



HEAD START PROGRAM

Our Head Start Program prepares Ventura County's most vulnerable young children to succeed in school and become lifelong learners. The program's services and resources are designed to foster stable family relationships, enhance children's physical and emotional well-being, and establish an environment to develop strong cognitive skills that promotes school readiness of children ages birth to five.

Head Start staff recognize parents as their child's first and most important teacher. They welcome parental involvement in the programs and work in partnership with parents to ensure a successful outcome for the child and the family.

Below is a list of the Head Start Programs, including the program options, offered at CDR:

- **Head Start (HS) Program/California State Preschool Program (CSPP)**

This program serves low-income 3- and 4-year old children and their families. Head Start program options include Center-Based/California State Preschool Program and Home-Based Program.

 - *Center-Based/California State Preschool Program*

Our experienced and qualified teachers create a stimulating classroom environment and design activities that help children learn as they explore and begin to understand the world. Our classrooms offer a safe environment where children become more confident and form good habits while they play in learning centers, socialize and solve problems. Teachers use the classroom as the learning environment; services are delivered through preschool education, parents/staff goal setting, conferences, and educational family connection events that focus on a variety of topics.
 - *Home-Based Program*

The home-visiting option is designed for families where the home is the child's primary learning environment. Families receive high-quality child development and parent support services with an emphasis on the role of the parent as the child's first and most important teacher. Participants in this program receive a combination of weekly home visits, group socializations activities and parent education.
- **Early Head Start (EHS) Program**

This program serves low-income infants, toddlers under the age of 3, and pregnant women. Program options include Expectant Mothers, Toddler Center and Home-Based Programs.

 - *Expectant Mothers*

Expectant mothers receive weekly home visits and receive information and support on prenatal care, breastfeeding, parenting, infant care, and safety, child development, and other related topics. Referrals to community resources and services are provided.
 - *Toddler Center*

Education and child development services are delivered in a classroom environment. Participants receive full-day and full-year child care services in a multi-aged classroom of only eight children, ages 18 months to 3 years old.

➤ **Home-Based Program**

The home-visiting option is designed for families where the home is the child's primary learning environment. Families receive high-quality child development and parent support services with an emphasis on the role of the parent as the child's first and most important teacher. Staff provide weekly home visits and group socializations.

▪ **Early Head Start –Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP)**

This program serves children ages zero to four years of age. Child Care providers offer flexible and convenient full-day and full-year services to families working full-time, enrolled in school or training program, and that are eligible for subsidized child care and EHS Services. Providers incorporate learning opportunities for children to prepare them for Head Start and preschool.

Comprehensive Services:

CDR's Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start Child Care Partnership provides benefits and services for the entire family.

▪ **Family Support Services**

Staff work with parents to create family goals and provide support in achieving those goals. We also provide referrals to community agencies to meet each family's needs.

▪ **Education Services**

Instructional staff plan, assess, and record each child's progress and share information with parents. Children leave the program better prepared for kindergarten and excited about learning.

▪ **Nutrition/Food Services**

Healthy eating is essential to a child's well-being and fuels their growing minds and bodies. We provide healthy meals and snacks, and evaluate each child's nutritional needs.

▪ **Health and Mental Health Services**

We are dedicated to ensuring the well-being of children and strengthening parents' ability to keep their children healthy and ready to learn. We ensure that all children receive needed medical, oral health, and mental health services and support.

▪ **Disabilities Services**

We support children with disabilities by understanding their unique needs and providing individualized services in collaboration with parents and other service providers.

Parents as Partners!

CDR partners with parents and emphasize their role as the child's first and most important teacher in our Head Start Programs.

In partnership with parents, our Head Start staff:

- Provide a positive safe, friendly and respectful learning environment for children
- Engage parents with activities that provide meaningful parent-child interaction
- Share and provide age-appropriate child development information
- Promote and help parents to observe their child's development
- Address any parenting concerns
- Respect and incorporate child's culture and home language

Parent and family engagement services include an extensive *parent education* program that emphasizes fulfillment of parental responsibilities and family self-sufficiency. CDR provides all family support services in the family's primary language, recognizing and honoring cultural preferences and traditions.