

# **Tri-County Head Start/Preschool**

School Readiness Plan

2011-2012

## ***Why is School Readiness Important?***

Today we know that the first five years of life are critical to a child's lifelong development. Young children's earliest experiences and environments set the stage for future development and success in school and life. Early experiences influence brain development, establishing the neural connections that provide the foundation for language, reasoning, problem solving, social skills, behavior and emotional health.

## **Definition**

Tri-County Head Start/Early Head Start Program has adopted the Florida Department of Education's definition of school readiness. For Florida, school readiness means that a child enters kindergarten ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote child's success.

Families, early care and education providers, school staff and community partners must work together to provide environments and developmental experiences that promote growth and learning to ensure that all children enter school eager and excited to learn.

The five Florida developmental areas for school readiness are:

Approaches to Learning

Physical Development

Language

Literacy

Social and Emotional Development

Cognitive (Math, Science)

General Knowledge (Creative Arts, Social Studies)

Tri- County Head Start/Early Head Start Program will extend this definition to additional domain from The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. The additional areas are:

Logic and Reasoning

English Language Learners

## **Purpose of Head Start:**

Tri-County Head Start/Early Head Start Program will strive to improve long-term academic outcomes of children. Increased attention is being given to supporting and assessing school readiness and identifying successful, evidence-based programs in early childhood that can ensure school success.

## **Indicators:**

These indicators listed below represent goals and outcome for children entering school, not the expectations. Children develop at different rates, not every child will have mastered all of the skills and behaviors listed below at the beginning of a primary program.

### **1. Physical Development & Health**

Shows characteristics of Good Health

Knowledgeable of Doctors and Dentist and their practices

Knowledgeable of good eating habits

Participate in Self- Care

Develop Gross Motor Skills (example run, jump, climb and does other activities that provide exercise)

Develop Fine Motor Skills (example by using pencils, crayons, scissors and paints and other activities that enhance fine motor).

### **2. Social & Emotional**

Follow simple rules, routines and directions

Able to express his or needs and wants

Is curious and motivated to learn

Interact and develop positive relationships with adult and peers

Is able to work well alone and with others

Problem-solving with peers and adults

Confidence in own ability

### **3. Approaches to Learning**

Participate in musical activities

Explore creative move movement to music

Create artwork to reflect a story or idea

Discuss and respond to feeling caused by art or music

Shows curiosity and eagerness to learn new things and experiences

Maintain interest in projects or activity until completed

Seek help when needed from adult

Ask appropriate questions and seek information

Join play group and invite peers to play

Able to listen and focus

Cooperative in group play

#### **4. Language & Literacy**

Use four to five word sentences  
Use language to express needs  
Recognize alphabets and sounds  
Recognize and sing songs, rhymes  
Writes letters, numbers and his or her name  
Knows difference between print and pictures  
Attentive to stories and read them  
Engage in conversation with peers and adults  
Book knowledge and appreciation  
Able to use writing tools  
Able to retell part or all events of story  
Engage in written expression

#### **5. Cognitive & General Knowledge**

Determine the difference between similarities and differences  
Create and recognize patterns  
Knows the difference between pretend and reality  
Able to predict effect of action  
One to one correspondence  
Compare sets for less than/ more than/ equal  
Recognize numbers and count objects  
Sort, classify and serializes objects using color, shapes or size  
Compare objects  
Engage in activity that will measure and compare  
Use appropriate measurement vocabulary and comparative terminology  
Participate in simple observing and investigating  
Classifying living and non-living  
Explore outdoors and nature  
Recognize and appreciate similarities and difference in people  
Show awareness and describe social roles of people  
Demonstrate awareness of geographic thinking  
Awareness of group rules  
Knowledge of past, present, future  
Understand family characteristics, role and factions  
Understand how people live and how they change over time

#### **School Readiness Goals:**

Tri-County Head Start/Early Head Start will continue to prepare children for school success by:

-Maintaining classrooms that support how children learn as indicated Creative Curriculum.

-Maintaining classrooms that support literacy and language development

-Increasing teacher-child interactions, but especially in the Instructional Support domain to 4.5

-School readiness skills will be mastered at 80% of all skills

## **What we do to prepare children for school readiness:**

### **Transitions**

- Phase In into Preschool
- Home Visits and Parent Conferences
- Transition to Kindergarten activities

### **Prepare Environment**

#### **Classroom**

- Mental Health Observation (Life Management/C.O.P.E. monthly)
- Health and Safety Checklist (3x per year)
- Classroom Cleaning Checks (daily)
- Playground Checks (daily)

#### **Learning**

- Lesson plans aligned to Head Start Framework
- Florida Early learning Development Standards
- CLASS observations and training
- School Readiness Skills for 4year olds

### **Individualization**

- Developmental screening - Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI)
- Behavioral screening (Ages and Stages)
- Learning Styles (HSCIP)
- Ongoing Assessment (Galileo)
- Individualize Education Plan (IEP)
- Child Individualized Plan (HSCIP)
- Parent Goals (HCIP)

### **Health**

- Vision, Hearing, Dental screenings
- Immunizations, Height/Weight,
- Physicals
- Special diet plans
- Special health plans
- Outside time (daily)

### **Nutrition**

- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Meals (breakfast, lunch and Snacks)

**Staff Preparation**

Education Training Plan/In-service training  
Education Plan (PS 1304.21)  
Professional Development  
Region IV Conference (Plan to send Teaching staff)

**Parent Activities**

Parent/Child Activity (monthly)

**Summary:**

School readiness is a comprehensive effort to prepare children for the school and future successes. Head Start, the community and families must work together in order to successfully create an environment that nurtures children in all areas of their development.

Tri-County Head Start/Early Head Start Program will strive to create a nurturing and developmental age appropriate learning environment, to challenge children to explore and problem solve in a clean, safe, well equipped classroom. Instruction will focus on language development and higher order thinking skills which will be essential for school success.

Families, center staff and community partners must work together to provide age appropriate environments and developmental experiences that promote growth and learning to ensure that children enter school eager and excited to learn.