

Early literacy and social skills are essential aspects of kindergarten readiness and are critical for success in school. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I am excited to report that BBNA Head Start will be implementing two new initiatives to enrich these important components of our preschool curriculum.

FIRST BOOK is a national program that provides free and low-cost books to children. During this school year, BBNA Head Start will participate in FIRST BOOK to strengthen the literacy component of our curriculum. Each month will feature a book that will be incorporated into activities in our classrooms. At the end of the month, every student will take a copy of the book home with related literacy activities to share with their families. By the end of the school year, every Head Start student will have 10 new books to keep and enjoy at home.

Project CIRCLE (Creating Innovative, Responsive and Consistent Learning Environments) will provide professional development and ongoing consultation to our Head Start Education Staff. The goal of the project is to provide culturally relevant information and skills-based training in the area of positive behavioral support (PBS) for young children.

PBS is an effective, evidence-based, preventative practice used to teach young children appropriate social behavior while simultaneously decreasing the incidence of inappropriate or challenging behavior. The approach includes a special focus on: building positive relationships with children and their families, developing classroom routines, physical layout of the classroom, and social skills development. PBS also includes the creation of individualized intervention plans for those children with more intense behavioral needs.

As we strive to enhance our program, we look forward to hearing about your experiences and ideas regarding FIRST BOOK and PROJECT CIRCLE.