getting into the routines of the classroom. Theme was Routines and Seats. The children got to investigate the chairs in the classroom: buckles, getting in and out, climbing and sitting.

Creative Curriculum: For the month of September, we are looking forward to exploring different types of bags. What types of bags do we use for school, at home, and going to the store, ...? How are they used? What we can put in them? Questions we will answer. The children will have hands-on learning with engaging activities. **Home activities:** Look around your house and see what type of bags you have. Talk about what they are used for.

Social-Emotional: Singing songs and talking to help with regulating ourselves.

Cultural lifeways: We are in the month of feast activities and celebrations. These days are our culture days and we will have No School. Attend the feasts, watch the social dances, and support the local artists.

Conscious Discipline: Wishing the children well with the song, I Wish You Well.

Birthdays: No birthdays

Reminders to parents: Check folders for any flyers and information

Parent tip(s): Be patient and understanding, during separation. Offer extra cuddles, reassurance, and saying good-bye.

Parent recognition: Thank you to our parents for bringing your children to school.

Milestones / Student Highlights

We welcomed a new friend to the classroom. We have four children in class.

A child is walking on their own
Two children are walking with hands held

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(505) 552-6544 ext.5201

Makayla Sarracino
m.sarracino@lagunaed.net





Chinatown

Greetings, DEC Families! Our first month of EHS was a First for many families! I'd like to send my deepest gratitude to our families for bringing their children to our room. I understand how you feel leaving your little one, especially when they cry for you: I am incredibly humbled that you place your trust in us. Thank you, sincerely, for allowing to give a happy, safe, and engaging place for your children to grow.

August

In August, our children were shown their new classroom environment and were given a few places where they can sit. Our study for this month is Seats, which we have regular chairs, a couch, bean bags, and box chairs. It is hilarious trying to get a class full of two-year-old children to sit! I have found that because we are still getting to know each other, your smart, independent, loving children are testing themselves and us. They want to do what they want, but still need comfort, patience, and love—which we were able to make a seating chart using their pictures, learn about how to cover their mouths when sneezing (still in progress), and how to serve themselves at mealtimes. Your kids also made a snack called an Apple Race Car!

September

In September, we will study about Bags: what are they, how are they made, and what they are used for. We will bring different types of bags (grocery, paper, gift, etc....) for your children to explore and investigate. We will also have our Cozy Corner or Zen Zone set up, families can participate in deciding what we will call our calm-down place.

Reminders

Parents, thank you for reading to your children every day! This not only helps us with in-kind, but, I've been able to talk to your child about what they read. It allows another connection and it helps me to engage in conversation with your child. Also, please continue looking in their backpacks for the communication folders!



New York

August

For the first month of school (August) we focused on seats and routines. Letting the kids get used to learning to be at school and getting into our classroom routine. It was a big adjustment being away from moms and dads.

Our Cultural Lifeways for the Month of August was Self Identity and kinships. The children learned about the people around them. We learned if they have an Indian name or if they have clans or not.

Highlights of our first month include majority of the children having an easier time at drop off. KD has been walking a lot more on his own.

September

The focus of our study for the month of September is going to be Bags. We will look at the different types/sizes of bags what they are made of and how they can be used in our daily lives.

Our Cultural Lifeways for the month of September is going to be about Pueblo feast days and what events and traditions take place during these feast days.

Turquoise will be our color of the month for September.

One day a month we have a Nutrition activity. Children have a hands on activity using fun and healthy ingredients to make a tasty snack and they will get to taste test. This month our Nutrition activity will be Guacamole Dip.

