

**Tri-County Community Council, Inc.**  
**Head Start/Early Head Start**

**Part: 1302 Program Operations**  
**Subpart: E- Family and Community Engagement Program Services**  
**Section: 1302.51 Parent Activities to Promote Child Learning and Development**  
**Subject: Parent Involvement in Child Development, Education and Parent/Child Activities**

**Policy**

Parents are provided opportunities to learn about and participate in educational and developmental activities for children in the classroom, home and community in order to support their progression toward school readiness.

**Procedure**

1. Tri-County Head Start/Early Head Start provides activities and information for families to support parent-child relationships involving a child's development, the importance of regular attendance and child development with language, dual language, and literacy through:
  - a. Home Visits
  - b. Parent Meetings
  - c. Parent-Child Activities
  - d. Policy Council
  - e. Parent Curriculum
  - f. Literacy Resources
  - g. Resources for Dual Language Learners
  - h. Family Interest Surveys
  - i. Home Activities
2. Parents are encouraged to volunteer or observe in the classroom. They are also invited to become members of the policy council and attend parent meetings. Parents are provided orientation and training to support them in these activities.
3. Parents and staff will plan activities that strengthen parent knowledge and confidence about child development. Parents will have the opportunity to offer strategies of how best to meet their own child's needs.
4. Staff will help guide parents with age-appropriate activities to encourage their children to become engaged in developmental and educational activities at home and in their communities. Activities will be sent home on a regular basis for family and child to work on together in the home setting.
5. Teachers, Family Service Advocates, and Home Visitors encourage parents to share observations and anecdotal notes on their child's habits, behaviors, and patterns of

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learning. Parents are asked to provide input on developmental and educational goals for the child.

6. At parent-teacher conferences, home visits, socializations, and parent committee meetings parents will be provided with information about developmentally appropriate skills for their child and be given suggested activities to support those skills.
7. Teachers conduct no less than two (2) parent-teacher conferences during the program year. Parent-Teacher conferences are used for in-depth discussions of each child's development and adjustment to the Head Start/Early Head Start Program.
8. The program provides, either directly or indirectly, or through referrals to other agencies, opportunities for children and families to participate in family literacy services by:
  - a. Increasing family access to materials, services, and activities essential to family literacy development; and
  - b. Center books and tapes that parents can borrow. These will be available at any time. At family activities, Family Service Advocates will point these out to parents and encourage them to take them home to view or read and return.
  - c. Assisting parents as adult learners to recognize and address their own literacy goals.
  - d. Offer child literacy and a book-lending program to children that encourage parents to read to their children.
  - e. Parents will be encouraged to access the local library for themselves and their children through field trips to the library, taking parents to the library, and/or asking the librarian to attend a parent activity.
9. Children that are not enrolled in the Head Start/Early Head Start program are welcome to attend parent activity days, meals, and special events at the center. However, the non-enrolled child must be always in the direct supervision of the parent or guardian. The program maintains a "safety first" expectation for non-enrolled children who are on the premises and will require that parents or guardians take actions to ensure that their child is always safe.