### Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium

## "MAKING A DIFFERENCE"



Strengthening our families through education, empowerment, and knowledge.

# 2016 - 2017 Parent Handbook

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Dear Parents,

As we begin the 2016-2017 school year I would like to welcome all of you to the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium. For some, this is a new experience and, for others, it is a return to a positive and rewarding relationship. Our goal with you is one of partnerships, based on mutual respect and trust, and geared towards assisting you in meeting the needs of your child and strengthening the family.

Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium (The Consortium) program is a quality program designed to help your child become Kindergarten ready and help him/her on the road to a lifetime of learning. Your child is our future and we will do all we can to ensure that the children in our program receive the highest quality of services. Your involvement in Consortium's programs will enable us to continue to realize the possibilities of how we can best serve the children and families of Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties.

This handbook is intended to provide helpful information about the program, its operating polices and scheduled monthly events. We encourage you to keep it available for future use when questions arise about the Consortium's programs policies and to know some of the events already scheduled for your child and/or your family. The staff are readily available to answer any questions that you may have about the program.

The Consortium reserves the right to make any changes to this Parent Handbook when deemed appropriate.

THIS HANDBOOK WAS CREATED IN ORDER TO BETTER PREPARE YOUR CHILD/FAMILY FOR THE CONSORTIUM'S EXPERIENCE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO BRING THIS HANDBOOK TO THE FIRST TWO SITE MEETINGS WHERE WE WILL DISCUSS AND LEARN ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PAR-ENTS TO PARTICIPATE, GROW AND EVENTUALLY TAKE SOME OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THESE MEETINGS.

Sincerely,

Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium Dr. Kathy L. Guajardo, Executive Director

# Section III: Important Information



The information contained in this book is important to its owner. If found please return to the person(s) listed below. You may return it to the Head Start Office at:

Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium 245 N. Lombardy Drive, Suite A South Bend, IN 46619

or at your local school, give to a Head Start employee or mail it directly to the person who has lost the book. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

(Placing this information inside your book is optional and not required.)

This book belongs to:
Our School System is:
Located at:
Telephone number:
Teachers' names:

#### HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A FAMILY DOCTOR OR DENTIST THAT WAS AS-SIGNED TO YOU (BY MEDICAID) AND NEED ONE, CALL YOUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SPECIALIST WHO WILL HELP YOU.

The Consortium emphasizes the importance of early identification of health problems. The goal of the health services is to improve and maintain the health of the child and his/her family. Prior to school starting, arrange for your child to receive a physical and dental exam by your family doctor/dentist. **All Exams must be completed by or during the first 10 days of entry during the school year.** 

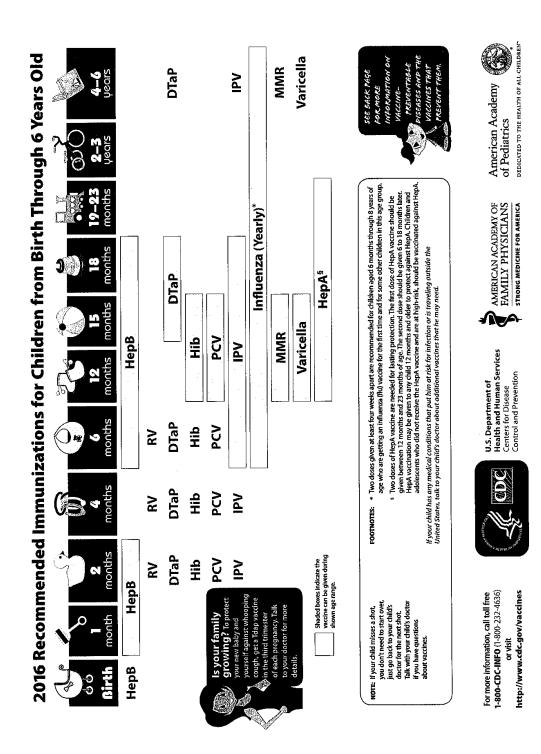
If you are a Medicaid recipient, Medicaid will pay the bill. If your family is covered by other insurance (either medical or dental), please use that. If you do not have Medicaid or insurance, you must apply for Hoosier Healthwise. Your child should have his/her physical and dental exam completed <u>BEFORE ENTERING THE</u> <u>CLASSROOM</u>: The Consortium's forms which the doctor and dentist sign at the time of the exam must be returned to the Consortium's Family and Community Specialist. **REMEMBER: All Exams must be completed by or during the first 10 days of entry during the school year.** 

The routine school physical exam for a Consortium child will need to be completed at the following ages at the time of entry: 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months, 30 months and 36 months and then yearly. A dental exam needs to be completed at 24 months of age and at least yearly or more frequently as recommended by dentist for follow-up.