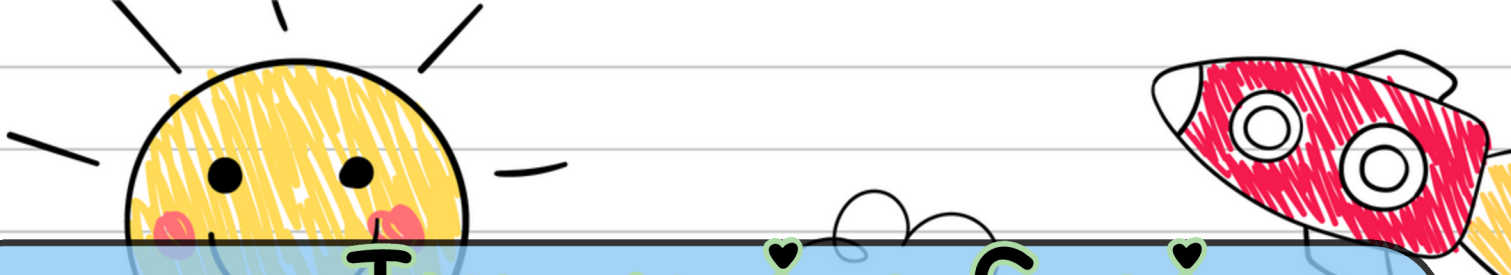
One of our goals is to be able to have all our friends continue practicing our daily routine while learning to interact, share, take turns, develop friendships with peers, and nap longer than 30 min LOL.

Happy Birthday to our friend NT.

Reminders for Parents- Please don't forget to fill out and sign the daily report forms when dropping off your child. Also please check your child's backpack regularly.

You may contact the New York Room Teachers at:

s.lewis@lagunaed.net or
m.arkie@lagunaed.net
(505) 552-6654 Ext. 5107



Turquoise Springs

August

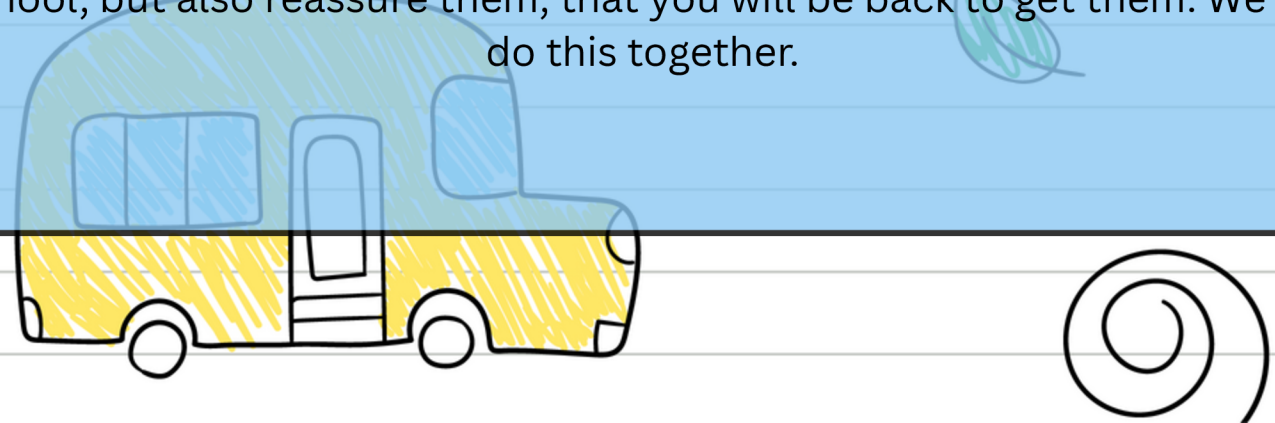
Creative Curriculum: Welcome Back and Welcome to our new friends and families, I know it is hard making adjustments to new friends and Teachers, however we are making progress 😊 We have been working on our daily routines, playing with toys, picking up toys, transitioning (restroom and going outside), and making adjustments to a school setting. Sitting at the table to eat our meals, learning how to be patient while everyone is being served. It is all new to some of us, but we are working on it ALL TOGETHER.

Cultural Lifeways: Our color for the month was Yellow. We would point to the color yellow wherever it was seen in the classroom. We sent home an activity for the families to do.

Conscious Discipline: I love you rituals; along with making adjustments of coming to school, we talk to the children about Momma's, Daddy's, Uncles, Grandma's, and Sister's coming back at the end of the day to pick them up and giving them the extra hugs.

