

Welcome to City of Rockford Head Start!

After more than 50 years of service to children and families, our goals remain the same. We provide engaging learning experiences for children and assist with the challenges many families face today.



City of Rockford Human Services, Head Start is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services and provides services to children ages birth to five years old and pregnant women from low-income families.

Parent participation is vital. In addition to parent involvement, children are more likely to achieve and maintain educational gains if parents or caretakers can meet the needs of the **entire family**. For this reason Head Start provides services, information, and referrals to help parents and caretakers in their efforts to meet the following basic needs of all family members:

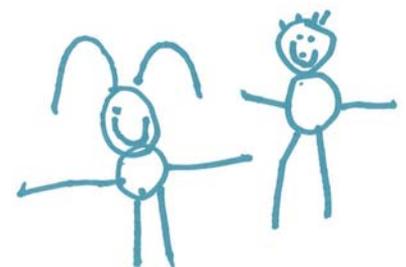
- A healthy diet.
- Safe, affordable, stable housing.
- A safe neighborhood and community.
- Accessible/affordable physical, dental and mental health care and treatment.
- Opportunities to be a productive, contributing member of family and community.
- Quality, affordable child care.

Education

Head Start teachers serve as educators and partners with families. They work as a team with family support specialist to link families to community resources. **The teachers focus on a child's individual development.** A variety of materials and experiences are provided to promote children's development in eight key areas:

- Language Development
- Creative Arts
- Social & Emotional Development
- Physical Health, Vision and Hearing
- Literacy
- Science
- Math
- Problem Solving and Initiative

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



Early Head Start teachers focus on a child's individual development. Home visitor teachers utilize the *Born to Learn™* curriculum, from Parents as Teachers National Center. A variety of materials and experiences are provided to promote children's development in six key areas:

- Sense of Self
- Creative Representation
- Communication and Language
- Social Relationships
- Movement
- Exploration and Early Logic

Health and Nutrition

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 continues ongoing health care, even after leaving the program.

Parent Engagement and Partnership

All Head Start parents are provided many opportunities to participate in their child's education and development. Parents are also provided **leadership** 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.

Policy Council:

The Policy Council is an elected body of parents and community representatives who participate in all important decisions affecting the local Head Start program. These decisions include personnel, planning and budget.



Parent Meetings

Parent Meetings are organized at the site level, membership is automatic for parents who have children enrolled at the site.

Open, trusting relationships between staff and parents is the key to reaching great outcomes for children. Family Partnership building matters to Head Start. We look forward to working with each family.

Parent Education and Training:

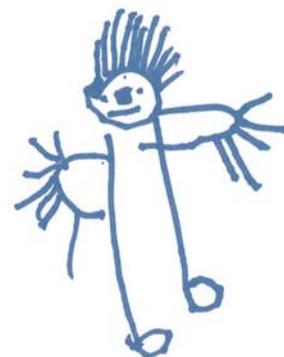
Head Start provides parent education and training resources around family literacy, health, child development and self-sufficiency topics. Parents have an opportunity to identify topics of interest to them.

Family Fun Nights:

Family Fun Nights are planned regularly at the site level. Families look forward to a family centered event that will be fun and informative.

2015 Funded Enrollment - 745:

- 591 – Head Start (3-5 years old)
 - Pre-K Expansion (4-year old classroom)
 - 20 – Orton Keyes Site – Full Day
 - 20 – Rockford Day Nursery Early Learning Center – Full Day
- 92 – Early Head Start (Birth – age 3 and pregnant women)
- 22 – Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHVP)
(Birth – age 3 and pregnant women)
- 40 - Early Head Start / Child Care Partnership (6-weeks – 3 years old)
 - 16 - Trinity Child Care
 - 24 – Rockford Day Nursery Early Learning Center



Locations:

Human Services Department Administration Office
612 N. Church Street, 61103
Early Head Start Home Base

Dennis Early Education Center Head Start Classrooms
730 Lincoln Park Blvd., 61102
Head Start

Hand-n-Hand Child Care Center, Child Care Partner
9350 Forest Hills Rd., Loves Park, IL 61111
Head Start and Early Head Start

Trinity Day Care, Child Care Partner
215 N. 1st Street 61107
EHS-Child Care Partner

Fairgrounds Head Start
902 Acorn Street, 61101
Head Start

Orton Keyes Head Start
653 Ranger Street, 61109
Head Start

Rockford Day Nursery Early Learning Center
Child Care Partner, 2323 S. 6th Street 61104
Head Start, Pre-K Expansion, EHS-Child Care Partner