

# Chicago Commons Child Development

## Parent Involvement



### Welcome to Head Start!

Volume 1, Issue 1

As you enter or return to the Head Start program, we are glad you are here. For over 40 years, Head Start's rich history leads up to the present day program in which your family is participating.

In 1965, during the civil-rights movement, Head Start was launched as part of the War on Poverty. The belief that education could break the cycle of poverty prompted the U.S. government to offer services to meet the needs of low income families with preschool children.

Head Start exists today within the Administration for Children and Family Services in the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

Head Start programs

promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provisions of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

Head Start adheres to Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards. They can be found online and at your child's daycare center. The Performance Standards define the services we are required by law to offer your family as part of the Head Start program.

Head Start recognizes the family as the primary teacher of the child. Services focus on family diversity, values, and beliefs. Families are encouraged to contribute to their child's

education and development as well as administrative policy.

Head Start includes:

- Health Services
- Education and Early Childhood Development
- Child Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Family Partnerships
- Community Partnership
- Program Governance
- Safe Environments

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Family Support  
Services and Mental  
Health Monitors, Head  
Start Community  
Partners Program

Thank you for choosing to be a part of our Head Start program!



### Building Trusting Relationships

Performance Standard 1304.40(a)(1),(4)&(5)

The key to Head Start's approach includes partnering with parents. The partnership process begins when the family enrolls in Head Start. The meaningful relationships built between staff and

families depend on sensitivity and respect.

When convenient for the family, they meet with an intake worker to collaborate and establish mutual trust.

Once a family feels comfortable, the intake

worker supports the family as they identify unique family needs, strengths, and interests.

The personal information the family shares is confidential and the family chooses how much information to share.

## We want to get to know you

Performance Standard 1304.40(a)(1), 1304(b)(1)

Head Start offers family members support for growth and change, believing that people can identify their own strengths, needs, and interests.

Within 45 days of enrollment, and once you are ready, staff will meet with you confidentially to complete a Family Assessment.

The Family Assessment will aid in determining your strengths, needs, and interests. Staff will ask questions and record your answers, and may recommend community resources.

Topics the Family Assessment will help you explore include:

- Budget
- Child Care
- Domestic Violence
- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Legal Assistance
- Literacy Building
- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Parent Involvement
- Substance Abuse
- Support System
- Transition Service
- Transportation



## Let's set some goals together

Performance Standard 1304.40(a)(2)&(3), 1304.40(b)(1)(i)(ii)(iii), 1304.40(b)(2)

Parents are offered to complete a Family Partnership Agreement (FPA) with Head Start staff. The FPA focuses on a goal set by the family that will help improve family life.

Goals identified on the FPA should reflect something the parent would like to achieve. The FPA should describe the goal, the steps and timeline needed for completion, and a back-up plan.

Goal categories often times reflect the strengths, needs, and interests identified in the Family Assessment. Please see above article for categories.

Staff will encourage you to achieve your goals. Each site has a Resource Guide equipped with community services. Staff will support you by making referrals and recommendations for services that meet your goals and interests.

Please spend time with staff to set your goal by October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please follow up with staff on your goal by: December 1<sup>st</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Services might include: counseling for domestic violence or substance abuse, and education or employment training.

Staff will be excited to hear about the progress of your FPA goal. We would like to know if the referrals for resources work out for you.

## Parents, it's time to get involved

Performance Standard 1304.40(d)(1)(2)(3), 1304.40(e)(1)(2)(3)

Head Start encourages parents to be active participants in designing activities for children and parents. Parents can work with staff to learn how Head Start operates and see how their children are learning and growing.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer and observe in the classroom, plan and attend field trips, and serve on committees.

Participating in Head Start offers parents the opportunity to enhance their understanding of developmental needs while sharing their concerns with program staff.

**Performance Standard 1304.40 (d) (2)**

**Parents must be welcomed as visitors and encouraged to observe children as often as possible and to participate with children in group activities.**

If you would like to volunteer in the classroom, please provide a current physical with TB test to your site's Director.



## Parent Committee Meetings

**Performance Standard 1304.50(a)(1)(iii), 1304.50(e)(1)(2)(3)**

A direct way of being involved in Head Start is by participating in Parent Committee Meetings. Parent Committee meetings are run by parents, for parents.

These are monthly meetings held at your daycare center at a date and time that is convenient for parents.

Parent Committee empowers your family and child and gives you a say in what your daycare center has to offer.

Parent Committee covers topics such as:

- Parent Involvement
- Money Management
- Nutrition
- Child Development
- Domestic Violence
- Family Literacy
- Dental and Health Care

If this sounds great to you, please run for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Secretary.



## Parent Policy Council Committee Representative

**Performance Standard 1304.50(a)(1)(i)(ii), 1304.50(d)(2)(i)(ii)**

Do you love Head Start and would like to be involved beyond your Parent Committee?

Please run for Parent Policy Council/Committee Representative or Alternate Representative in October!

Elections are as simple as a vote by show of hands at your Parent Committee Meeting and documented with the meeting agenda, minutes, and sign-in sheet.