Health / Nutrition Activities: Our activity was to create a race car using apples and grapes. We observed the fruit, named the colors, and of course the best part was eating the fruit. When I was holding up the fruit, you could hear the kids expressing excitement by saying "mmmm".

Achievements / Goals: Being away from family is tough, children are really trying, it's not an easy process, but it is something they are learning. Attendance is key, continue talking to your child everyday about coming to school, but also reassure them, that you will be back to get them. We can do this together.





Turquoise Springs

Septemeber

Creative Curriculum: As the days come and go, so do our months, which means our theme will change for the month. In the month of September our study will be about “Bags”. We will discover the many uses of bags, touch and feel the different type of bags, and observe all of our friends’ backpacks (bags).

Cultural Lifeways: We have three feast days this month, we will observe and talk about the foods we eat on feast days, the dances we watch, and we will look at pictures of the different clothing that we use during our dances. Our words that we will continue to use are “Thank You” (Da’wah’eeh)

STEAM: What is Nature? We will look at pictures of animals, trees, plants, and water. We will talk to the children about what we may see if we explore Nature, talk about how we use nature in our everyday uses.

Conscious Discipline: Power of Unity. We are in this together; our goal is to create a compassionate culture called “the school family”; realizing that what we offer to others, we experience within ourselves. Encouragement to your children about being independent, trying new things, and trusting them try on their own.

Health / Nutrition Activities: Guacamole dip, I hope we remember the tortilla chips 😊 look forward to next month’s newsletter to read about what activity we will come up with when we get the opportunity to try guacamole dip.

Parent Tips: Taking care of our bodies because those illnesses are out there. If your child is sick or showing symptoms, please keep them home or take them to be seen, to make sure it is nothing contagious. We try our best to clean and sanitize the classroom, however at this age, fingers and toys always find their way to the mouth, which means germs can/will spread. Thank You.

Parent Engagement: look out for fliers for our Grandparent Day, as well as our take home activity that will be sent out. Fill out the in-kind sheet and return them to school, we do appreciate it.

Paguate Classroom

Our monthly nutritional activity, we did "Apple Race Cars", using our fine Motor Skills to put the car together with tooth picks, (sliced apples and grapes).

Teachers in Paguate classroom are happy to say that we are proud of our children, they are learning the classroom routine and how to use their words to express wants and needs.

The children are learning the morning prayer and meal prayer, and our good morning song.

We, are all learning our peers' names and teachers' names, with little reminders.

We, are happy to also announce that we are working on our potty training and are headed in the right direction.

For the month of September, we will continue learning and practice the Creative Curriculum, Cultural Life Ways, CLASS, Conscious Discipline.

Thank you, parents/guardians and family members, for assisting and the communication has been great, please continue to reach out or express your comment, concerns, and questions. Another big thanks to you all for making this school year a good beginning for your children.

Our classroom will continue to focus on daily routines from home to school, classroom routines, and learning the names of peers/teachers. The classroom will be exploring "Ball" and "Classroom Community" for our Creative Curriculum. Cultural Life Ways, we will be learning about our Feast Days and using the color Turquoise. Nutrition activity for the month will be Guacamole Dip, and our outdoor STEAM Activity we will learn about "What is Nature"?

Conscious Discipline we will be learning about "Unity".

We, would like to thank the Parents/Guardian and Families for helping your child transition from home to school and supporting their first learning experience from home to school. Please continue to assist children with learning to use writing tools and recognizing their name, also tracing or coping the letters in their name. These basic skills are what they are learning, as they move to the next learning level. I am happy to say that all children are wanting to learn and try.

I, also would like to give a high five to our teacher aid, for being here to comfort the children when they need extra hugs and for helping prepare our classroom for the school year.

Shout out to two of our Birthday's in September. Many Blessings and a very Happy Birthday.

Classroom goals for the year are to have all our children potty trained, to have our children to begin writing the alphabet and to write their first and last name, we would also like for children to learn commands, basic words, colors and number in the Keres Language.

