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Serving Children Throughout Madison County

December 30, 2020

Dear Riverbend Parents and/or Guardians,

As we promised, we would re-evaluate the situation with COVID in December to determine when staff and children would return back to centers. Since COVID-19 cases are still high across the county, we have decided that staff will continue to work from home until the end of February 2021. **The goal is for staff to return to their assigned centers on Monday, March 1, 2021.**

To help answer any immediate questions, we have provided more information below:

- **Riverbend Head Start and Family Services will still provide virtual learning.** Center Based children will still Zoom and turn in activities to their assigned classroom teacher(s).
- **Family Advocates will still do Zoom visits or home visits with Early Head Start (EHS) and Home-Based students.** However, we will continue to limit face to face home visits as they will be on a case by case basis. If you have questions, we ask that parents contact their Family Advocate.
- **At this point, it is our goal to have children resume in-person classes Monday, April 5, 2021.** Of course, we will continue to assess any high risks on an ongoing basis to ensure that is the best course of action at that time to protect the health and safety of each child, parent and staff member.

As a testament to our staff diligence in implementation of our mitigation plan, to date, we have had zero instances where the virus was passed from one staff to another, client to staff or staff to client. It is our hope that this remains the same as we have staff return home to work remotely.

While we know that we do our best work in a “face to face” setting we are seeking to find a good balance between best practices for service delivery and best practices to keep you, your children, our staff and community partners safe and healthy.

I thank you for your support and patience as we work through this public health crisis together.

Take care and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene A. Howell".

Eugene A. Howell, MPA
President and CEO