ENROLLMENT

Head Start services are available at no cost to children and families. All children are welcome in our classrooms and 10% of the enrollment must include children with special needs/disabilities.

To enroll your child, contact your county’s Family Development Advocate for an appointment.

To locate your county Family Development Advocate or Child and Family Advocate go to www.nekcap.org and click on About Us and then Locations or call toll-free 888-904-8159, ext 116. You will need to provide your income documents (for one year/most recent tax return or at least three months - reflecting current situation of the family) and insurance cards. Immunization record is required before attending classes. Child’s birth certificate (or hospital birth record) is preferred but not required. If you do not have these documents the Family Development Advocate or Child and Family Advocate will work with you to obtain them.
Head Start is a comprehensive child development preschool program serving children from ages 3 to 5 years old and their families in eight of NEK-CAP, Inc.’s 16-county service area. The program is a child and family-focused program and has the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. Head Start services are FREE to eligible children!

Head Start supports all preschool children in developing school readiness skills. To prepare for Head Start, children and families are supported in completing Kan-Be-Healthy exams and dental exams. Families continue to receive support with any follow-up appointments or treatment for children enrolled in the program. In Atchison, Hiawatha, Horton, Holton, Meriden, Marysville, Sabetha and Havensville, the 3-5-year-old children attend class five days a week for 6½ hours per day for 128 days. In Sabetha and Leavenworth, the 3-5-year-old children attend classes four days a week, Monday – Thursday for 3½ hours per day for 1,020 hours. This center-based program option was selected by the Policy Council, Multi-County Board of Directors, parents and staff.

Children are provided with a safe loving classroom; a place they are accepted and are given opportunities to learn and experience success. Children participate in a variety of activities in a preschool setting, including: reading, math, science, and social emotional skill building. The children receive healthy meals and snacks and follow up with teeth brushing after meals. Field trips are planned to acquaint children with their community.

NEK-CAP, Inc. uses The Creative Curriculum for Preschool and in the Fall 2019 will be piloting the Frog Street curriculum. Both curriculums are researched based and help the teachers create a high-quality learning environment and build a thorough understanding of best practices. Daily Resources help teachers plan and manage every moment of their day. Through studies, which include hands-on, activities and investigations, these curricula help teachers build children’s confidence, creativity and critical thinking skills, and promote positive outcomes toward school readiness.

NEK-CAP, Inc. Head Start utilizes Work Sample, an on-line assessment tool. This is a comprehensive assessment tool for early childhood education programs that is based on the latest research, proven valid and reliable, and is fully aligned with Kansas Early Learning Standards and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

Head Start services are family-centered, fostering the role of parents as the primary educators, nurturers and advocates for their children. Head Start works closely with parents to assist them in developing and utilizing individual and family strengths to successfully meet personal and family objectives. Parents are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of the program, from participation in children’s activities to direct involvement in monthly Family Engagement Activities, Parent Committee and Policy Council.

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