NOTE TO PARENTS: Please try getting or giving your child enough time to wake up and prepare for school. Please take your children to the bus stop 10 minutes early or to school on time, so they will have breakfast to eat. Please check your child's backpack daily to ensure you receive notes from the teachers or other news that parents/guardians need to be aware of at school.

Village Classroom

Hello families and Friends

We are ready for our new Theme for the Month of September; In the Village Room we will discover new ways to use Balls.

Children love balls. They play with them in many different ways: throwing, catching, kicking, and rolling them. Children make balls, marbles, and other rolling objects change speed and direction. They see how natural forces such as gravity and friction affect the movement of balls. Children play traditional games with balls and often invent their own games.

In this study of balls will offer children opportunities to investigate objects from many different perspectives. We will explore important concepts of physical science and social studies as they observe, gather data, explore their community, and meet interesting people. A study of balls also offers a meaningful way for children to use skills in mathematics, literacy, the arts, and technology.

So, families gather all your balls at home and explore with your children at home.

We are still working on separation issues in the classroom, potty training, learning our new friends' names, learning how to except rules, learning to transition from one activity to another.

Just reminders for parents: Keep child home is your child is not feeling well. Check your child's backpack for notes from school. Be consistent at home with the potty training. Don't forget every Fridays is $\frac{1}{2}$ day for preschoolers.



Casa Blanca Classroom



Greetings, families and friends.

It has been a few weeks into the school year, and our classroom is doing really well. The children have been adapting to the classroom routine quicker than I expected. It is so cool to see them learning how to find their way around the classroom. Although, we have a small number of children assigned, it has been a benefit so that we teachers can get to know them a bit more personally. We began the school year by learning the daily routine. The children have picked that up fairly easily. They are able to predict what we will be doing next with some reminders. We have done a hands-on activity every day and we are learning what the children can do. We are looking forward to the many activities that will entail the school year.

One of the main concepts of our classroom is our communication and social emotional focus. The children have been practicing these skills every day with guidance from the teachers. We remind the children that if you want or need something, please use your words. We teach the children, if they don't know how, to express these words. A lot of practice and hopefully we can reach that goal of being able to communicate our needs and wants on a regular basis.

I want to thank all my families for reading to your children. I am a big supporter of reading and I do believe that it has many benefits when you read to your child. Please keep up the good work and continue to read to your children. I will announce next month the family with the most minutes reading. That child will get a nice gift from Barnes & Noble. Everyone will also get a nice reward from B & N as well.

As for our next month of study, we will delve into the realm of Balls as our next study. For some of us, sports can be a fun and interesting topic. Football season is upon us at all the different levels and I am looking forward to helping the children understand all the different aspects of this study.

In our culture and traditions, we will begin to prepare for a month of feast days. Since we do have these days off, I would suggest to attend the feasts in the respective villages. Here in the classroom, we will be setting up the traditional area with clothes and dance regalia for the children to use.

Traditional songs will be provided for the children.

So, in conclusion, please remember to send a water bottle from home for your child to have here in their classroom. Continue to read to you children and log it in on your reading log. Make sure when you are traveling that everyone is buckled and safe in their vehicles. Until next month, have a good day.

Mr. Levantonio

Mrs. Pedro.



Encinal Classroom

Creative Curriculum: This year, the transition classrooms have implemented the Pre-K curriculum. There are 8 teaching guides, each lasting 4-7 weeks. For August and September, the theme is "Building the Classroom Community." The children are learning the class routines and rules, learning new friends' and teachers' names, and continuing to write their names.

On September 30th, the theme will move to cameras and will run for 5 weeks. As technology advances, cameras have evolved from devices used to document special events to capture photos and videos of everyday life, communicate with others in real-time, create art, and much more. The children will move from being the subjects of pictures and videos to engaging with cameras as photographers and videographers. They will learn how to use a camera to take photos and videos, and explore different types of photography and videography.

