

**School Preparedness**

The Arizona Head Start Association promotes the school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from at risk families. Services are provided in a variety of settings including centers, family childcare, and children’s own homes. Head Start programs also engage parents or other key family members in positive relationships, with a focus on family wellbeing. Parents participate in leadership roles, including having a say in program operations.

Head Start programs support children's growth in a positive learning environment through a variety of services, which include:

* **Early learning and development:** Through relationships with adults, play, and planned and spontaneous instruction, children grow in many aspects of development. Head Start programs work with families, school districts and other entities to facilitate a smooth transition to kindergarten for each child.
* **Health:** All children receive health screenings and nutritious meals, and programs connect families with medical, dental, and mental health services to ensure children are receiving the care and attention they need. Families also receive mental health consultation focused on each child's needs.
* **Family well-being:** Parents and families are offered program services to support family well-being and to achieve family goals, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security. Programs support and strengthen parent-child relationships and engage families in the learning and development of their child.

**Early Head Start**

* For children aged 6 weeks to 3 years
* Promotes the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of infants and toddlers through safe and developmentally enriching caregiving.
* Supports parents, both mothers and fathers, in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children.
* Assists families in meeting their own personal goals and achieving self-sufficiency across a wide variety of domains, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security.

**Head Start**

* For children who turned 3 prior to August 31.
* Part-day, full-day, and home visits.
* Promotes the school readiness of toddlers and preschool-aged children from at risk families.
* Engages parents or other key family members in positive relationships, with a focus on family wellbeing.

 **For more information call (602) 468-3431 or complete the online form at https://www.azheadstart.org/**