

## **Preschool Experiences at Head Start**

Head Start provides children the opportunity to learn self-help skills and social skills. Reading readiness activities are part of the daily program. Your child will leave Head Start prepared for school success. Services are also available to meet the special needs of children with disabilities.

SCFO offers two models of service for providing preschool experiences

### **Center Based Preschool**

In the center based model children attend a preschool program where they receive a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack. Education, health, and nutrition experiences are 7 planned in which children learn through play, exploration and experimentation. Parents are encouraged to participate.

### **Home Based Program**

The home is a natural environment in which children learn. Parents are the most important influence in the education and development of their children.

Staff works with parents weekly to enhance learning opportunities in the home. In addition there are playgroups, fieldtrips, and parent training activities.

### **Preschool Curriculum**

It is our programs goal to create a strong foundation for young children that is rich with experience and opportunity based on a child's individual need. This foundation is built in an environment that establishes trust and security for both the child and their parent is and focuses on the skills and strengths of each child within a group and/or home setting.

Our developmentally appropriate curriculum is supported by using the resource books and training materials provided by the High Scope Curriculum. The vision of this curriculum is to promote active learning among children as well as meeting the individual needs of each child. In the High/Scope approach to early childhood education, adults and children share control. In order to educate young children, they must be provided with opportunities and "hands on" experiences that are created from active learning experiences. Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities provides these opportunities and experiences to children while following the High/Scope curriculum.

Since no one specific curriculum meets the entire needs of all children and families, we provide continued growth and development opportunities through a range of options and recourses that are gathered from other supporting

curriculums. These additional selections strengthen the overall curriculum of the program by supporting the individual learning styles of each child, and enhancing the active learning process.

Additional Adopted Curriculums and Resource Materials include:

- Second Step (Mental Health)
- Devereux Early Childhood Assessment-DECA (Mental Health)
- Kinder Krunchies (Nutrition)
- Head Start Home Visitation Guide

Curriculum provides routine and consistency in a classroom environment, and offers children and families a feeling of security and predictability within their program structure. This sense of predictability and security comes from daily routines and schedules with uniformity in daily activities and staff. Classroom routines include both small and large group times, indoor and outdoor play, and teacher directed activities as well as child initiated activities. Daily routines include teacher support during mealtime, hygiene, personal care, and transition times to capitalize on teachable moments throughout the day.

**SIERRA CASCADE FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES INC.**  
**EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES**  
*Curriculum Plan*

It is our programs goal to create a strong foundation for young children that is rich with experience and opportunity based on a child's individual need. This foundation is built in an environment that establishes trust and security for both the child and their parent is and focuses on the skills and. strengths of each child within a group and/or home setting.

The "opportunities and experiences" that the children are exposed to are what we identify as the "Curriculum". Curriculum development is an on going process that is individualized and created through organized "themes" with the involvement of the child, their parents, and the teachers. Included in the process of curriculum planning are several tools that include; on-going observations, assessments, screenings and individual goal setting as well as the needs and interests of the group.

Curriculum development and planning uses several materials and resources, which provide sources that enhance the "experiences and opportunities" that are offered to the children participating in our program.

The Key **Concepts** of curriculum are to support and enhance:

Partnerships with families and becoming knowledgeable their culture

Opportunities for growth and development in the areas of; physical, emotional, social and cognitive

Nurturing environments that provide emotional well-being, and social competence

Creating trusting relationships between child/adult and child/child that enhance the development of self and peer respect as well as cooperation

Self-knowledge, self-control, and self-esteem by providing a consistent daily routine with appropriate limit setting

Kindergarten readiness skills that are developmentally and age appropriate

Healthy environments that promote physical well-being

Our developmentally appropriate curriculum is supported by using the resource books and training materials provided by the High Scope Curriculum. The vision of this curriculum is to promote active learning among children as well as meeting the individual needs of each child.

