



Education

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The goal of the Education Department at Worcester Child Development Head Start is to ensure that all children leave our program with the confidence and school readiness skills that they need to succeed upon entering into kindergarten. We strive to provide a positive classroom environment which fosters mutual respect and a strong connection between teacher, child, and family. We recognize that parents are their child's first teacher, and encourage families to share any information about their child and be actively involved in their child's education in a variety of ways. Families are welcome to visit classrooms during the school day for special events, or to spend time with their child in the classroom. Many home to school connections are made to support effective communication between families and classrooms. Teachers send home weekly activities that support the School Readiness Goals and allow families to have fun with their children at home while supporting the learning that is happening in the classroom. Teachers also send home weekly newsletters to families explaining the activities that are happening in the classrooms. In the newsletters, teachers ask for feedback from families on any questions or concerns they may have about their child's education.

The curriculum used within the Head Start Program reflects current research and best practice in early childhood education and supports our program wide School Readiness Goals. The core curriculum is designed based on the Our World of Learning curriculum. Several research based resources are also used to support the curriculum including Creative Curriculum, Mother Goose Early Learning, and Everyday Mathematics. The teachers arrange the classrooms with

clearly defined interest and learning areas. These areas are designed to promote children's independence, decision making, and problem solving skills. Activities that are provided in each of the learning areas are developmentally appropriate and focus on helping each child reach his or her highest potential in the areas of language, literacy, math, science and social studies.

A unique feature of our Head Start Program is our focus on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). Our Mill Swan location houses a STEAM room with a focus on nature that children visit throughout the day. This STEAM room has engaging activities that support children's curiosity and love of learning. Children have the opportunity to experiment at the chemistry table, feed lizards and frogs, build with ramps on our giant magnet wall, or relax in our treehouse loft. Families are welcome to visit at any time. We are excited to announce that a second STEAM room will be opening at our Greendale location this spring. This space themed STEAM room will be out of this world!

Opportunities are provided for families to participate in Education Advisory meetings, known as Learning Links, three times per year. These meetings are held at different center locations throughout the year to ensure all families have equal access to meetings. Families are also encouraged to become involved by volunteering to be a room parent for their child's classroom, joining the Center Committee meetings, or by participating in Curriculum Committee meetings. For more information about how to become involved in any of these exciting activities, please contact Carlene Sherbourne, Education Manager at 508-799-3571.