

HEALTH SERVICES

Head Start's commitment to wellness embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children, families, and staff. Through collaboration among families, staff and health professionals, child health and development concerns are identified and families are linked to ongoing sources of accessible care to meet their basic health needs. The objective is to support healthy physical development by encouraging practices that prevent illness or injury, and by promoting positive, culturally relevant health behaviors that enhance lifelong well being.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The overall goal of the Head Start program, is to foster a greater degree of social competence in children. The objective is to provide each child with a safe, nurturing, stimulating, enjoyable and secure environment in order to help him/her gain the skills and confidence necessary to be prepared to succeed. The Family Development Coordinator and consultants organize activities, resources and support services to help children/families overcome or lessen their mental health concerns and to develop to their full potential.

NUTRITION SERVICES

The objective of the Nutrition Component is to promote child wellness by providing nutrition services that supplement and complement those of the home and the community. Nutrition services assist families to establish good eating habits that nurture healthy development and promote lifelong well being. Through the USDA Child Care Food Program, Head Start daily serves the center-based children nutritionally balanced breakfast, snacks, and lunch.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

School bus transportation is provided for most sections in our Greater Lawrence service area.

For further information, call or visit:
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Head Start does not discriminate in its hiring and personnel procedure against any applicant, employee or potential/participating clients, based on religion, race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.



BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Judith M. Yelle, President,
Board of Directors

Philip F. Laverriere, Sr.,
Executive Director/CEO

HEAD START....

Is a federally-funded program which was established in the summer of 1965. The Head Start program in the Greater Lawrence area, has been a primary source for providing a comprehensive, holistic program of education, family support services, family development, health, nutrition, disability services, and parent involvement opportunities to families from Lawrence, Methuen, Andover and North Andover.

The program's mission is to serve low-income, high need, high risk children and families. Using a case management approach, the program provides individualized services to strengthen families by fostering self-sufficiency, problem-solving skills, and a spirit of lifelong learning.



GLCAC, Inc., Head Start began as a program for 3 to 5 year old children, which now provides services for children 15 mos. to 5 yrs old, pregnant woman, toddlers, pre-schoolers, and their families, through the following program options:

School-year/Half-day

- *center-based classes for pre-schoolers
- *combination educational services for pre-schoolers.

Full-year/Full-day & Home Based

(full-day requires DTA or CPC child care voucher and is subject to sliding fee scale)

- *center-based class for toddlers
- *center-based classes for pre-schoolers
- *Services for pregnant woman

PROGRAM LITERACY SERVICES INCLUDE:

Education

Head Start's educational philosophy; is that children learn best in caring, nurturing environment in which they are able to explore freely and securely. We believe that each child needs to explore with his/her environment, according to his/her own abilities, to make discoveries and learn through play.

The program strives to make each classroom ethnically and racially diverse, assuring children's exposure to interesting and stimulating aspects of the many ethnic groups in our community. Showing respect for each child's ethnic background, as well as emphasizing social competence in mainstream United States culture, remain important dual goals for the program.

The role of teaching staff is to facilitate learning and exploration and to encourage and support each child's social and emotional development approaches to learning, physical development & health, experiences in language literacy, mathematics services, and creative arts. Staff working with infants and toddlers plan curriculum that focuses on relationships, respect, and responsiveness to the development of the very young child.



FAMILY SERVICES

The Family Support Services component, creates the link between the family, the classroom, and the community. The goal for this component is to enhance parent self-esteem, increase family self-sufficiency and support the parents' efforts to improve the quality of family life.

Through the development of Family Partnership Agreements, staff support parents as they identify their own strengths/needs/interests, set their goals, and find their own solutions. Collaborating with community agencies, Family Support Service staff assist and support parents as they access the resources their family needs.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Head Start believes that parents are the primary educators of their young children. The program is therefore designed to provide parents with activities and opportunities which can help them become the very best educators they can be. Parents can gain new skills by volunteering in classrooms, the kitchen, the offices, or on the school buses. They can attend seminars, workshops, and participate in adult education programs which can lead to job opportunities.

Through Center Committees at each site, the program gives parents the opportunity to develop and plan parent involvement activities that relate to their own needs/interests.

Through participation on the Policy Council, parents are able to make decisions about program policies, employment of staff, program planning, budget development, location of Head Start centers, and any major program changes that affect children and families served



Disability Services ~ Learning Differences

Head Start realizes that each child is a unique individual who brings his/her own challenges to the learning process.

Developmental concerns are evaluated through home and classroom screenings and through referrals to specialists, as needed. A individualized education plan (IEP) or family service plan (IFSP) for each child and with special needs is provided by Head Start, often in collaboration with the Public Schools and/or other agencies.

Arrangements are made for additional services to be provided on-site or through community resources as appropriate.