The Consortium requires that all children are up to date with state/federal immunization guidelines. A copy of immunization records are required at time of application. **See fol-lowing page for current immunization schedule.** 

Due to federally mandated standards, every child is required to be tested for lead at ages, between 9-12 months, and again at 24 months. Every child is also required to have their hemoglobin tested at ages, between 1-4 months, 24 months, and at 5 years old. Your doctor may perform these tests at the time of a well child exam. If they are not completed by your doctor, a Head Start Nurse will complete the lead and hemoglobin by age requirement deadlines. Consent form for Head Start Nurses to complete these tests are signed by parents/guardians at the time of application.

If you think your child is ill or suspect a possible communicable disease, please do not send your child to school. Be on the look out for the following signs and symptoms: fever of 100 degrees or greater, vomiting, diarrhea (loose stool 2-3 times per hour), and unusual behavior (not acting themselves).



#### HEALTH REQUIREMENTS (continued)

If your child has a diagnosed health concern (asthma, seizure disorder, food allergy); a health care plan must be completed with a Head Start Nurse.

If medication is prescribed for the diagnosed health concern; a "parent permission to administer" form must be completed prior to your child attending school. The parent permission form must be signed by the parent/guardian and prescribing physician. The medication can only be accepted in its original box from the pharmacy. The box must contain the pharmacy label including instructions.

To help us maintain the health and safety of your child, please ensure the following requirements are completed before the first day of school:

- $\checkmark$  HCP with Head Start Nurse.
- $\sqrt{}$  Parent permission form signed by parent/guardian and physician.
- ✓ Medication received by Head Start Nurse.

If medication is required for school; an individual med bag will be put in place for emergency medications. Individual med bags must be transported daily to/from school and handed off from the adult to adult.

# Section IV: What is Early Head Start and Head Start?

#### HEAD START CONSORTIUM'S MISSION:

The mission of the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium is to create seamless delivery system of education and child development for underserved infants, toddlers and preschool children, providing a nurturing, learning environment to prepare them for Head Start and/or kindergarten.

We recognize the holistic approach to the child's development is essential. Therefore, in addition to the interdisciplinary educational component, the program will have a comprehensive health component...strong family and community component. We believe that we must strengthen and empower our children and families to overcome these obstacles and create a solid, secure foundation upon which to build.

#### WHAT IS EARLY HEAD START / HEAD START?

**Early Head Start/Early Head Start Community Program** is a federally funded comprehensive interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education program for infants and toddlers, serves 60 infants and toddlers, 20 pregnant adolescent females and 128 additional infants through Community Partnership.

**Head Start** is a federally funded, comprehensive interdisciplinary, preschool Child Development Program for eligible children and their family members. Currently, St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties are funded to serve 1020 children in classrooms located in area schools.

#### THE CONSORTIUM'S GOALS

- Allow opportunity for children and families to assimilate into the culture of school by establishing relationships through the transition process from Early Head Start to Head Start.
- A journey of life-long learning can begin in a child who begins at a school based Head Start program.
- Create a holistic approach by supporting the need of implementing health and social services as part of the educational process.
- Create a secure, solid foundation using available community systems of coordinated care.
- Allows children and families to develop rich relationships with teachers and staff and to be proactive in approaching educational development.
- Allow opportunity for children and families to assimilate into the culture of school by establishing relationships through the transition process from Head Start to Kindergarten.

#### PARENTS' COMMITMENT TO THE CONSORTIUM

- Parents must make every effort to treat other parents, the Consortium guests, and staff with dignity and respect.
- Parents must provide accurate up-to-date contact information throughout the school year. Failure to maintain consistent, accurate information may cause your child to be dropped or waitlisted.
- Parents must set aside time to meet with their assigned Family and Community Specialist to create a family partnership agreement.
- Parents must set aside 60 minutes of time twice during the school year for their child's teacher to make home visits at the beginning and end of the year .
- Parents are required to, as mandated by Federal Law, provide records of **immunizations**, **physical**, **and dental examinations** within the first 10 days of receiving the acceptance letter.
- Parents must make every effort to follow attendance guidelines by sending their child to school every day he/she is not ill.
- Parents will receive training about the leadership and community service opportunities through Policy Council and site meetings, as well as in healthy relationships (i.e., marital and parent/child relationships) through the Family Summit, Love and Logic series, and Fatherhood trainings.
- Early Head Start children should attend 5 days a week at least 6 hours per day.
- Parents are expected to attend scheduled parent/teacher conferences twice a year, failure to meet with teaching staff may cause your child to be moved to waitlist status.
- Parents are encouraged to volunteer and/or participate in their child's classroom or activities. License facility volunteers working eight hours or more must have finger print paperwork on file.
- Parents are encouraged to attend site meetings, parent trainings, and Family Summits as often as possible and assist in making decisions concerning improvements to the classroom and/or the overall Consortium's Programs.

#### PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST FOLLOW ALL RULES REGARDING TRANSPORATION

• The transportation policies and procedures are found on pages 16-18 of this handbook. By signing this document I confirm that I have read and will follow them.

Parent Signature

Date

#### THE CONSORTIUM'S COMMITMENT TO PARENTS

- Parents are to be treated with dignity and respect by all Consortium employees and consultants.
- Parents can expect that their child with a disability will receive services as indicated by testing, through case conference committee, and individual development of an education plan.
- The Consortium's Staff will meet with each family to form a family partnership agreement, setting personal and family goals and formulating plans to achieve those goals.
- Parents are always welcome in the classroom and encouraged to assist whenever and wherever possible.
- Parents are to be informed regularly about their child's progress in the Consortium's including access to his/her educational file.
- Parents can expect guidance for their child from The Consortium's teachers and other staff, which will help his/her total individual development.
- Parents can receive help to improve daily living for themselves, and their family in adult/education/life skills through community resources dealing with health, education and the improvement of life.
- Staff will be available to teach parents about the operation of the program, including the budget (in-kind) and the level of education and experience required to fill various staff positions.
- Parents will receive training about the leadership and community service opportunities through Policy Council and site meetings, as well as in healthy relationships (i.e., marital and parent/child relationships) through the Family Summit, Love and Logic series, and Fatherhood trainings.
- Parents will participate in a minimum of two 60 minute home visits and two Parent/Teacher conferences.
- Parents should attend all available site meetings and assist in making decisions concerning improvements to the classroom and/or the overall The Consortium's Program.

Consortium Staff Signature

Date

# Section V: Policies and Procedures

#### TRANSPORTATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Transportation is provided for the families enrolled in the Head Start Program through the school corporation in which the child attends classes. If transportation is available in your school district, parents or guardians will be contacted shortly before school starts to inform them of the times for pick-up, drop-off, and specific locations where this will occur. Buses will pick-up and drop-off in front of the address that is supplied to The Consortium. Exceptions may be necessary for apartment complexes, housing complexes, or mobile home parks where the bus cannot stop directly in front of the house. Parents who are participating in transportation should be aware of the procedures that are established for the safety of your child.

All children that are transported by parent/guardian must have valid driver's license and age appropriate car seat that meets federal standards along with valid car insurance.

## Bus riding is a privilege, which may be revoked, so parents are urged to follow the transportation policies that are set forth in this handbook.

#### THE CONSORTIUM'S TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

#### Address/Name/Phone Changes

When there is a change in any of your child's information, you must have a face to face contact with your Family and Community Specialist immediately. Head Start cannot guarantee your child's placement, session, site or continued services once this form has been submitted. Transportation to and from The Consortium's classes are your responsibility until you are contacted by the transportation department/Head Start Office and a date has been provided to begin services.

### If a child is returned to the school, the child may be placed on the waitlist from bus and school services.

- The FIRST time that a child is returned to the school, Family and Community Specialist (FACS) will call parents with a reminder message about being present at home at the scheduled drop off time.
- The SECOND time that a child is returned to the school a meeting is held with the FACS and a Head Start Manager.
- The THIRD time a child is returned to the school, the child will be placed on the Head Start waitlist.

#### **BUS STOP PROCEDURES**

- For the safety of all persons, no animals of any kind or size are to be within 50 feet of the bus stop.
- The No Smoking policy at Head Start facilities include 50 feet surrounding area of all bus stops. 19

#### HEAD START TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (continued)

#### Pick-up Procedures:

Please have your child ready in the morning 10 minutes before the bus arrives in order for the child to quickly and safely board the bus. The bus monitor will assist the child(ren) on and off the bus. The bus will not wait longer than one (1) minute for the child(ren). If your child(ren) misses the bus, you may bring your child to the school. You must report to the front office to receive sign in information.

- An **ADULT** must be present with the child when the bus arrives.
- An **ADULT** must escort the child to the bus with hand to hand contact, child to the bus monitor.
- Head Start parents must ensure that their child is signed in and/or out by an authorized adult when riding the bus. The custody of a child must be transferred with hand to hand contact to/from Head Start staff, by signing in/out, upon arrival/dismissal.
- Should a child have a medication(s) with a health care plan, the medication bag must be logged in on the transportation bus manifest form with the bus monitor/driver. No child may board the bus without their medication bag.
- To report your child's absence, contact your child's classroom.

