

Head Start

Goals:

- The Head Start program provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school.
- Head Start programs also promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families.

What/Who For:

- Pre-K and early childhood programs

Use of Funds

Head Start's use of funds include services and materials that promote the following social and academic goals:

- Developing positive and nurturing relationships with adults and peers
- Identifying and solving problems
- Expressing thoughts and feelings
- Thinking critically
- Increasing self-confidence
- Respecting the feelings and rights of others
- Using creativity and imagination
- Working independently and with others
- Developing literacy, numeracy, reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making skills that form a foundation for school readiness learning including:
 1. developing print and numeracy awareness;
 2. understanding and using an increasingly complex and varied vocabulary;
 3. develop and demonstrate an appreciation of books;
 4. for non-English- speaking children progressing toward acquisition of the English language.

In addition, Congress augmented Head Start Performance Measures to include the following outcomes: "that children know that letters of the alphabet are a special category of visual graphics that can be individually named, recognize a word as a unit of print, identify at least 10 letters of the alphabet, and associate sounds with ensure that the children participating in the program, at a minimum, develop and written words."