

BUILDING OUR FUTURE...



...ONE CHILD AT A TIME

PRENATAL TO FIVE HEAD START

EARLY LEARNING MATTERS. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, SOCIETY SAVES \$17 DOWN THE ROAD, WITH TANGIBLE RESULTS MEASURED BY LOWER CRIME, FEWER SINGLE PARENTS AND HIGH LEVELS OF INDIVIDUAL EARNINGS AND EDUCATION.

BRAIN RESEARCH ALSO INDICATES 90 PERCENT OF THE BRAIN DEVELOPS BY AGE 3, AND CONCEPTS OF COMPASSION, CONSCIENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY ARE ESTABLISHED BY AGE 4.

Prenatal to Five Head Start is an early childhood education program for children from income-eligible families. The program is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences, health services, social service support and other opportunities for children and their families. Each year the program serves over 450 children.

The Head Start program works closely with parents to help children gain social competence, school readiness skills and confidence necessary to succeed in their current preschool environment and later in school and life.

The Early Head Start program provides comprehensive services for pregnant women and infant-toddlers from birth to three years living in Buchanan County.

Program Choices:

Early Head Start (Buchanan County only)

Provides services for pregnant women and infant-toddlers from birth to three years in a home-based environment, part or full-time childcare center.

Center-based services range from 3.5 hours to full day depending on the childcare center. Enrolled children receive educational, nutritional, medical, dental and mental health services. Center-based children receive meals and transportation is available in some areas.

Home-based services offer the same services as center-based through weekly 1.5 hour visits in the home.

Head Start (Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton and DeKalb counties)

Provides services for children three to five years in a home-based environment, part or full-time childcare center similar to Early Head Start.

For more information please contact:

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Volunteering is essential to our Head Start programs in order to receive our federal Head Start grant allocation. The federal grant requires parents and the community to match \$.25 for every \$1 we receive in federal dollars. The success of the program depends upon active participation of parents and others in the community. Your knowledge, time and talent can all contribute to this effort.

By volunteering, you will become acquainted with our Head Start program, see its strengths and goals, and help staff make it a fun learning experience for all.

Areas of Volunteering:

Breakfast Club allows community leaders to engage with a class during breakfast as well as read a story to the class.

Family Fun Nights encourage volunteers to participate in family-friendly activities with the Head Start families on a monthly basis.

Classroom Volunteers work with a classroom for any amount of time period and help with regular classroom and meal activities.

Community Outreach Advocates help spread the message about Head Start in our community through a variety of events.

Why Volunteer?

Volunteers' pride and ownership in the program extends to the surrounding community

Volunteers provide increased services to children and families

Volunteers are positive role models to children and families

If interested in volunteering, please contact Melissa Leander.