



PLANO ISD HEAD START

Philosophy

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The Head Start philosophy is that parents, as the primary educators of their children, must be directly involved with the program.

Since the well-being of children is linked to the well-being of the entire family, Head Start programs offer support for parents in child rearing, education, and creating opportunities for self-sufficiency, and employment.

To this end, partnerships with other community agencies and organizations are an essential factor in meeting family needs.

Parents are welcome in the classroom and encouraged to become involved in their child's Head Start Program. Many parents become classroom volunteers. In addition, several of the present Head Start staff are parents of former students.

Parents also serve as members of Head Start Policy Council where they have a voice in administrative and managerial decisions.

A variety of support is offered to Head Start parents. Those include employment training, tutoring in the English language, adult literacy, preparation for obtaining a high school General Equivalency Diploma or other adult education opportunities.

Head Start also provides support for families in times of crisis, offering help with problems such as drug or alcohol abuse, job loss, or lack of housing.

Because of the unique trust between staff and families, and links with community agencies, Head Start is an important catalyst for change in local communities.