

Board Training

Head Start/Early Head Start

Region 10 Education Service Center
Preschool Services



Head Start History

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/about/history.htm>

In 1964, the federal government asked a panel of child development experts to establish a program to help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children.

The panel report became the blueprint for “Project Head Start”.

Project Head Start

Began in 1965 as an eight-week summer program by the Office of Economic Opportunity

Designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and psychological needs.

Who and How

Head Start (HS) serves children and their families each year in urban and rural areas in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories.

The program is locally administered by community-based non-profit organizations and school systems.

Head Start Today

In 1969, Head Start was transferred from the OEO to the Office of Child Development in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Now Office of Head Start is a program within the Administration of Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Region 10 History

- Began school year 91-92 serving 80 children in Sherman, Denison, and Rockwall
- Within 3 years was serving 469 children in four counties – Collin, Grayson, Kaufman and Rockwall
- Rapid expansion continued through the 1990's
- 1999 – received first funding for Early Head Start, serving 40 children in McKinney

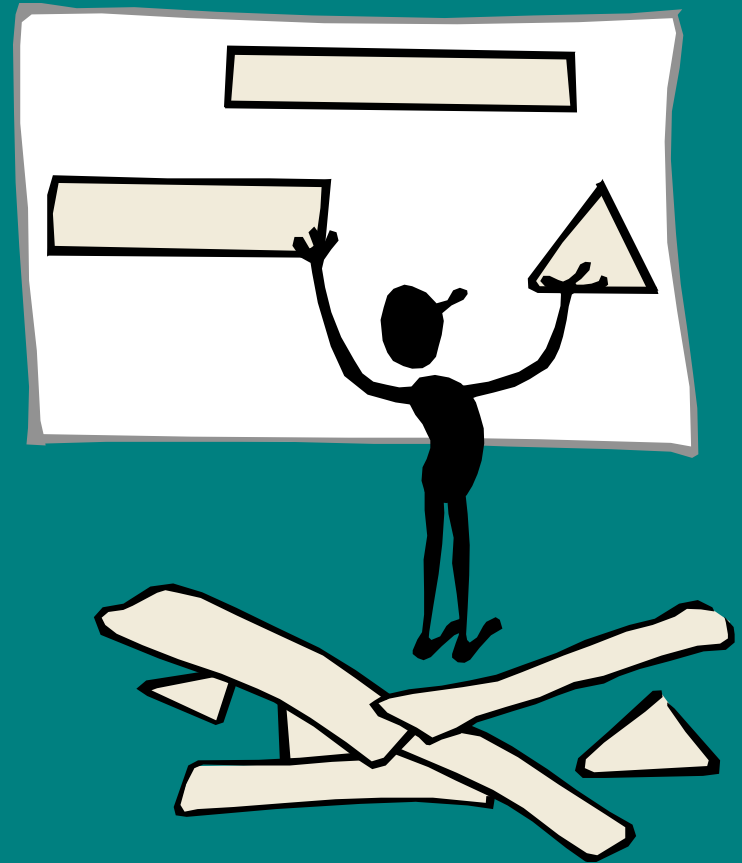
Region 10 History

- 2001 – expanded Early Head Start to include 40 children in Sherman and 40 children in Rockwall
- 2002 – expanded Head Start to include Ellis County
- 2010 – expanded Head Start to add 54 additional children – 18 in Midlothian, 36 in McKinney
- 2010 – expanded Early Head Start to add 48 additional participants, 24 each in McKinney and Sherman

Region 10 History

- Currently in partnership with 20 school districts, serving 952 three and four-year-old children in the Head Start program
- Currently in partnership with 3 school districts, serving 168 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in the Early Head Start program
- 1120 children served annually

Organization and Management



Board Responsibilities

Head Start Performance Standards list several Board responsibilities:

- Review and approval of financial audit report
- Review of summaries of financial activity
- Involvement in the annual self-assessment of the program

Board Responsibilities

- Approval of criteria for recruitment, selection and enrollment of children in the program
- Approval of procedure for selection of Policy Council members
- Approval of system for solving internal disputes
- Approval of personnel policies

Board Responsibilities

- Review of the Self-Assessment Improvement plan
- Approval of procedures for program planning
- Approval of long and short-range goals and objectives
- Approval of funding application

Board Responsibilities

- Approval of composition of Policy Council and procedures for selection of Policy Council members
- Approval of procedure for shared decision making with Policy Council
- Approval of hiring or termination of the Head Start Director

Budget



Budget

- Fiscal year – September 1 – August 31
- Current year Head Start funding - \$6,775,012
- Current year Early Head Start funding - \$2,012,915
- Some funds are designated specifically for training and technical assistance.
- All funds require a non-federal matching amount

Non-Federal Share

- Head Start requires 25% non-federal share
- Each district submits projected non-federal share with projected budget
- Actual non-federal share costs are submitted quarterly with reimbursement requests





EARLY HEAD START

**Serves pregnant women and
children birth to age three**

Funded enrollment for Early Head Start is 164.

