

Head Start Family Newsletter

Curriculum in Head Start

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Curriculum plays a vital role in achieving Head Start's goal of enhancing the social competence and school readiness of children. The 1998 legislation reauthorizing the Head Start program, passed in October 1998 by Congress, places additional emphasis on this goal and establishes additional outcome standards in this central area of Head Start program quality.

Happy Birthday!

Chautauqua

1-Kyree P.
11-Tyauna H.
13-Marissa D.

Chipley

3-Mary H.
9-Mari F.
25-Shaniya T.

Walton

23-K'Wan P.
24-Katie M.
28-Shaw'nae R.
29-Joi H.

Westville

1-David C.
2-Kayleigh R.
3-Lacee' F.
11-Renee B.
15-Julia B.
16-Kyndall F.



The key to a quality educational experience continues to be the development of a quality Head Start curriculum implemented in keeping with all of the Program Performance Standards by grantees and delegate agencies of excellence. This issue of the *Bulletin* provides a comprehensive overview of curriculum in Head Start, responds to commonly asked questions, and identifies Head Start resources that programs can use in developing a curriculum to meet the particular needs of children in their communities.

In the Reauthorization, Congress mandated that the Program Performance Standards be expanded to require that children:

- (1) develop print and numeracy awareness;
- (2) understand and use an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary;
- (3) develop and demonstrate an appreciation of books; and, for non-English-speaking children,
- (4) progress toward acquisition of the English language. In addition, Congress augmented Head Start Performance Measures to include the following outcomes: "that children know that letters of the alphabet are a special category of visual graphics that can be individually named, recognize a word as a unit of print, identify at least 10 letters of the alphabet, and associate sounds with written words."

However, this does not mean that we drill children on the alphabet or enforce rote learning!

Literacy Express

Themes:

Bugs and Insects

Letters:

G, H, S, U

Letter Sounds:

M, C

Concepts:

Three-Dimensional
Shapes Rainbow

In Head Start, curriculum is implemented within the context of sound child development principles and what we know about how children develop and learn. One of our highest priorities is-and always has been- to improve the educational experience of every child in Head Start, whether enrolled in center-based, home-based, family child care, or in a locally designed program option.

No one does early childhood education like Head Start. We will continue to enhance the quality of services we offer to children and families and to serve as the nation's laboratory for innovations in the early childhood field. Together, we can achieve the goals we have set for ourselves, and the goals set by Congress.