The children were introduced to Foundations, which focuses on building foundational literacy skills that utilize multisensory techniques, engaging students in various activities to learn letter-sound relationships, spelling patterns, and handwriting skills. The children have learned the letters A-F, including their corresponding pictures and sounds. **Cultural Lifeways:** Feast Days. Children will learn why we celebrate feast days and watch a demonstration of how to make tamales.

Keres Vocabulary

*Manta	*Kilt
*Belt	*Moccasins
*Fox tail	*Bells
*Dress	*Shirt
*Bread	*Chili
*Stew	*Tamales
*Meat	*Indian tea
*Roasted corn	

Nutrition Activity: The children made an apple race using apple slices, whole grapes, and a toothpick. I showed the children how to push the toothpick all the way through the apple so it is sticking out on both sides, so the grapes can go on the ends. The children enjoyed making and eating the apple race car.

HIGHLIGHTS: The children have got the hang of the routine in a new classroom and with new friends. WHOOHOO! Good job to all the children.

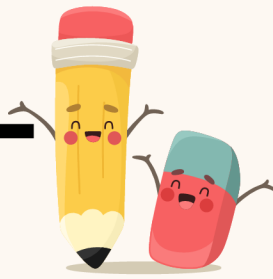
Birthdays: Happy Birthday to the following children. R. S-M-20th, H. G.-27th, and C. B-28th.

Reminders to parents

PLEASE remember to check your child's folders & backpacks for notes and other information that is sent home! Parents continue to read to your child every day/night. If your child is sick or showing symptoms of illness, PLEASE keep them at home until they are well. PLEASE be mindful of other children and teachers in the classroom.

Contact info: Ms. Juana's email: j.natseway@lagunaed.net
Ms. Yvonne's email: y.francis@lagunaed.net
Ext: 5110

Seama Classroom



Color: Turquoise

Culture: Feast Days

Curriculum: Building Our School Community

Nutrition: September 17th Guacamole Dip

STEAM: September 24th What is Nature?

Greetings Families

I hope your children are getting back to the school routine of waking up and getting on the bus. For the first few weeks the Seama classroom continues to learn the classroom routine. We are working on cleaning up after ourselves, using our language skills to communicate, and taking turns.

We completed our first nutrition activity, using apples and grapes, children assembled a race car. Apple cut in quarters as the body of the car and grapes for the tires put in place with tooth picks. Children followed as the teacher modeled and were able to complete their apple-grape race car.

In September, we will begin to “Building our school community”, what this means is that we took the first couple of weeks building relationship between children and their peers and children and teachers. We will continue to learn strategies on making and keep friends. Meeting other staff that are in the school community.

We will continue work on following our classroom routine and classroom rules to assist a fun and safe learning environment.

Our first achievement, will go out to all the families. It can be difficult to get your children up and ready for school, you are all doing great! Let’s keep it going! :0)

Parent Reminders: Make sure to call the school if your child will be absent.

Birthdays: September 13th Ms. Tiffany, Family Service Provider and Bus Driver.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the teachers.

c.deutsawe@lagunaed.net and r.victorino@lagunaed.net (505) 552-6544 extension 5112



HEALTH AID

Greetings Families!

I hope each and every one of you are doing well and staying safe.

We have completed our health screenings that were scheduled in August; vision and dental. They were a success, with only a few absences. I would like to thank you, families, for your support.

Back to school means we may see more illness. Please continue to monitor children for symptoms of any illnesses, if they are not feeling well, please keep them home where they are most comfortable.

Thank you and I wish you a great month of September!



Upcoming Events:

Hearing Screening-9/10/25

Healthy Snack Idea: Cheese and Apple Pirate Ships

Ingredients

1 apple, cut into 8 to 10 slices

8 to 10 pretzel sticks

8 to 10 ounces low-fat cheddar cheese, such as Colby-Jack or mozzarella, cut into squares or triangles

Directions:

Put an apple slice on a plate.

Put 1 pretzel stick above the apple slice to make the mast of the ship.

