

Head Start Literacy Program

Literacy Program

UCHRA Van Buren County Head Start's Literacy program is designed to engage families of our children by supporting family well-being to enhance their quality of life. We assist parents in obtaining a library card at the Van Buren County Public Library, partnering with the library to provide additional literacy opportunities. Parents complete paperwork to be submitted to the local library enrolling them in Dolly **Parton's IMAGINATION LIBRARY** which ensures children birth to 5 receive an age-appropriate book monthly until their fifth birthday.

Power Packs

We have designed a Parent Power Pack Education Program (Power Packs) which will empower parents to become engaged in their child's education at home. The Power Packs will consist of a canvas bag containing thematic materials (i.e. colors, shapes, counting, letter recognition, rhyming, etc.)

Lending Library

We maintain a Lending Library and make available children's books for families to access and read to their child, child development books for parents to enhance parenting skills, and books for parent's reading enjoyment. These can be checked out at the Head Start Center. Please feel free to come and review our selection. We also have children's videos and a VCR that can be checked out for family enjoyment. Some videos are available that cover health topics such as HIV, asthma and mental health. College level textbooks may be checked out providing opportunities for continuance of parent educational studies. For more information contact the Family Community Partnership Specialist at the Center.

Computer Education Program

We have a Computer Education program to assist parents in learning to use the computer and use the internet, to construct resumes for job searching, to make banners, cards, etc. for special occasions. If parents want to gain computer skills, they can log onto a computer and type materials for Head Start staff and themselves-using the computer is the best way to learn it! We will be happy to provide the parent with a letter of recommendation to go along with their resume after they gain user knowledge.

Through The Department of Labor and Workforce Development Individuals can access and earn their High School Equivalency Diploma at no cost.

Family Reading Night

The program will host three reading events for families. These events will host a guest reader, special themed characters, and a nutrition workshop allowing quality time for families to read together. We also provide a make it/take it activity for the family to do together on those nights. This is a great opportunity to have a quiet evening together as well as improve literacy.