

## Attendance at Head Start Centers Matters

Many studies show that attending a high quality early learning program like Head Start strengthens school readiness and long term academic performance. Regular attendance is critically important for children to become successful life-long learners. Not only will good attendance help build good habits for the children, it can also help prevent academic problems later on.

Head Start centers are a time for building the social, emotional, cognitive, and language skills needed for school readiness.

Here are a few tips of encouragement:

- If you or your child are anxious, talk to your Head Start teacher, family advocate, or other Head Start staff for advice on how to alleviate a child's anxiety about going to school or other issues.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Avoid scheduling medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Attendance will be discussed at conferences. Teachers and family advocates are here to help set up an attendance success plan for families as needed.

We look forward to seeing your child whenever Head Start is in session!