

**Head Start is a national program that offers an excellent pre-school education as well as services in mental health/wellness, parent Involvement / engagement, health/nutrition, disabilities and transportation for children and families.**

**Education:**

- Children are taught by qualified teachers.
- The Head Start program makes two home visits and conducts two parent/teacher conferences per year.
- The Head Start program implements the Creative Curriculum and ELLMS Plus Curriculum.

**Mental Health/Wellness:**

- Assist with family support issues such as domestic violence, substance abuse, or stress related issues.
- Provide activities that encourage the social and emotional development of children enrolled in the program.
- Ensure mental health staff are skilled in working with children and families dealing with child behavior and family functioning.

**Parent Involvement/Engagement:**

- Volunteer in the class room.
- Participate in special events/family fun days, workshops and trainings .
- Provide input into the program.
- Participate in male involvement opportunities.

**Health/Nutrition:**

- Promotes preventive health services and early intervention.
- Utilize a health advisory committee composed of staff, parents, and community health professionals for support and guidance.
- Assures Head Start students receive all required health exams and screenings within the appropriate time frame.
- Assist parents to establish a medical and dental home for their families.
- Menus meet USDA food program regulations.
- The culture and religious needs of our general population are taken into consideration.Special dietary needs are given individual attention.

- Meal time serves as social and educational activities.

**Disabilities:**

- Work with children who are dually enrolled in both Head Start and special education programs.
- Assist families through the referral process. Locate and provide services with outside agencies for children with special needs.
- Identify, evaluate needs, and coordinate services to children in their families with special needs.

**Transportation:**

- Children are secured in seats equipped with child safety restraints.
- Children are only released to individuals authorized by parents.
- There is at least one bus aide on board at all times to assist and supervise children.

**Social Services:**

- Provide resources and referral
- Work together to create a family partnership goal