Parent Policy Council/Committee allows parents to contribute to policy-making and vote on decisions within the Head Start program.

Your site's Parent Policy Representative provides input from your Parent Committee to the agency-wide Parent Policy Council/Committee.

The Representative reports back to your Parent Committee regarding business discussed at the monthly Parent Policy Council/Committee meetings.

Parent Policy Council Committee meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at 4:30 pm at alternating locations of Chicago Commons sites- Paulo Freire Family Center located on 1653 W 43<sup>rd</sup> St and Nia Family Center located on 744 N Monticello. Dinner is provided as well as childcare for your Head Start children.

## Benefits to participation

**Performance Standard 1304.5 (b)(1)-(7), 1304.5(e)(1)(2)&(3)**

Being an active member in your Parent Committee and/or Parent Policy Council/Committee lets you practice professional skills including leadership, advocacy, and communication.

Attending monthly meetings lets you build relationships within your community.

Serving as an elected official looks great on a resume!

Parents who participate...

- Contribute to educational curriculum development
- Build a social support network
- Meet other Head Start parents
- Learn about community events and resources
- Strengthen decision-making skills
- Gain confidence
- Play an active role in policy making
- Become advocates and leaders



**Guadalupano Family Center**  
1814 S Paulina Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: (312) 666-3883

**New City Head Start Child Development Partnership Program**  
4625 S Ashland Ave  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: 773.254.7305

**Nia Family Center**  
744 N Monticello Ave  
Chicago, IL 60624  
Phone: (773) 722-0115

**Paulo Freire Family Center**  
1643 W 43<sup>rd</sup> St  
Chicago, IL 60609  
Phone: (773) 826-6260

**Taylor Center for New Experiences**  
1633 N Hamlin Ave  
Chicago, IL 60647  
Phone: (773) 227-8551

**A-Zmall World Child Development Center**  
2629 S Lawndale Ave  
Chicago, IL 60623  
Phone: (773) 522-1150

**Child Development & High Quality Care**  
3906 W Chicago Ave  
Chicago, IL 60651  
Phone: (773) 227-5961

**Children's World**  
3356 S Ashland Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: (773) 523-0100

**Diversey Daycare**  
3155 W Diversey Ave  
Chicago, IL 60647  
Phone: (773) 342-7777

**Eyes on the Future Preschool**  
6969 N Ravenswood Ave  
Chicago, IL 60626

**Joyful Noise Christian Daycare**  
4243 W North Ave  
Chicago, IL 60639  
Phone: (773) 252-5990

**JPE Day Care**  
8625 S Cottage Grove Ave  
Chicago, IL 60619  
Phone: (773) 994-0788

**Kiddie Garden Little Angels Daycare**  
4235 S Kedzie Ave  
Chicago, IL 60632

**Phone: (773) 843-1976**  
**Kiddie Kottage Daycare**  
1946 W 87<sup>th</sup> St  
Chicago, IL 60620  
Phone: (773) 233-7292

**Kimball Daycare**  
1636 N Kimball Ave  
Chicago, IL 60647  
Phone: (773) 235-7200

**Little Folks Cottage Nursery**  
5926 W Madison St  
Chicago, IL 60644  
Phone: (773) 379-4419

**Little Kiddies Daycare**  
1447 W Devon Ave  
Chicago, IL 60660  
Phone: (773) 465-7702

**Los Pequeños Angelitos Daycare**  
3711 W 55<sup>th</sup> Pl  
Chicago, IL 60629  
Phone: (773) 735-5827

**Mosaic Early Childhood Academy**  
5332 W Addison St  
Chicago, IL 60641  
Phone: (773) 777-7411

**My Precious Little Angels Incorporated**  
7012 W North Ave  
Chicago, IL 60707  
Phone: (773) 637-1708

**Panda Montessori**  
6921 N Ridge Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60645  
Phone: (773) 338-6755

**Rainbow School Day Care**  
3250 W Irving Park Rd  
Chicago, IL 60618  
Phone: (773) 478-8182

**St. Angela School**  
1332 N Massasoit Ave  
Chicago, IL 60651  
Phone: (773) 626-2655

**St. Catherine's-St. Lucy's**  
38 N Austin Blvd  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
Phone: (708) 386-5286

## Spending time with your kids

**Performance Standard 1304.40(d)(1)(2), 1304.4(e)(1)(2)(3)**

Spending time with your kids gives you an opportunity to learn and grow with your child. Here are a couple of activities that you can do to be more involved with your child.

At the daycare you can:

- Have breakfast with your child
- Bring a family picture for your child's cubby
- Volunteer in your child's classroom
- Bring a food particular to your culture to share with the classroom

With your family you can:

- Go to museums on their free days
- Go to movies in the park
- Create a routine for reading at bedtime
- Make meals together at home
- Register for park district programs
- Write in a family journal

Please talk to your daycare center for more information on ways to spend time with your kids. You can even make this your Family Goal for the Family Partnership Agreement.