Target populations:

- Families that income qualify based on Federal poverty guidelines**
- Pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in partner school districts of McKinney, Rockwall, and Sherman**
- Children with disabilities**

Early Head Start

A year-round program in two educational settings:

- **Center-based early childhood education (each site has a child care center licensed for up to thirty-two children)**
- **Home-based early childhood education**

Services Provided

- **Ongoing child development screening**
- **Comprehensive health services (including services to women before, during and after pregnancy, assistance with well child check-ups, immunization tracking and dental screening)**
- **Nutrition consultation and education**
- **Mental wellness services**
- **Parent education services**
- **Family services focused on assistance with crisis needs and longer term family goals.**

Early Head Start must meet:

- **Federal Head Start Performance Standards**
- **State of Texas Minimum Standards for Licensed Child Care Centers**
- **Local city regulations**
- **Partner school district policies**



Our Head Start Program

The HS/EHS program is the result of a partnership between the Region 10 Education Service Center and individual school districts.

Both the district and Region 10 are responsible for providing a high quality program for children and families.

Performance Standards developed by the federal government provide the rules for how the Head Start program must operate.

The Head Start Team on each campus consists of:

Parents

District Principals and Other
Administrators

District Teachers and Instructional
Assistants

Site Facilitators (ESC staff)

Family Service Specialists (ESC staff)

Health Service Specialists (ESC staff)

Eligibility

- **Families complete an application for the program, and eligibility is determined by careful evaluation of documentation**
- **Families are eligible if they meet the criteria for poverty as indicated on the income guidelines established by the federal government.**

Eligibility

Families who are defined as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act are eligible.

Families who are the recipients of public assistance are eligible.

Selection

- **Because there are not sufficient slots available for all eligible children, a process for selection is in place.**
- **Each application is evaluated based on a point system that is sensitive to specific needs in the community, such as non-English speaking families, families lacking transportation, grandparents raising grandchildren, etc.**

Selection

- Children most in need according to the selection criteria enter the program first.
- When all slots are filled, children are placed on a waiting list and referred to the district's Pre-K program.
- When a slot is available, parents are given the opportunity to move to Head Start.

Selection

- Early Head Start selection is similar with priority given to pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in partner districts.
- Waiting lists are established based on need as indicated on the application.
- Families on the waiting list are given information about other available services.

Disabilities

Children with disabilities are a part of HS/EHS.

At least 10% of the enrollment must be reserved for these children.

Our program typically serves more than 10% children with disabilities.



Attendance

- **Head Start children must follow the local school district policies regarding attendance and tardiness.**
- **When a child is absent, parents/guardians are to contact the Head Start office as well as the school office.**



Education



Curriculum

- Focus on school readiness skills
- Use of High Scope framework, which is a research-based approach for working with preschool children
- Also use of state adopted Pre-K learning systems as determined by the districts
- Lesson plans reflect individualization for students

Curriculum

- For pregnant women, Early Head Start uses a curriculum for prenatal visits that was developed by Florida State University.
- For home-based families, the Parents as Teachers program is used to help parents understand child development and appropriate activities.

Curriculum

- Center-based Early Head Start uses the research-based High/Scope framework for infants and toddlers, the Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers, and Beautiful Beginnings, a curriculum that provides a wide variety of activities to meet the educational needs of infants and toddlers.

Literacy Activities

- Reading Is Fundamental/Family of Readers
- DREAM – Dads Reading, Educating And Mentoring
- Lending Library

Family of Readers Overview

- Parent Lending Library
- Two-week Reading Challenge
- Three workshops for Parents during the school year
- Three book distributions to Head Start/Early Head Start children during the school year

The most important ingredient of a Family of Readers program is the families.



RIF- Reading is Fundamental

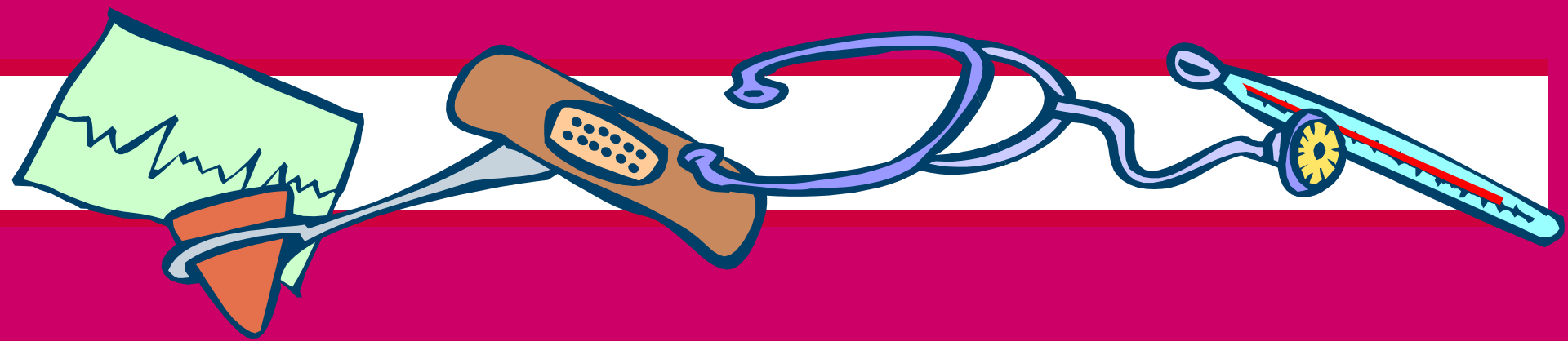
- Three events which allow each Head Start child to participate in fun-filled literacy activities.
- Each child has the opportunity to select his/her book.
- Children receive their 1st book during the first home visit.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in additional activities during the year.

