

**Education:** Teachers serve as educators and support partners with families. They work as a team with Family Resource Workers to link families to community resources. The teachers focus on children's individual development. A variety of materials and experiences are provided to promote children's development in eight key areas: Language Development, Literacy, Creative Arts, Science, Social & Emotional Development, Math, Physical Health, Problem Solving and Initiative.

Parents are welcome to visit during all program hours. Teachers will meet with parents to review children's progress and set goals. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in their child's learning experience at Head Start. Parents are encouraged to offer their ideas and suggestions for learning goals and site and classroom activities.

**Head Start Center Base Half-Day Classes:** Monday - Thursday

Morning session meets from 8:30 am - 12:00 noon.

Breakfast is served upon arrival. Lunch is served between 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Afternoon session meets from 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Lunch is served upon arrival. Snack is served before dismissal.

**Head Start Center Base Full Day Classes :** Monday - Friday

session meets from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

This option is available to families who are in need of additional hours of care for their children. Selection of children for full day services is based on weekly work or school hours of parents. Job training and other commitments leading to employment will also be considered.

**Head Start & Early Head Start Home Base Program:** Home Visitors form partnerships with parents and caretakers to identify the family's interests, desires, goals, needs and strengths and to plan for the development of their child. Teachers do home visits with families or caretakers once a week for 1 - 1/2 hours. Parents or caretakers and children attend Parent/Child activities 2 times a month.

**Head Start/Early Head Start Child Care Collaboration:** Collaborations with Circles of Learning at N Main and Rockford Day Nursery.

**Special Needs/Mental Health:** The Special Needs/Mental Health service area coordinates services for children who have special needs. Children with special needs who are placed with the Head Start program will be fully included in all Head Start activities. Adaptations will be made, if needed, to insure inclusion of all children.

**Transportation:** Door to door transportation is available to Head Start children enrolled in part day sessions. It is based on bus transportation boundaries for each site. We are not able to pick up children on dead end streets for safety reasons. A responsible adult must bring the Head Start child to the bus and sign the child in. An approved person must be present to sign a child off the bus at drop-off time. Transportation is not offered to families in the full day/full year option.

**Health and Nutrition:** Health is more than just the absence of disease. A child who feels good is more receptive to new experiences and learning. It is our goal to provide each child and his/her family with the necessary skills and insight to have access to a health care system that provides ongoing health care. Head Start staff are available to assist families in finding appropriate health and dental care.

**Family/Community Partnership:** Open, trusting relationships between staff and parents is the key to reaching great outcomes for children. Families make their own decisions concerning which resources they choose to utilize and which options they choose to exercise. The Head Start staff provides information to families regarding community resources. These resources include but not limited to: Emergency assistance, referrals to community agencies, coordination of services with other agencies that may also be working with your family, crisis intervention/support, advocacy, and assistance transitioning into and out of Head Start.

**Parent Involvement:** All Head Start parents are provided many opportunities to participate in their child's education and development. Parents are also provided opportunities to help make decisions and offer suggestions that will contribute to program quality. Parents are encouraged to use these opportunities to improve their skills as their child's first and most important teacher and advocate.