

Available Resources

Cradles to Crayons – EHS provides basic needs items for enrolled families as a distribution partner for the Cradles to Crayons program. Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth to age 12, living in low income and homeless situations, with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school and at play. Items are supplied free of charge and EHS staff will deliver during home visits.

Early Childhood Safety Grant Program –

Safety items are provided, based on availability, to enrolled EHS families to maintain the safe environments that all families strive to provide to their young children. A home safety survey is conducted by EHS staff on a home visit to determine needs of items such as: safety gates, car seats, electric outlet covers, etc. Items are delivered during a home visit.

EHS Early Intervention Collaboration –

AHS EHS collaborates with local Early Intervention programs to provide developmental screenings and/or assessments to enrolled children to determine if any developmental delays exist.

EHS Child Care Partners

Attleboro

Children's Express Childcare Inc.

Brockton

Brockton Day Nursery

Westfield Child Center, Fuller Arts & Sciences, Inc.

New Bedford

Early Learning Child Care, Inc. of New Bedford
New Bedford Public Schools Parenting Teens

Taunton

Story Tree Children's Center



Please see pre-enrollment application at:



"Choice, Opportunity, Support"

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All contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

Early Head Start



"Choice, Opportunity, Support"



Purpose

The Early Head Start (EHS) HOME-BASED program provides free comprehensive services to expectant families, as well as families with children birth to age 3, who meet eligibility guidelines. Service areas include Attleboro, Bridgewater, Brockton, East Bridgewater, Middleboro, Norton, West Bridgewater and Whitman.

The Early Head Start (EHS) CENTER-BASED program provides free comprehensive services and supports to families with children birth to age 3 who meet eligibility guidelines and are enrolled in one of our partnership childcare centers. Service areas include Attleboro, Brockton, New Bedford, Norton and Taunton.

Comprehensive services in both program options include child development, dental health, mental health, nutrition, parent engagement, safety, school readiness, social services and wellness.

Early Head Start is funded through federal grants by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Early Head Start provides supports to children of all abilities and families from all cultures.

Program Models

Home-based program model

- Weekly 1 ½ hour home visit provided by assigned Parent Child Advocate (PCA)
- Playgroups for parents and children
- Parent Support Groups
- Parent Education workshops and trainings
- Resource and Referral to local community agencies as needed
- Family Activities
- Involvement in Child Screening & Assessment
- Interpreter services and transportation
- Expectant Families receive additional support from a registered nurse with Pre- and Post-Partum care
- All children remain in the program until age 3 regardless of changes to income status

Center-based program model

- 2X year home visits provided
- Diapers, formula and wipes provided for free while in attendance at centers
- Involvement in Child Screening & Assessment
- Family Activities
- Parent Education workshops and trainings
- All children remain in the program until age 3 regardless of changes to income status
- Transportation available by bus
- Assistance available if loss of state childcare subsidy occurs

Eligibility

The following automatically qualify for EHS:

- Homeless children
- Foster children
- Family receiving DTA, SNAP or SSI benefits
- If none of the above, than family's income is equal to or below federal poverty guidelines.

Goals

- Increase parents' understanding of the importance of a nurturing relationship as well as children's behavior and development
- Involve parents in setting developmental goals that enhance their child's development
- Assist and support parents to achieve economic self-sufficiency

Philosophy

Since a parent is the most important person in a child's life, it is essential that EHS staff and parents work together to individualize goals that promote healthy development and attachments with their children through relationships. Staff and parents form partnerships to understand individual family's unique differences, personal values, and cultural expectations.