



Misty Thorsgard paints the toe of 10 month-old Arya Clark to make toe prints for a painting project as her mother Jennifer Clark holds her during a home visit recently.

Giving kids a head start



Shawn Bobb works with 1-year-old Kalea Liebelt during a home visit.

Shawn Bobb and Misty Thorsgard are the Tribe's Family Educators with Early Childhood Education's Early Head Start program. They both have a caseload of 11 families that they serve and every week they make a home visit to each family that lasts 90 minutes. They work with expectant mothers and children up to age 3 following a Partnership for Healthy Babies curriculum and use developmentally appropriate activities, such as developing fine, sensory and gross motor skills, counting and reading, that helps prepare the child for school. They also help to get children school ready by making sure the child is current on their immunizations and that children just stay healthy overall by parents taking them to well child checks. If the need arises, they will transport families to doctor appointments. They also coordinate two socialization activities a month to give the families they serve an opportunity to meet and interact with each other.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



Shawn Bobb peels apples as Landon Langley, 5, eats a piece during an Early Head Start socialization event in the Tribal Community Center recently. Landon was there with his mother Ashley Langley and 6-month-old sister Makalee King.



Misty Thorsgard holds the apple peeler as Wyatt Hubbell, 4, peels an apple for making applesauce during an Early Head Start socialization event in the Tribal Community Center recently. On the left is Harley Mercier, who was there with her children.