

# Head Start

Head Start is a free, comprehensive preschool program that provides a variety of health, educational, and family services to young children and their families. The program aims to promote school readiness, positive parent interactions, self-sufficiency and healthy lifestyles. Head Start serves families in Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland Counties.

## ELIGIBILITY

### **Is My Child Eligible?**

If your child is between the ages of 3 and 5 as of September 1, and you live in the four-county area, your family is eligible to apply. Children are selected on the basis of their learning, social and emotional need, and family income. Ninety percent of the families enrolled must have incomes at or below the federal poverty level. Families receiving Wisconsin Shares Child Care Assistance are considered income eligible.

## BENEFITS

### **What Does Head Start Offer?**

Through health, educational and family services, the Head Start program:

- Identifies children who have special health or developmental concerns;
- Prepares your child for school;
- Promotes your child's social and emotional growth;
- Promotes your child's literacy and pre-math development;
- Increases your knowledge of child development and effective child management; and
- Links your family with community resources.

All children enrolled must have a physical examination, vision and hearing screening, immunizations, and a dental exam. The children participate in a combination of home- and center-based activities or in exclusively home-based activities, as appropriate.

## APPLICATION

For more information or to get an application, call Head Start at 800-494-8899 or 608-935-3379, or send an e-mail to [swcaphs@mhtc.net](mailto:swcaphs@mhtc.net). The Head Start administrative office is at 212 E Chapel St, Dodgeville, WI 53533 or visit [www.swcap.org](http://www.swcap.org) for more information.