

## EARLY HEAD START & The Prevention Initiative Program

### Early Head Start

(EHS) is a child and family development program for low-income families with infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. Early Head Start promotes school readiness by ensuring that all children are healthy and able to learn; as well as enhancing the social, emotional and intellectual development of children. **Partnerships are developed with the family to focus on child development and to promote self-sufficiency. Home visits, with an assigned Family Development Specialist are a part of a partnership that is nurtured and continues until the child transitions to preschool.**



## The Four Cornerstones

Similar to Head Start, EHS services are built upon the following four cornerstones:

- Child Development**
- Family Development**
- Community Development**
- Staff Development**



### Services

The services provided by the Early Head Start program are designed to enhance the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of the children; to empower parents to fulfill their parental responsibilities; and to help parents move towards self-sufficiency. Services include the following:

- ◆ Quality early education in the home and at the center.
- ◆ Regular home visits for all families.
- ◆ Parent education, including parent-child activities and socialization events.
- ◆ Comprehensive health and mental health services including services to women before, during and after pregnancy.
- ◆ Nutrition Education.
- ◆ Disability Services
- ◆ Ongoing support for families through case management and peer support.
- ◆ ESL Classes



◆ **Who is eligible for EHS?**

EHS serves economically challenged families who are pregnant and/or have children under the age of 3.

◆ **What can EHS provide?**

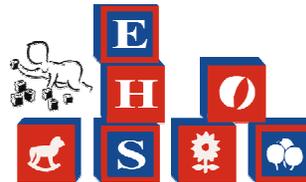
EHS provides the support families often need to reach their goals. Support may come in the form of: education, information, referrals, special activities, transportation, and help in accessing childcare services. EHS can assist in identifying Medical and Dental Homes and accessing medical insurance as needed. Health plays a huge roll in what EHS does to ensure that the children are healthy and able to learn.

◆ **What is expected of an EHS family?**

Children must be healthy in order to learn; therefore, all EHS children must have complete physicals and immunizations. During the first home visits, each EHS family develops a partnership agreement with a Family Development Specialist. They then meet regularly, setting and accomplishing goals developed by the family. Parents should possess a willingness to learn and participate so that their children will benefit from their knowledge and involvement.

**The mission of PCCEO  
Early Head Start  
is to promote  
healthy prenatal  
outcomes for pregnant  
women, enhance the  
development  
of very young children,  
and promote healthy  
family functioning.**

**PCCEO**



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