

UCHRA Van Buren County Head Start

In collaboration with each child's parent and with parental consent, Van Buren Head Start will complete or obtain a current developmental screening to identify concerns regarding a child's developmental, behavioral, motor, language, social, cognitive, and emotional skills within 45 calendar days of when the child first attends the program.

The research-based, valid and reliable developmental standardized screening tool used is an age appropriate Lap screening tool. The tool is age, developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate for children including those with disabilities and conducted by qualified and trained personnel. Make staff or consultants available (when applicable) who are fluent in primary languages spoken in the classroom to conduct screenings or assessments.

The DECA-P2 (Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Preschoolers) is the social emotional tool used. An assessment is completed on each child by the teacher to address any concerns in initiative, self-regulation, attachment/relationships and behavior.

The children will then be assessed through the Beginning of Year study and documentation housed in My Teaching Strategies - GOLD. My Teaching Strategies - GOLD is a valid and reliable assessment tool. GOLD rests upon 38 research-based objectives including many predictors of future school success. Each objective has a research foundation page summarizing the important research findings related to the objective, providing a broad picture of development and learning from birth through kindergarten. The 38 objectives are organized into ten areas of development and learning. The first four areas describe major areas of child growth and development: Social-Emotional, Physical, Language and Cognitive. The next five areas focus on content learning that are often described as outcomes in early learning standards: Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Social Studies and The Arts. The tenth area, English Language Acquisition, helps to follow a child's progress in acquiring both receptive and expressive language in English. The assessment assists teachers through teacher-child interactions to scaffold children's learning through a wide-range of instructional strategies. As children acquire the skills, teachers offer less and less support until the children can accomplish the task independently.