



Parent Pioneer Newsletter

Tacoma Public Schools Head Start

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Welcome Head Start Parents !

Welcome to Head Start. This is going to be a great year! To make the most of your time with Head Start, we encourage you to participate in monthly Parent Center Meetings to provide ideas for the curriculum, help with the budget, planning for classroom funds, and help provide ideas for Parent Education.



You are an essential part of your child's education!



You are your child's first and most important teacher!

Attendance Matters! - In Class, Every Day, Ready to Learn



- Head Start requires regular attendance
- Call or email the Teacher if your child will be absent.
- Children with irregular attendance can be dropped from the program.
- Children who attend school daily will do better on standardized tests.

Head Start Child Outcomes

Each month, the Parent Pioneer will share different outcomes for your children. Outcomes are the goals and objectives that reflect the Federal requirements for what children should learn while in Head Start. The goals and objectives are designed to help prepare your child for kindergarten. We need you to help support the growth and development of your child at home.



This month's focus: Social/Emotional Development

Support and encourage your child to work on the following at home:

✓ Establishes and Sustains Positive Relationships

- Forms relationships with adults
- Responds to emotional cues
- Interacts with peers
- Makes friends

✓ Participates Cooperatively and Constructively in Group Situations

- Balances needs and rights of self and others
- Solves social problems
- Interacts with peers

✓ Regulates Own Emotions and Behaviors

- Manages own feelings
- Follows limits and expectations
- Takes care of own needs appropriately

Health Focus: Physical and Dental Exams in Head Start



Does your child have a current physical and dental exam?

Every Head Start child is required to have a current physical and dental exam. This requirement has benefits for your family and for our Head Start program.

Benefits for Your Family:

- Get to know your family Health Care Provider.
- Get answers about your child's development & growth.
- Regular dental checkups prevent cavities.

Benefits for the Program:

- Requirement to have all children with complete, up-to-date physical & dental exams by the 90th day of class.
- All exams must be completed by the end of the school year.
- Not meeting these requirements can affect Head Start funding.



Parents: You can help us by scheduling your child's exam today and returning your exam form to your classroom Teacher or Advocate.

Policy Council - Have a Voice in Program Decisions

Head Start Policy Council Representatives and Alternates are chosen from each school and meet once a month at Madison to review policies, approve major decisions, and give input that affects all Head Start children. Dinner and childcare are provided for every meeting. Interpreters are provided as well. If you would like more information about Policy Council, please speak with your classroom Teacher or Advocate.



Head Start Federal Review - Week of October 31st



Every three years the Office of Head Start conducts a monitoring visit of the Head Start program. The visit for Tacoma Head Start will be the week of October 31st. The monitoring team will look at all aspects of the Head Start program. This includes services in Education, Child Health and Safety, Nutrition, Mental Health, Child Enrollment and Attendance, Disabilities and Family Engagement. In addition to those areas of the program, they will take a look behind the scenes at systems that are not visible to all parents. This includes, Child Eligibility, Human Resources, Professional Development, Program Planning, Financial Management, Recordkeeping and Reporting, and the work of the Policy Council and School Board. The team members will be in schools throughout their week-long visit. They will review documents, conduct observations and interview staff and parents.

A few months after the review is completed, the program will get a formal monitoring report from the Office of Head Start. The report usually includes program strengths and program areas of non-compliance. Any area of non-compliance must be corrected within a designated timeframe. All Head Start staff are preparing to make this a successful visit for the program.

It's not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can't tell my children to reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for it, myself. ~Joyce Maynard