

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:

Full screening for every child covers vision, hearing, physical development, speech, language, academics and social/emotional development.

We honor parents as their child's first and foremost teacher. Our aim is to partner with each child's parent to promote healthy relationships, treat all with respect, and provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences for both parents and children.

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.

“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, help with budgeting or meeting basic needs.

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.

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 or four years old on or before September 10.

RMDC Head Start is located in Helena, East Helena, Townsend and Whitehall. Most classes are M-Th, for 3.5, 4, or 5 hours per day. We offer two classes that run M-Th 10 hours per day 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:

- 1) **Needed prior to acceptance:** your 2010 Tax Forms, **or** 2010 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.

