



# Vermont Head Start Association



## What is Head Start?

Head Start programs are child and family development programs that provide high quality comprehensive education and development services for very low-income children (up to 130% FPL) and social services for their families. Head Start serves preschool children ages 3-5 and their families. Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children birth to age 3 and their families.

Comprehensive education and development services for children are designed to promote school readiness, and include early education, health, nutrition, mental health, and services for children with special needs. Services for parents are designed to promote family engagement, and include parent leadership and social service supports.

Comprehensive development services include:

**High quality, early education services to close the achievement gap for at-risk children:**

- Research-based curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold developmental assessment aligned with the Vermont Early Learning Standards
- Focus on children’s social, emotional, cognitive and physical development
- Specifically designed to support successful preparation for school readiness and transition to kindergarten
- Expertise in serving children with special needs, and individualizing services for all children

**Coordination of children’s health services:**

- Health, behavioral and developmental screenings
- Medical, dental and mental health services
- Food and nutrition services
- Assuring that children have health care providers
- Assuring that children are up-to-date on physical and dental exams and receive needed follow-up treatment

**Family engagement and social service support for families:**

- Individualized home visits to engage parents in their children's growth, learning and development
- Assisting families in accessing social services and community resources to meet their needs
- Addressing a wide range of stressors and crises with the goal of helping to assure family stability and well-being

Head Start programs are *high quality, research-based* programs with *rigorous accountability* and proven, *positive outcomes* for children.

**For more information on Head Start, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/>.**

**Champlain Valley Head Start**  
431 Pine Street  
Burlington, VT 05401

**Capstone Head Start**  
20 Gable Place  
Barre, VT 05641

**NEKCA / Child & Family  
Development Program**  
191 High Street  
Barton, VT 05822

**Early Education Services /  
Windham County**  
130 Birge Street  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

**Bennington County Head Start**  
P.O. Box 588  
Bennington, VT 05201

**Rutland County Head Start**  
Box 222  
Rutland, VT 05701

**SEVCA / Windsor County  
Head Start**  
15 Pine Street  
Springfield, VT 05156

**State Head Start  
Collaboration Office**  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671