Put 1 or 2 cheese slices next to the pretzel to make the sails.

Cheese and Apple Pirate Ships

Makes 4 to 5 servings

Safety tip: To prevent injuries, an adult should cut the ingredients

Angelica Baca

DEC Health Aide

a.baca@lagunaed.net

Program phone: 505-240-0793

Office phone: 505-552-6544 ext. 5103

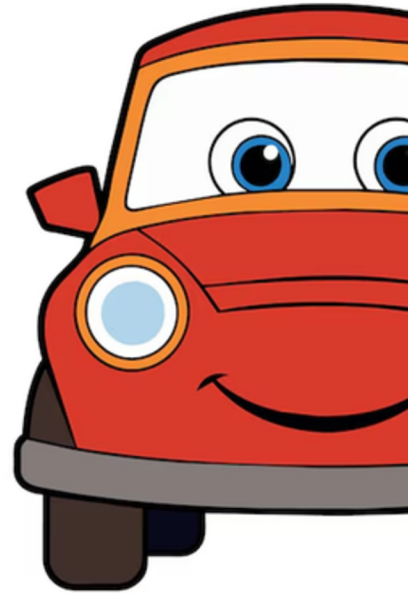


IMPORTANT INFO:

Dear Families,
Hope you have all gotten off to a great start to your new school year!

Friendly Reminders:

- Please be waiting 10 minutes prior to your scheduled pick-up/drop off times.
- If your child will be absent for the day, please call the front office.
- If you are picking up or dropping off your child at the program, please do not leave your vehicle running. Please do not leave any children unattended in the vehicle.
- Make sure that all children are in a proper car seat. If you feel that your car seat is not safe for your child please let us know.
- talk to your child about safety and how important it is when we ride in our cars or in a bus.



DEC wishes you all a wonderful and safe school year!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 03, 2025

Presenter: Laguna HWY Safety Department

Morning Session @ 10:00am

Afternoon Session @ 1:00pm

RSVP with Tiffany @ 505-220-2549

Since 1990, 14 children have died from being in a hot car in New Mexico - the most recent being a 1 yr old ABQ child who died from being left in a hot car in May of this year. A vehicle can heat up in a matter of minutes even when the weather is cool and overcast. A car interior can heat up to 120 degrees even when the outside temperature is 80 degrees.

The majority of parents and caregivers are misinformed and would like to believe that a hot car tragedy will never happen to them. In over half of hot car deaths, the person responsible for the child unknowingly left them in the vehicle. It can happen to anyone...

www.kidsandcars.org



Heat Stroke and Hot Car Death Awareness

Presented by the POL LE Highway Safety Program



Together with the POL LoDE Division of Early Childhood, the POL LE Highway Safety Program invite you to this event to obtain more information on heat stroke and hot car death awareness and prevention.

When: Wednesday, September 3, 2025
at 10:00a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Location: Laguna Division of Early
Childhood 21 Rodeo Drive, Laguna

RSVP with Tiffany Touchin @ 505-220-2549

FAMILY SERVICE PROVIDERS

SEPTEMBER 2025

GREETINGS

Family Service Providers have begun making contact with families to start the process of creating Family Partnerships.

Family Partnerships are based on a relationship-based approach that values different perspectives and contributes, explores options, and honors all types of family progress.

We look forward to working with you and your family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT

03

Parent Education
Safety

SEPT

05

Family
Engagement
Grandparents Day

SEPT

08,
19,
25

Feast days
No School

CONTACT INFORMATION

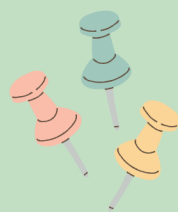
Tiffany Touchin
t.touchin@lagunaed.net
505-220-2549

Kathleen Herrera
k.herrera@lagunaed.net
505-290-9163

EVENING FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Evening walks
- Exercise together
- Engage in conversations
- Read together

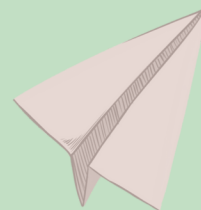
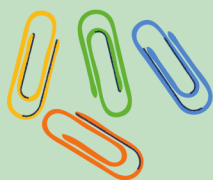




A BIG THANK YOU to parents who have had a visit with me to start the school year. I hope to meet with more families in the weeks to come. REMINDER... Parents check your child's backpack daily!

