

**Dear Parent/Caretaker,**

Today, your child participated in lesson 10 of the *Voices for Safety* program. This lesson was focused on the basic needs of children including food, shelter, clothing, education, medical care, love, and supervision. We began the discussion with a focus on the care and neglect of animals, and then related that discussion to children. Children learned that a major difference between themselves and animals in addition to the need for clothing and education was that they and their parents or caretakers have voices that can be used to ask for help when in need, or when they see someone else in need.

Just as there are places in the community to help animals in need, there are also places in the community to help people in need. Your Head Start teacher and other Head Start staff are knowledgeable about resources in the community that can assist parents and caretakers with a variety of needs and difficulties. If the Head Start staff members you speak with do not have the answers to your questions, likely they know where they can find out. In addition to talking with your teacher or other Head Start staff to learn about community resources, you might consider:

- talking to neighbors, family, and friends
- going to parent meetings at your child's school
- visiting the local library or community center

You can help to build strong communities where all children can have their basic needs met. Some ways you might consider contributing to your community include:

- setting up a playgroup in homes or in local parks
- organizing a babysitting co-operative
- volunteering at your child's school
- organizing a community event such a clothing drive to share coats, shoes, school supplies and other new and gently used items for children in need
- attending local government meetings and speaking up about how important resources that support children and families are in your community – such as affordable medical and dental care, safe places for children to play, good schools, and resources to help families in need

Please visit the *Voices for Safety* web site for additional information on supervising children and selecting child care. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can ask your Head Start teacher for a copy of the information.

**For more information please visit [voicesforsafety.com](http://voicesforsafety.com), email [info@voicesforsafety.com](mailto:info@voicesforsafety.com), or talk with your Head Start teacher.**