



Education Philosophy

Reach-Up Head Start believes that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher. Reach-Up staff acknowledge the belief that a child learns more in the early childhood years than at any other time in their life. Therefore our focus is to support children and to facilitate their learning and development. This includes teaching appropriate self-help skills, language skills and a vocabulary that will help them explain and understand their world. We encourage the development of their cognitive abilities through experiential learning, and we provide opportunities for the development of fine and gross motor skills. We promote healthy approaches to learning by modeling, and having the children interact with each other, learning appropriate social behaviors that encourages healthy development.

We facilitate the child's learning and development by designing and developing learning environments that promote active learning. The learning environment includes room arrangement, daily schedule, and activities. Reach-Up Head Start uses a variety of curricula, which include: Creative Curriculum, Read Together Talk Together, Conscious Discipline, Growing Great Kids and a locally designed tool called First Steps. Reach Up Head Start uses a collaborative approach to address challenging behaviors. Parents and teachers work together with a mental health professional to write a supportive plan which encourages the child's growth and development and reduce the challenging behavior.

We encourage parent participation by asking for input on the development of curriculum, volunteering, and activities. Through the collaboration of parents, staff, and the use of ongoing assessments, parents assist in the individualization of their child's education. Parents are encouraged to participate in the policy council, where they have an effect on the agency as a whole.

By having a healthy well-educated staff, we can do what is best for the children. We encourage our staff to take care of themselves emotionally and physically. Staff are provided with many opportunities to continue their education, i.e. seminars, workshops, or college courses. Reach Up Head Start is proud of the staff, and all the effort and hard work that goes into supporting children and their families.

We believe that our program will have a lasting impact on children and families. Reach-Up Inc. accomplishes this by providing comprehensive services to children and their families.