

WHAT HEAD START CAN DO FOR YOU

Thank you for your interest in RMDC Head Start's outstanding early childhood program. These are some of the unique benefits we have to offer your family:

Preschool education for your child valued at \$3,000 per child, provided at no cost to you.

Full screening for every child covers vision, hearing, physical development, speech language and what we call "concept" development (colors, counting, drawing, etc.)

Parent involvement like no other! Parents get to be involved in every part of Head Start...the classroom, special family events, parent committees and parent council. In whatever ways you want to be involved in your child's education, Head Start is right for you!

Head Start wants every parent to have a voice in how the program runs. Parents are involved in the governing of the program. This is one of the most unique aspects of Head Start. During their time with Head Start, many parents discover they have a knack for leadership.

"Head Start is awesome! They are so involved with the community and they work individually with families. I couldn't say enough good stuff about the staff. And it helps me with child care." (Former Head Start parent)

Your child will be learning at school and at home. You will receive a School to Home project once a month that has all the materials you need to do a special activity with your child. In addition, every Head Start child receives at least three high quality children's books FREE every year.

Every family gets to meet individually with their teacher at least four times a year.

During the year, parents work with their family advocate to set and achieve personal goals such as earning a GED, buying a home, obtaining reliable transportation or getting a different job.

As a Head Start parent you will receive regular information on classes and events held in the community especially geared to parents. You will also receive a Parent's magazine once a month. Head Start rolls out the red carpet for parents.

To apply for Head Start, call (406) 457-7308 or 1-800-356-6544

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

To be age eligible for Head Start children must turn three years old on or before September 10. Head Start does not typically serve children who are old enough to attend public school.

RMDC Head Start is located in Helena, East Helena, Townsend and Whitehall. Most classes are M-Th, ½ days and have no parent education or work requirements. Some ½ day classes run five days per week. We offer two classes that run full-day for four days per week and parent work and/or education requirements apply.

Below are the items you need to have in order to prepare for your appointment. If you don't have them ready, please apply anyway:

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- 1) **Needed prior to acceptance:** your 2007 Tax Forms, **or** 2007 W2 forms, **or** check stubs from the past 12 months, **or** a letter from your employer stating your *gross* wages for the past 12 months. *(Income requirements apply for 90% of Head Start families. 10% of Head Start families can be over the income guideline. We encourage all interested families to apply or inquire about income guidelines. Don't automatically eliminate yourself!)*
 - 2) **Needed prior to acceptance:** your child's birth certificate.
 - 3) **Needed prior to acceptance:** your child's immunization record, even if it is not complete.
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Please contact our office at **(406) 457-7308** or **1-800-356-6544** if you have questions about our program. We'd love the chance to meet you and welcome you to RMDC Head Start.