A SHOUT OUT to ALL the DEC teachers, getting the students comfortable and already learning new skills.

Thanks, Kathleen





Disabilities Coordinator



Information

YOUR BABY/TODDLER'S LEARNING

Your baby/toddler is learning all the time—from YOU and from everything the baby sees, hears or touches. Bit by bit, you are helping your baby learn and grow!

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES for Infants/Toddlers

At first, the process of obtaining special services for your child can seem complicated and overwhelming. Not to worry, as the Support Services Coordinator (SSC) for the Laguna DEC program, I am available to assist with the entire process and/or direct you to other helpful resources.

For the youngest children (ages Birth to 2 ½ years of age), parents have the option of referring their children themselves to one of the following programs—NAPPR or La Vida Felicidad that do screenings and evaluations for very young children. As the SSC, I will support families through the process of referral, evaluation and developing the plans to support learning for each individual child as needed.

Community Programs

- Ø Native American Professional/Parent Resources (NAPPR): 505-345-6289
- Ø La Vida Felicidad: 505-287-5118

CONTACT INFORMATION

Margaret Mascarenaz
Support Services Coordinator SSC)
505-552-6544 Ext. 5104
mmascarenaz@lagunaed.net

Upcoming Services

IMPORTANT AND WONDERFUL NEWS!

This is a follow-up to the letter from Ms. Paquin, Program Manager, sent to all of our Division of Early Childhood families on 8/25/25.

As stated in the 8/25/25 letter, Laguna Department of Education is happy to announce that Special Education Services for enrolled children ages 3-5yrs here at the Division of Early Childhood, previously provided by Grants/Cibola County Schools, have been transitioned to the Laguna Department of Education, Special Education Dept. The change will be in operation as of September 12, 2025.

We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and continued support for all DEC preschool children who are needing special support services.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, Margaret M. Support Services Coordinator at the contact information provided.

WELCOME FALL!



Program Assistant

Greetings Families and Friends,

The month of July certainly flew by. Staff worked diligently to prepare classrooms and the campus overall for children to return. Staff also prepared themselves with Professional Development in many different areas. School started with a bang on August 7th and we hit the ground running. It was great to see all the new and returning children coming to school and getting off the buses.

Our playground has been under improvement construction during the summer break. We are very excited about the addition of wonderful toys and extra shade. We look forward to opening it up this month so the children may enjoy outdoor playtime even more.

I am also happy to share that after much time and collaboration, we will be moving forward with our PRC building repairs. We are anxious, to once again, be able to provide a space for parent/family activities. We greatly appreciate your patience while we work through the challenges. That being said, stay clear of the area when you are dropping off and picking up your child, there will be orange fencing to caution you please be careful.

Safety Points to remember while on DEC campus

Please adhere to the 5 MPH school speed zone while you are on campus.

Ensure you do not leave your vehicle running unattended and do not leave children alone in a vehicle.

Parents must secure children in an age appropriate car seat if they transport them in a vehicle to and from school.

Practice Pedestrian Safety by holding your child's hand outside of the vehicle and through the parking lot to their classroom.

Sign in at the front office if you are outside the 1 hour of drop off or pick up.

Sign in at the front office if you are visiting the program or have an appointment with staff.

Ensure your contact Information is current in case we need to contact you.

Please do not bring outside food or drinks on campus; we appreciate your assistance to keep children free of allergens.

For the safety of the children and staff, campus doors remain locked during the course of the day.

