

What families are saying

about Head Start, Early Head Start and ECAP programs

- “Head start is an amazing program that has not only given my son the educational and social skills needed to continue on to Kindergarten, but has provided the whole family opportunities. My two older teens have been able to volunteer time in the kitchen as well as in the classrooms and I, as a single mother, have had the opportunity to build connections with others in the community. Because of Head Start’s many parent services available, I was also able to return to school with tuition assistance and receive help for my family during a time of great financial difficulty. I believe in Head Start!” **New Castle County Head Start Parent**
- “I am very pleased to be a member of Wilmington Head Start. I started as a parent and was elected to be a member of the Policy Council. With the Head Start program, I learned how to be a good member and a better father. For the past three years, I have enjoyed every minute of it, especially all of the activities.” **Wilmington Head Start Parent**
- “My experience as a former Head Start parent and current Head Start employee has been wonderful. As a teenage parent in the Early Head Start program, I was offered support and an opportunity to pursue my education, establish and meet goals for myself and my family. Today, my children are in public school and doing well academically. I owe it all to Head Start. I purchased a home two years ago, graduated from college with an AA degree in Human Services and am now working as a Family Service Worker in the Head Start program. I encourage anyone to take advantage of the wonderful Head Start experience” **Telamon Head Start Program Parent**

Program Offices/Services

HS= Head Start, EHS=Early Head Start, ECAP=Early Childhood Assistance Program

New Castle County

Program	Services	Phone
Brandywine School Dist	ECAP	302-761-7420
Christina Cultural Arts	ECAP	302-652-0101
Christina School Dist	ECAP	302-831-0351
Hilltop Lutheran Nbhd Latin American Community Center	ECAP, EHS	302-656-3224
New Castle County HS	HS, ECAP	302-452-1500
New Directions EHS	EHS	302-831-0584
Wilmington Head Start	HS, ECAP	302-421-3620

Kent County

Program	Services	Phone
Delaware Early Childhood Center	ECAP, EHS	302-398-8945
Kreative Kids, Inc.	ECAP	302-398-8111
Telamon Head Start	HS, ECAP	302-659-5092

Sussex County

Program	Services	Phone
Delaware Early Childhood Center	ECAP	302-398-8945
Del-Tech Child Dev Ctr	ECAP	302-855-5950
Indian River Project VILLAGE	ECAP	302-436-1017
Telamon Corporation	HS, ECAP, EHS	302-934-1642



For more information on Delaware programs, contact:

State Director of Head Start Collaboration
Delaware Department of Education
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-735-4210

or visit our website @ www.doe.k12.de.us



Head Start, Early Head Start & Early Childhood Assistance Programs

in Delaware



What

are Head Start, Early Head Start, & Early Childhood Assistance Programs?

Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Childhood Assistance Programs are comprehensive federally and state funded programs for low-income families with children from birth to age five, pregnant women, homeless children, and children with disabilities.

- Early Head Start promotes healthy prenatal outcomes, enhances the development of infants and toddlers, and promotes healthy families.
- Head Start serves low-income preschool-age children and their families and has the overall goal of increasing school readiness of young children. The program enhances children's social and cognitive development through the provision of health, educational, nutritional, social and other services.
- Early Childhood Assistance Programs (ECAP) are state-funded, comprehensive child development programs for low-income families with children age four and eligible for kindergarten the following year. These programs follow the Head Start Performance Standards.



Why

are Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Childhood Assistance Programs good for children?

Research and studies over time have revealed that children who have completed Head Start programs demonstrate improved skills in vocabulary, writing skills and social competence.

- Children in Early Head Start programs perform better in cognitive and language development.
- Head Start programs improve the health status of participating children and families by providing health and dental services to those who might not have access to them otherwise.
- The Delaware Longitudinal Study shows that children living in poverty who participated in ECAP or Head Start programs when they were four years old were significantly more likely to earn passing performance scores on the reading and math sections of the DSTP than those students who did not receive ECAP or Head Start services.

Who

is eligible for Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Childhood Assistance?

Early Head Start serves pregnant women, and children birth to three years of age and Head Start serves children three to five years old. **Early Childhood Assistance Program** serves children who are four years of age. All programs serve children in families earning income at or below the federal poverty level. In addition, these programs are inclusive and mandated to serve children with disabilities (at least 10% of funded enrollment). New mandates enable homeless children to be automatically eligible and up to 35% of funded enrollment can be open to children with family incomes at or below 130% of poverty level. **For more information and an enrollment application, contact the local Head Start, Early Head Start, or Early Childhood Assistance Program grantee office.** (See list on back of brochure.)

Facts

about Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Childhood Assistance programs

- Since 1965, Head Start has served nearly 20 million children across the country. Early Head Start was established in 1994 as part of the Reauthorization of Head Start.
- Currently in Delaware, Head Start federal funds support four (4) Head Start Grantees, two (2) Early Head Start Grantees. State funds support Early Childhood Assistance Programs (ECAP) in all Head Start Grantees and nine (9) other non-profit and school settings. These programs serve over 2,600 children at approximately 57 center locations. Limited home base services are also offered.
- Parent Policy Councils serve a valuable role in the direction of each program and linkages with the community.
- Parental involvement is a key component of Head Start, Early Head Start, and ECAP. The programs assist families in accessing comprehensive services such as medical care and housing.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in their children's day-to-day classroom activities. By volunteering, parents have the opportunity to become more involved in their child's education, to observe the child interact with other pre-school children in an appropriate setting, and to learn the different stages of a child's development.
- Early Head Start offers both home-based and center-based programs. Head Start offers half-day and full day sessions. In some areas, partnerships with child care centers and family child care homes have been created to provide wrap-around child care to meet families need for full day, full year services.