



UCHRA Van Buren County Head Start



8/26/19



This year is off to a great start! We hope you are as excited as we are to begin this journey towards school readiness with you and your child. With only the first few weeks behind us, we have already had several new experiences: meeting new friends, learning about safety, visit from the Lions Club to check our vision, visit from the dentist to teach the children about good dental hygiene, plus so much more... and there is much more to come! Remember to check the classroom calendar online for the current study in the classroom and upcoming activities.

Attendance Hours of Service

- All children should arrive at the center between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.
 - Children should leave the center by 2:00 p.m. no later than 2:15 p.m.
- Parents who will be late picking up their child, or need to make any changes to their bus route should call the center no later than 12:00 p.m.
- Due to safety children will not be allowed into the classroom before their scheduled time.

General Policy

In order to receive the full benefits of the program, Head Start children are expected to attend ALL MONDAY –FRIDAY SESSIONS. Regular attendance helps our program schedule an individualized education curriculum ensuring your child’s academic success. The Family Partnership Specialist will contact the parent or guardian by telephone, letter, or home visit if you fail to contact us. If the Family Partnership Specialist attempt is made and met without response, the child can be dropped from the program. PLEASE SEE PARENTS HANDBOOK FOR FURTHER DETAILS @ www.ucvbheadstart.org

August Perfect Attendance

- Emma
- Jaden
- Kaylee
- Sailor
- Landon N.
- Eli
- Bentley
- Brooklynn
- Alex
- Lola
- Avery
- Kyser
- Braden
- Miah
- Zoey
- Brayton

Reminder: Every month that your child has perfect attendance their name is put into a drawing for a new bicycle at the end of the school year.



- August Birthdays
- Kyser
- Apphia
- September Birthdays
- Brooklynn
- Alex
- Lola
- Alivia

Van Buren County Head Start!
If you have not liked and followed us on Facebook, please do so. Some of the benefits include: photo galleries, special news and updates, plus the ability to connect and chat online with other people who share your interest.





No School Labor Day
Monday, September 2nd

Fall Pictures
Tuesday, September 24th @ 9:00 AM

St. Jude Trike-A-Thon
Thursday, September 26th

Monthly Birthday Recognition
Monday, September 30th



Transition Talk

Van Buren County Head Start, a NAEYC (National Association of Education for Young Children) accredited preschool provides many opportunities to assist parents in preparing their child to transition to Kindergarten. Each month we will list some activities/ways in which you can partner with us in helping your child prepare for this important transition. During the year, we will help them transition from family style meals to carrying their food trays in the lunchroom, host a county bus training to help them prepare for riding the “big” bus, and meet the principal and kindergarten teachers during a “kindergarten visit”, just to name a few. Last month you were given the opportunity to serve on our policy council which introduces you to governing body responsibilities such as the school board members at the Elementary School. You also set educational goals for your child and partnered with us in our Reading program in reading to your child 20 minutes daily which the Elementary School will also request when they enter kindergarten. Participating in our home activities, helps introduce your child to having “homework” as they do in kindergarten and the “Power Packs” list the Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards (TN-ELDS) that are being addressed as you do the activities with your child. The “TN-ELDS” are the standards for preschool which are called “Common Core Standards” once your child reaches the Elementary School. By participating in these activities, you are preparing your child for a smooth transition into kindergarten. Thank you for choosing us as your preschool option before entering kindergarten. Keep up the good work and don’t forget to look for “Transition Talk” monthly in our newsletter for tips on how you may help your child transition to kindergarten!

Rita Mayfield, Assistant Mentor Coach/Education Supervisor



Benefits of Early Reading



Why teach your child to read?

Teaching your child to read early and well has multiple benefits and is the key to your child's academic future. The main reason is that reading is at the heart of all formal education. Below are some of the many advantages of developing early reading ability in your child.