Individualizing educational services starts with knowing the child's strengths, developmental stage, interests, and family background and dynamics. All of these

pieces are considered when planning meaningful learning experiences. Along with these listed areas, knowledge of the following is also essential in the success of individualizing; and the High/Scope curriculum is aligned with:

- Ages and stages of development
- Head Start Performance Standards
- Agency Policy and Procedure on Individualizing

## **FOUNDATION CURRICULUM**

In the High/Scope approach to early childhood education, adults and children share control (David Weikhart, 1995). In order to educate young children, they must be provided with opportunities and "hands on" experiences that are created from active learning experiences. Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities provides these opportunities and experiences to children while following the High/Scope curriculum as outlined in the Second Edition of *Educating Young Children* by, Mary Hohmann and David Weikhart.

## **SUPPORTIVE CURRICULUM**

Since no one specific curriculum meets the entire needs of all children and families, we provide continued growth and development opportunities through a range of options and resources that are gathered from other supporting curriculums. These additional selections strengthen the overall curriculum of the program by supporting the individual learning styles of each child, and enhancing the active learning process.

Adopted Curriculums and Resource Materials include:

- Second Step (Mental Health)
- Devereux Early Childhood Assessment-DECA (Mental Health)
- Kinder Krunchies (Nutrition)
- Head Start Home Visitation Guide

Curriculum provides routine and consistency in a classroom environment, and offers children and families a feeling of security and predictability within their program structure.

This sense of predictability and security comes from daily routines and schedules with uniformity in daily activities and staff. Classroom routines include both small and large group times, indoor and outdoor play, and teacher directed activities as well as child initiated activities. Daily routines include teacher support during mealtime, hygiene, personal care, and transition times to capitalize on teachable moments throughout the day. i, Environments and routines are reflective of full inclusion by addressing children with ~ special needs, and require thoughtful planning of the learning environment whether in a center or home based program. To ensure that staff implements the curriculum fully, "managers monitor by reviewing regular on-site visits with periodic

classroom " observations by ECE manager and SN manager. Other ways to ensure that our curriculum supports consistent, safe and healthy environments is by monitoring:

- Posted Daily Schedules
- Health and Safety inspections by management
- Posted Weekly Lesson Plans
- Home Visiting Forms
- Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale
- Socialization Forms
- Parent involvement in classroom activities
- On-going child observations

## SCREENING, ASSESSMENT & PORTFOLIOS

Developmental Screenings are used to identify possible developmental delays that may inhibit the child's normal growth, development, or learning.

*Screening Tools:*

DECA

Early Screening Inventory (ESI) including Speech and Language questionnaire

On-going Observations (four steps):

- Observe and Record
- Analyze, Sort, and Evaluate Observations
- Plan and Individualize the Curriculum
- Report Children's Progress

Assessment tools are used to document and track children's individual growth, and provide valuable information of each child's development and growth. Assessment information can be used in creating goals on the Individual Program Plan (IPP).

*Assessment Tools:*

State Desired Results Developmental Profile-R

Portfolios capture the individual growth of each child, and house pieces of the child's experiences through their early years of learning. Items in portfolios may include but are not limited to; observations, work samples, and/or photographs.

Screening and assessment information is organized and stored in the program "Child Plus"; a computerized data system, thus creating a through system for tracking and continuation of follow-up.

## PROFESSIONAL MATERIALS FOR STAFF & PARENTS

Numerous resources are available for staff and parents to access that support and enhance program curriculums. In addition to the resources listed below, centers are encouraged to purchase and share additional materials that can be used as references and/or offer training and development ideas.

- High/Scope Educating Young Children
- High/Scope Teacher Idea Books
- High/Scope Extensions
- Time 2 Teach Monthly Newsletter
- High/Scope Key Experiences Video Set
- High/Scope Curriculum Training Video Set
- Exploring and Supporting Young Artists Video Set
- Partnering With Parents Resource Book
- Transition Magician Books 1 &2
- Conflict Resolution Video Tape Set
- "Children & Families" magazine from the National Head Start Association
- Kinder Krunchies

Staff training is provided at pre-services, in-services, new employee orientations, and on an individual basis as needed or requested via staff training assessment forms. .