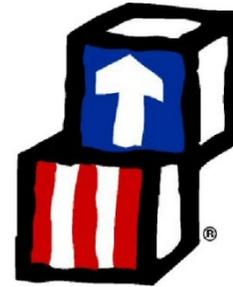


HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

MCAEOC Head Start uses the two-generation approach by seeking to bring together the “adult-serving” and “child-serving” world to concentrate on the needs of the family in its entirety and to link them with services that are directed towards assisting both the child and the adults who take care of them. Through innovative and direct-service systems and improvements and increased positive outcomes for both generations, progress can be attained more economically and developmentally appropriately.



School Readiness

MCAEOC facilitates series of meetings to review and discuss how to effectively implement and align the Curriculum with the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Outcome Framework, the Arkansas State standards, and Kindergarten Readiness Indicators to achieve positive child outcomes. Education and teaching staff monitor and adjust the goals to ensure children achieve positive outcomes based on their individual needs and capacities. School readiness goals are established in consultation with parents. Parents are provided feedback regarding their child’s progress toward meeting the school readiness goals. Once their child’s assessment data is measured, parents receive recommended and family-friendly, developmentally appropriate activities in English and Spanish, which are correlated with the early learning domains. Activities are shared in a variety



of ways, which include parent-teacher conferences, home visits, e-mail, Facebook, and informal conferences, etc. Special arrangements are made to accommodate all families according to their circumstances.

Parent Family and Community Engagement

Relationships between families and Head Start or Early Head Start are developed through the support of the program's leadership, staff, and engaging community partners. These relationships are part of the two-generational approach of working with children and adult family members. MCAEOC Early Childhood Education Department recognizes that families play a critical role in helping their child/children to succeed in school and are prepared for a lifetime of to prepare for school and a lifetime of educational achievement. MCAEOC Head Start has been a strong advocate in the early childhood field in providing clear and comprehensive concentrations on all aspects of healthy development, including language, physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, all of which are essential to children getting ready for school.



Health

The importance of Health Services is explained to parents at the time of enrollment. If a parent discloses a health issue or if the physical notes an issue at application and/or enrollment that is a concern, the Family Advocate immediately talks to the family regarding necessary follow-up with the child's physician for additional information on how to serve the child healthfully. MCAEOC provides a comprehensive health services program,

which includes medical, dental, mental health and nutrition services to all enrolled children. Through the collaborative efforts of parents and staff will children with special behavioral or other mental health concerns are provided the appropriate interventions in order that they may enjoy the full benefits of Head Start participation. A Health Education Program for children, staff, low income families, and expectant women are made available, with prenatal care that are provided to expectant women.

Nutrition Services

Meals are served three times per day. Each preschool child receives a nutritious meal daily that includes breakfast lunch and snacks through the adult care food program. there is no cost for meals or supplies. Infants are fed on demand. Special concerns such as allergies, diet restrictions disability or health issue are addressed with a medical form that addresses the issue. A copy of the current month menu is posted in each classroom and per center.

Disability Services

The purpose of the Disabilities Program is to ensure that all children with disabilities and their parents receive the full benefits and experiences. Head Start and Early Head Start programs are mandated by the Performance Standards to obtain and maintain 10% of their funded enrollment children with disabilities. No child will be denied admission to the program on the basis of a disability or its severity when the parents wish to enroll

the child in the program. Bi-lingual interpreters that have been trained in the disability procedures are used when needed.

Certified and /or licensed personnel provide all disability services in accordance with the goals and objectives written on the child's Individual Education Plan and/or Individual Family Service Plan. These plans have parental consent and are based on the common core objectives and incorporated into the agencies school readiness goals.



Parent Night at Osceola Center