

Head Start Core Values

- ✓ Establish a ***supportive learning environment*** for children, parents and staff in which the processes of enhancing awareness, refining skills and increasing understanding are valued and promoted
- ✓ Recognize that the members of the Head Start community--children, families and staff--have roots in ***many cultures***. Head Start families and staff, working together as a team, can effectively promote respectful, sensitive, and proactive approaches to diversity
- ✓ Understand that the ***empowerment of families*** occurs when program governance is a responsibility shared by families, governing bodies and staff; and when the ideas and opinions for families are heard and respected
- ✓ Embrace a ***comprehensive vision*** of health for children and families and staff, which assures that basic health needs are met, encourages practices that prevent future illnesses and injuries, and promote positive, culturally relevant health behaviors that enhance life-long well-being
- ✓ Respect the importance of all aspects of an ***individual's development***, including social, emotional, cognitive and physical growth
- ✓ Build a community in which each child and adult is ***treated as an individual*** while, at the same time, a sense of belonging to the group is reinforced
- ✓ Foster a relationship with the ***larger community***, so that families and staff are respected and served by a network of community agencies in partnership with one another
- ✓ Develop a ***continuum of care***, education and services that allow stable, uninterrupted support to families and children during and after their Head Start experience