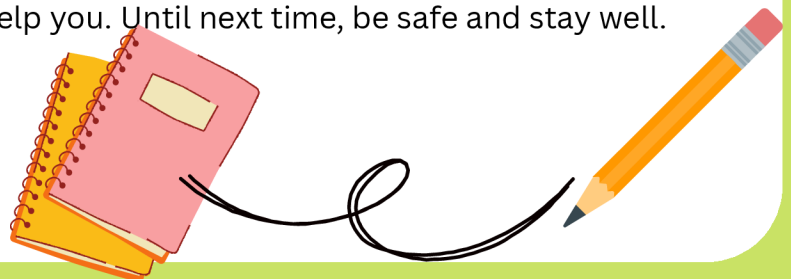
Please knock when you are here and we will be right with you.

School is closed on the following days:

1. September 1, 2025 – Labor Day Holiday
2. September 8, 2025 – Encinal Feast Culture Day
3. September 19, 2025 – Laguna Feast Culture Day
4. September 25, 2025 – Pagate Feast Culture Day

We welcome you to come visit the program and let us know if you are interested in volunteering your special skills. We can use your time toward In-Kind. If you need assistance with any aspect at DEC, please feel free to contact me I will be happy to help you. Until next time, be safe and stay well.

Iris Gallegos, Program Assistant
Laguna Division of Early Childhood
i.gallegos@lagunaed.net
Office: 505-552-6544 ext. 5100



Social Worker

Welcome Back to School



Greetings DEC new and returning parents! Back to school is often a time with lots of questions and sometimes natural anxieties for our families. Whether your child is starting school for the very first time or continuing with us, we want you to know that you have support along the way! As your DEC social worker, I am here to provide teachers and parents with consultation support when you may need someone to talk with about school routines, behaviors, and referrals you may need to community resources at Laguna Pueblo or across New Mexico. You will also find me providing social-emotional support lessons, commonly referred to as “SEL” throughout the year. These are presented as a collaboration with the teaching staff in your child's classroom.

During the 2025-2026 school year, as your child advances in age, they may transition to a new DEC classroom. For those of you familiar with elementary school and beyond, you know that Head Start and Early Head Start operate with a different model to meet the developmental needs of our quickly growing children. If you would like a transition meeting to help facilitate the change to new teaching staff, please let me know and I can help facilitate these meetings when your child needs extra help managing transitions or for other aspects of their social-emotional needs.

The power of routines— As parents you are uniquely familiar with the rhythms of your household, such as when your child eats and sleeps, what play time looks like, and how they interact with siblings, cousins, or other relatives. Part of the gift of a routine is that it helps set expectations of when, where, and how a child's basic needs and social interactions take place. Your child comes to rely on the routines that you establish for them and it helps them feel safe and loved.

Here at DEC, your child has a school routine too! Whether it's meeting new teachers, traveling to school on the bus, or simply being away from parents and relatives, there are many firsts that your child is likely to encounter and that's before they meet new kids and friends at school. This can be an exciting time and for some students a challenge as they learn to navigate unfamiliar faces, schedules, and opportunities to learn and explore all that DEC has to offer. It's normal for children to be uncertain about these new experiences at times, but with your loving reassurance and repetition, most children over the first few weeks will adjust beautifully to their new surroundings.

At the Division of Early Childhood, we use a social-emotional curriculum called Conscious Discipline that form one of the cornerstones of your child's learning opportunities in our program. Be sure to ask your teacher about what the conscious discipline theme of the month is! This is a great opportunity to follow along with the theme at home and enhance your child's social-emotional learning with your own ideas for projects or teaching moments in social interactions within your family. If you are wanting some new parenting tips and resources related to what your child is learning in school, check out Conscious Discipline's “Schubert's Home” resource here: [Your paragraph text](#).

If you would like to get in touch with me to consult about your child's needs at DEC, please feel free to reach me at m.paley@lagunaed.net or my program phone at 505-240-1450. I am on campus this school year at DEC three days per week, as the mental health consultant and social worker. I am looking forward to meeting you and your child this August and please feel free to get in touch!

Many Thanks – Da'wa'eh,

Marc Paley, LCSW



See You

Next Month!!! ✨

-DEC Staff