

# Head Start/Early Head Start/CDC

Head Start Classrooms located in Akron, Cherokee, Le Mars, Orange City, Rock Rapids, Rock Valley, Sioux Center & Hawarden

Head Start Home-based offered in Ida County

Early Head Start Services in Cherokee, Plymouth & Sioux Counties

Head Start is a federally funded preschool program serving 3 and 4 year old children. Early Head Start serves pregnant mothers and children up to the age of 3. The Child Development Center is a state funded preschool program serving 3 and 4 year old children. All of these services have eligibility criteria which include income as well as the needs of the children and families. Head Start serves 202 children, Early Head Start serves 65 and the CDC program serves 16.

## ***Quality is our Foundation***

The hallmark of quality is in compliance with the Federal Head Start/Early Head Start and Shared Visions Program Performance Standards. These Standards are considered by the State of Iowa to be comparable with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation and meet all quality requirements for the State Voluntary Preschool Program.

## ***Curriculum and Professional Development***

The curriculum used for all centers is called High/Scope. With High/Scope curriculum children learn through direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events, and ideas. In the High/Scope approach, teachers and children are active partners in the learning process.

Parents As Teachers is used in the home-based option for Early Head Start. Lessons are customized for the individual needs of each child and family.

Our services provide frequent opportunities for partnering staff to participate in on-going staff development related to curriculum, assessments and other topics on providing quality education and care for young children.

