



Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start



Leading the way in the provision of High Quality Comprehensive Services to Children and Families

Waccamaw EOC, Inc. Head Start Program began operating as full year full day Pre-school Program during January of 1970. The agency covers three counties: Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg counties.

The program provides high quality comprehensive services: Health, Education, Nutrition, Disability/Mental Health and Social Services to 750 children and families. The agency operates eight Head Start and one Early Head Start Center to include children ages 6 weeks to under 5 years. Six hundred and eighty-two (682) of our 750 preschoolers are enrolled in NAEYC (National Accreditation for the Education of Young Children) Accredited Classroom.

Each child will receive a Developmental Screening using the Brigance Preschool Screen II. The primary purpose of the screening is to obtain a broad sampling of the child's skills and behaviors. This is done for one or more reasons, such as to assist the teacher in planning more appropriate goals for the child or to help determine the most appropriate initial placement or grouping. This screening is conducted within the first 45 days of enrollment.

The agency uses the Creative Curriculum which is a research based curriculum and is approved by the state and professional organizations. This Curriculum balances both teacher-directed and child-initiated learning, with an emphasis on responding to children's learning styles and build on their strengths and interest. This curriculum applies the latest theory and research on best practices in teaching and learning. While keeping the original environmentally-based approach it clearly defines the teacher's vital role in connecting content, teaching and learning for preschool children.

Teaching Strategies GOLD is an authentic, ongoing observation system for assessing children from birth through kindergarten, proven to be valid and reliable by extensive field testing. It helps teachers observe children in the context of everyday experiences, which is an effective way to get to know them well and find out what they know and can do. Data will be collected and an assessment will be done at the beginning, mid-point and the end of the school year to compare the children's progress. Our objective is to help children achieve school readiness and individual learning goals. This Project has a mission and vision statement:

Head Start Mission

The mission of Head Start is to enhance the quality of life for children and families through education and support services.

Early Head Start Mission

To promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children and promote healthy family functioning.

Vision

Making a positive difference in the lives of children, families, individuals and communities by providing innovative services and collaborating with agencies and organizations to promote economic self-sufficiency while providing a hand-up to those who need it most.



Early Head Start – Chavis Early Head Start Center provides educational and parental support services throughout the prenatal, infancy and toddler stages of development. The EHS program is designed to foster the intricate care required for children 0-36 months of age. Home Based services are available to families who are better served in their home environment. Expectant Families are provided exceptional care and infants are transitioned into the center after reaching six weeks of age. We provide an environment that is safe and inviting and also offer services that are conducive to optimal developmental success. Early Head Start is the bright beginning your family needs.



Education – Our 43 classrooms provides a safe and engaging preschool learning environment that supports a young child's physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth and development. Children's individual interests, languages, cultural backgrounds and learning styles are taken into account. Parent/Teacher conferences and other meetings are scheduled throughout the year.



Nutritional Services – focuses on the importance of providing children with nourishing food and opportunities to promote intellectual and social development. It is one ingredient in the recipe for good health that all children need to grow and prosper. Providing healthy foods and teaching children healthy eating habits at a young age prepares them to make the positive choices that lead

to a healthy lifestyle. Our continued effort is to ensure all children nutritional needs are identified and properly addressed. 98% of our children with special diet restrictions and special dietary requirements needs were identified and accommodated.



Family Services – Each family is assigned a Family Service Worker who will help the family identify strengths; define services and supports needed, set goals, and link families to social services referrals. The family and the Family Service Worker work together in a partnership to help the family progress toward achieving and attaining goals and services that support positive development of the child.



Health - Head Start offers comprehensive hearing, vision, and speech and growth assessment screenings. We also assist parents with establishing a medical and dental home for their child (ren). We assist families in getting health services for their children as needed.



Literacy/Mentor Coach - works one –on-one with teachers , assistant teachers, and caregivers to insure they are providing developmentally appropriate literacy activities based on the Head Start Early Learning Framework, South Carolina Learning Standards, and Creative Curriculum Goals and Objectives in order to meet Waccamaw EOC School Readiness Goals.



Training/Technical Assistance - has developed a training and technical assistance plan which is integrated with all content areas of Head Start: Health, Nutrition, Education, Family Services, Disability, Mental Health, Early Literacy and Transportation.

Our training process is focused on providing learning opportunities to enhance professional growth through partnership with local colleges/universities to build individual knowledge and skills, increase one's level of competency, and prepare individuals for achieving new challenges.

Training opportunities are provided for staff, parents, volunteers, Board and Policy Council Members. Qualified consultants are utilized; for each training. Through training and technical assistance, growth, knowledge, advancement and competency skills will be achieved.



Disability/Mental Health - our goal is to identify and provide services to at least 10% of our enrollment of children needing special services. Those children who are identified with a diagnosed disability and having an IEP/IFSP are given extra points to ensure that 10% of the funded enrollment will include those children. During the 45 days screening the program screens all children enrolled in the program to identify children with developmental delays and other disabilities, and these children are referred for a formal evaluation.



Transportation - Bus transportation for Head Start children is very important to provide transportation in our rural areas that Waccamaw EOC, Inc. Head Start serves. Seventy-five percent (75%) of our Head Start children are transported by buses at Choppee, Green Sea, Georgetown, Lane, and Longs Head Start Centers.

All Bus Drivers are CDL qualified with PS Passenger and School Bus Endorsement, DOT certified and has at least one bus monitor per each bus. All buses are equipped with required safety equipment i.e. (child restraints, first aid kit, fire extinguishers, seat belt cutters and two-way communication).



Head Start Directory

Horry County

Green Sea Head Start

1131 Green Sea Road
Green Sea, SC 29545
(843)756-4768

Brenda Fore

Longs Head Start

131 Freemont Road
Longs, SC 29568
(843)399-3220

Clara Bellamy

Myrtle Beach Head Start

500 N. 4th Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
(843)808-0163

Frances Washington

Waccamaw Head Start

Horry Georgetown Tech
2050 Hwy 501 East
Conway, SC 29526
(843)349-7825

Shiquanna Knowlin

Georgetown County

Andrews Head Start

Andrews Elementary School
13072 County Line Road
Andrews, SC 29510
(843)264-3419

Debbie Rhue

Choppee Head Start

8055 Choppee Road
Georgetown, SC 29440
(843)485-4231

Carnetha Morant

Georgetown Head Start

410 S. Kaminski Street
Building C
Georgetown, SC 29440
(843)545-1272

Alice Barron

Williamsburg County

Chavis HS/EHS

2811 S. State Hwy 41-51
Hemingway, SC 29554
(843)558-7307

Joann Hugee

Lane Head Start

175 Edwin Rd
Lane, SC 29564
(843)387-5893

Ella Fulton

Head Start Administrative Office

175 Edwin Rd
Lane, SC 29564
(843)387-9330

Wilhelmina Whitfield, HS/EHS Director

For more information go to our agency website www.weoc.org.