Neurological, Educational, Psychological, Social, Linguistic

Neurological Reasons

Reading helps to develop a young child's brain. In the first six years, children learn at a much faster pace than at any other time in their lives. Vital connections in the brain are made very early in life. At birth, a healthy baby is born with approximately 200 billion active brain cells or neurons. Given the right kind of stimulation, each of these brain cells is capable of sprouting up to 20,000 different dendrites/branches and synapses/connections between them which store additional information. These connections, which are a direct result of stimulation the child receives through early experiences, form the basis of all future learning and intellectual ability. As parents talk, sing and read to their children, existing links among brain cells are strengthened and new links are formed. At a younger age, learning is faster than it will be as the child grows older. When a child is taught to read, the process of learning has a profound influence on the entire functioning and development of the brain. You can play a critical early role by inculcating not only reading skills and ability but more importantly, instilling a lifelong love of learning and reading.

Educational Reasons

Reading opens the door to your child's early academic success, imparts a love of learning and leads to higher grades in every subject. Numerous studies have shown that strong oral language skills are the basis for literacy development. When children learn to read at an early age, they have greater general knowledge, expand their vocabulary and become more fluent readers. They also have improved attention spans and better concentration. Early readers can recognize a larger number of words by sight, which enables them to learn more from and about their environment. Their proficiency in reading enables them to comprehend more of what they are reading. They also become competent researchers, who are able to study effectively and extract relevant and necessary information from books, magazines, websites or other sources of information. Only by mastering effective reading strategies can the child pick up the necessary knowledge and information, which will enable him or her to excel scholastically in the future. It is interesting to note that early readers not only become lifelong readers, but also lifelong learners. Longitudinal studies have shown that early readers continue to get higher grades than their peers through grade school.

Psychological Reasons

A child who learns to read joyfully at home, at an early age, with a loving parent or caregiver, grows in self-confidence and independence. Reading promotes greater maturity, increases discipline and lays the basis for moral literacy. It sparks curiosity about people, places and things and also satisfies the child's curiosity by providing explanations of how things work. It exposes the child to a range of problem-solving techniques. In addition, early reading ignites the child's creativity and imagination. What's more, a young child who is a reader is able to channel physical energy, when he or she chooses to sit down to read a book. This quiet time improves the relationship between parent and child or teacher and child, from an early stage. Such a child is also at a distinct advantage over his or her peers. When a child starts learning to read as a baby or at the age of 2 or 3, there is no psychological pressure. The formal school system has yet to kick in, in most parts of the world. So, you can teach your child to read a little each day, in a leisurely manner. You can stop before he or she gets tired. You can foster a love of the game of reading in the child from the start. You and your child can take the time to treat reading as an exciting adventure, rather than a bothersome chore. Compare this to the child who must try to learn in a crowded classroom, competing with his or her classmates for the personal attention of the teacher or teacher's assistant. Imagine the effect on the child's ego, on seeing others picking up this skill, while he or she lags behind. Which child is going to have a stronger self-image? Which child is going to be more self-confident? Which child is going to be a leader versus a follower in the classroom? Clearly, the one whose parents taught him or her reading early, at a young age, at home.

Social Reasons

Even at a young age, children have social awareness. They know who is more popular. They can tell who can do what. If there are a few children in kindergarten who know how to read, they may receive awards and certificates, be called upon to choose books or encouraged to write, illustrate and read aloud their own stories. In some schools, they may even be asked to help other children, who may still be struggling with basic letter recognition. Early readers have the opportunity to relate to their peers on a more confident, more competent level as they are already being recognized for their superior accomplishments. Such experiences increase the child's social status among peers as well as his or her self-image and self-confidence.

Linguistic Reasons

Children who can read independently and early have more opportunities to encounter the written word. The sooner children learn how to read, the more books, knowledge, and ideas they will be exposed to. The result? Improved linguistic skills in the form of a richer vocabulary, correct grammar, improved writing, better spelling and more articulate oral communication. Such children have the opportunity to develop a wider vocabulary to describe their knowledge, observations and experiences. It has been shown that children with a richer vocabulary do far better in scholastic areas, especially in the early years. Their stronger reading skills also enable them to communicate more effectively orally as well as in writing. Furthermore, early readers can recognize a larger number of words by sight, which enables them to learn more from and

about their environment. (Article courtesy of www.teachreadinggear.com)