Lending Library

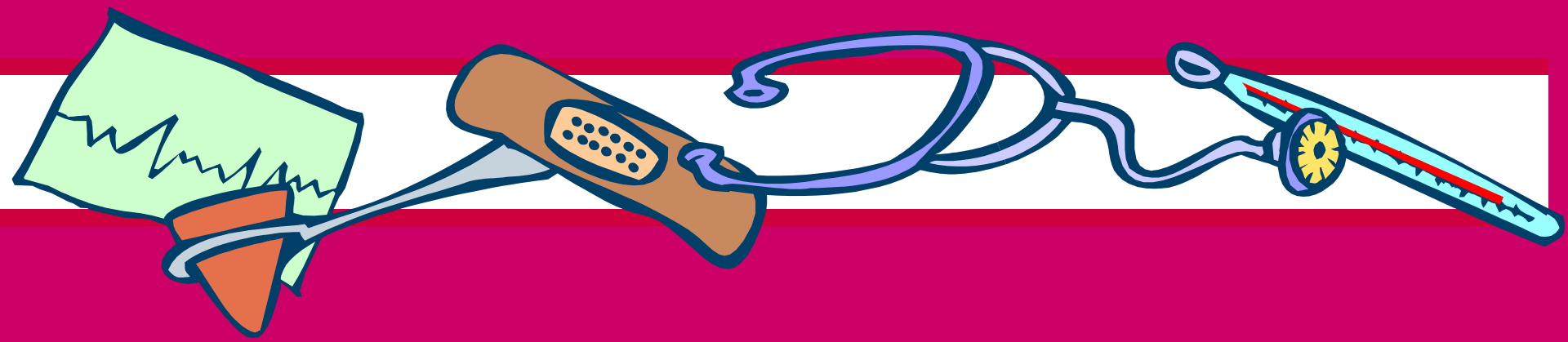


The Head Start/Early Head Start office on each campus has a parent library with books, videos, and books on tape for children and adults.

Families are encouraged to take advantage of this program.



Health Services



Health Services

Head Start/Early Head Start emphasizes the importance of children being healthy.

- Developmental screenings, medical exams, including blood tests for anemia and lead levels, and dental exams are required for every child to identify potential problems and concerns.

Child must be up to date on all immunizations in order to attend Head Start and Early Head Start.



Nutrition

- Parents have the opportunity to gain nutrition information through parent meetings.
- A Registered Dietician is available for consultation with Head Start/Early Head Start parents and to work with district personnel if there are concerns about a child.



Nutrition

- Children must drink white, low fat milk while at school. Foods served must be high in nutrients and low in fat, sugar and salt.
- Outside food and/or drink cannot be brought in for the children.
- Students brush their teeth after each meal.



Mental Health

Children have daily activities to promote positive self-esteem.

Special parent activities are held to encourage family fun time.

A Mental Health Consultant makes regular visits to each campus and is available for assistance with issues and concerns regarding children's development or behavior.

Family Engagement



Family Engagement



- ❖ Assist families with crisis needs such as referrals for assistance with food, clothing, and shelter
- ❖ Assist with accessing resources and/or services for education, literacy, social services, parenting, health, counseling and other situations/needs that may arise.
- ❖ Work with parents to identify goals based on the family's strengths, needs, and interests.
- ❖ Follow up with parents/guardians during the year to monitor their progress and inform them about new community services and opportunities.

Family Engagement

- ❖ Opportunities to volunteer
 - > Each campus conducts regularly scheduled parent meetings
 - > Encourage male involvement
 - > Policy Council
 - > Classrooms and office
 - > Helping from home



Volunteers

Family engagement is very important to the Head Start program.

Volunteers must pass a criminal history background check and receive training.

Parent Committee

- Made up of 100% parents
- Meetings are on a regularly schedule and are open to all Head Start/Early Head Start parents.



Policy Council

Policy Council representatives come from each HS/EHS site and are responsible for making decisions about the overall operation of the Region 10 HS/EHS program.



Policy Council

- By Federal mandate, parents of children in the program must comprise at least 51% of the total Policy Council.
- Community volunteers are also a part of the Policy Council.



Policy Council

- Has shared decision making responsibilities with the Board.
- Meets monthly except for the month of July

The logo consists of a red square with a white circle inside, partially overlapping a white shape that resembles a stylized '10' or a speech bubble.

REGION 10

EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

It is the policy of Region 10 Education Service Center not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Region 10 Education Service Center will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational programs and services.