



Head Start Supports Learning & Well-Being for Children in Foster Care

Head Start provides free education, child care, and other services to eligible families. These services support children's learning and development, health, and family well-being. Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers under three years old. Head Start preschool programs serve children three to five years old.



All children in foster care are eligible for Head Start services, regardless of family income.

All children in foster care are eligible for Head Start services. Children placed in [kinship care](#) by a child welfare agency are also eligible. Resource family income doesn't matter. Children in foster care often get priority admission when there are waitlists. If children in foster care move, Head Start programs must help the family transfer to a new center in the same program or to another more convenient Head Start program.



Head Start provides comprehensive services.

Head Start services focus on education and child development, physical and mental health, and family and community engagement. Head Start also provides [developmental screenings](#). Programs support individual children with disabilities or developmental delays. They also make sure these children can fully participate in general program activities. Many teachers have training on [trauma-informed approaches](#) to promote children's positive behavior and well-being.



Head Start can help children in foster care be ready for school.

Even if resource families don't need child care, Head Start can help prepare children in foster care for school. The [Head Start Impact Study](#) looked at the effect of Head Start on children from preschool to first grade. Children in foster care who went to Head Start had better literacy and math skills, better relationships with teachers, and fewer behavior problems than children who didn't go to Head Start.

Services vary across centers. Some centers only open during the school day. Others offer extended hours. **To find a Head Start center in Arkansas that meets your family's needs, visit <https://ardhslicensing.my.site.com/licensing/s/search-provider/find-providers> and check the box for **Head Start Facility**.**