



## Head Start Fact Sheet

### What is Head Start?

#### Head Start

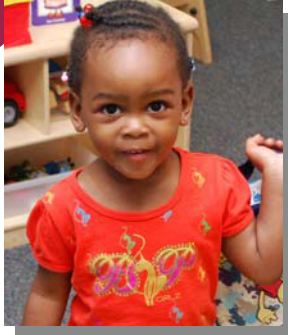
For more than 40 years, children and their families have received services through Head Start. Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive, early childhood education program that prepares children for kindergarten.

#### Early Head Start

EHS is a federally funded, comprehensive, early childhood education program, created to break the cycle of poverty by providing services to children from low-income families.

#### Home-Based Head Start

Home Visitors come into the home weekly and work with parent and child on activities designed to address their child's individual needs. Children also learn through socialization during regular visits to a center.



### Who is eligible?

Head Start serves children ages 3-5. Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children from birth up to age 3. Home-Based Head Start serves pregnant women and children up to age 5. All programs require participants to be residents of Hamilton County and earn a household income within the income guidelines. Children with special needs are welcome.

### Health & Nutrition

Our programs are designed to ensure that every child receives comprehensive health care, including medical, dental, mental health and nutritional services through either direct service or referrals. For children under 3 years of age, we make sure they are receiving all of the medical care recommended by EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment).

### Education

Every child receives a variety of learning experiences to foster their intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Learning occurs through play and through developmentally appropriate activities.

### Parental Involvement

We believe that parents are their child's first educator. Head Start empowers parents to become leaders and supporters of their children's educational experience. Opportunities exist for parents to provide input into the menu, participate in curriculum planning, and help make other important decisions regarding their child's education.

### Forming Partnerships with Family & Community

Head Start identifies and builds upon the strengths of our families and communities. We establish solid partnerships with each family and with the communities we serve to also assist families on the path to social and economic growth.

CAA provides services through partnerships with:

- Cincinnati Public Schools;
- Cincinnati Union Bethel, Inc;
- Every Child Succeeds;
- Hamilton County Educational Service Center;
- UC Arlitt Child & Family Research Education Center; and
- Child care centers and private home providers.