#### Drop-off Procedures:

<u>The transportation department expects that a parent or guardian will be at home at the designated time to receive the child.</u> If no one is available, a phone call will be made to your home phone number, emergency contact name, and the child will be returned to the school. If no contact is made by calling these numbers, the local police will be called and the child will be turned over to them as abandoned. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that parents and guardians take seriously the responsibility of being home for their child.

- Children will only be released to the responsible adult whose name has been <u>listed on the child's emergency</u> form. To make changes or additions to this list you must make an appointment with the Family and Community Specialist to complete a COS form in person.
- An **ADULT** must walk to the bus and retrieve the child from the bus monitor using hand to hand contact.
- Teen siblings to the enrolled Head Start child may walk children from the bus, provided the teen siblings name is on the contact release form and presents to the bus driver a picture identification card.

#### HEAD START TRANSPORTATION POLICIES (continued)

#### EARLY HEAD START Additional Policies:

Parents of infants participating in the Community Partnership portion of the Head Start program must provide their own transportation.

#### Pick-up:

- Parents must submit height and weight of their child to the EHS Manager or FACS prior to receiving transportation services.
- The parent and child must be present when the bus arrives.
- A parent must ride with the child on the bus.

#### Drop-off:

- Infant/toddlers will only be transported by bus with the parent present and on the bus with the child.
- Parents and children will only be dropped off at the pick-up address.

#### **Conduct and Mis-Conduct on the Bus**

- Children are asked to leave all toys, candy, and any other snacks at home.
- Children are expected to respectfully follow bus rules and be respectful of adults and other students.
- Child Safety Seats and/or harnesses must be used by all children riding the bus. Seats are provided by the transportation department.
- Bus drivers / monitors will complete a School Bus Incident Report on the misbehavior and inform Head Start staff within 24 hours of the incident.
- Bus misconduct will be addressed according to school corporation/Head Start policies.
- Three incident reports during the school year may result in your child being placed on the waitlist at the discretion of Head Start management.

#### NON-BUS TRANSPORTED CHILDREN

#### For those who drop their child off at school:

Please do not drop your child off more than 5 minutes before school is designated to begin. Teachers need time to prepare for the day. If you arrive prior to this you must stay with your child until the class begins. You must sign your child in when arriving and sign your child out when departing. The sign in/ out sheet will be available in your child's classroom.

Parents may <u>not</u> leave children in the car while bringing a Early Head Start/Head Start child into the building, if this happens CPS will be notified.

#### Elkhart and St. Joseph Head Start Consortium

Weather Delays Schedule 2016-2017

Baugo AM: No AM Head Start PM: Runs as usual EHS CC Runs as usual Concord AM: Runs AM 2 hours later (students will be there about 1.5 hrs) Dismiss at 12:00 pm PM: Runs as usual Elkhart: AM: No AM Head Start PM: Runs as usual No AM Head Start Goshen AM PM Runs as usual John Glenn AM: Runs Head Start AM on a 2 hour delay start at 10:00 a.m. Dismiss at 11:30 AM PM: Arrive at 11:00 am and will go to end of day at 2:30 pm. There will be a half hour overlap. Middlebury AM: No AM Head Start PM: Runs as usual Penn Harris AM: No AM Head Start PM: Runs as usual Mishawaka AM: No AM Head Start PM: Runs as usual South Bend AM: No AM Head Start PM: Runs as usual EHS CC Runs as usual Union North AM: Runs at 10:00 am Wa-nee AM: Runs AM from 10:30 - 1:00 pm Runs PM from 1:00 - 3:30 pm PM:

#### CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

The Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium program staff will guarantee confidentiality and privacy in regard to services, records and discussions of or about any person or child served by the program. All confidential information regarding an individual or family served by this organization must be kept confidential. Any disclosure of confidential information must be carried out within the guidelines specified in this policy. The practice of confidentiality must be maintained in all Head Start programs, departments, function and activities of the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium.

Part of protecting the confidentiality of Head Start children and families requires that staff can only communicate with parents and/or legal guardians. Information to communicate with any third party requires the express written permission of the parent and/or guardian.

#### SMOKING POLICY

#### Smoking Policy:

Parents or volunteers who smoke must adhere to the following policy:

- Smoking will only be allowed off the school premises.
- Should a parent or volunteer leave the premises to smoke and expect to return back to the classroom, will be required to wear a smoking jacket.
- Smoking jackets can be given to you by your child's teacher.
- At the end of the day, please return the smoking jacket back to the teacher for cleaning.

<u>Head Start Schools are SMOKE FREE:</u> There is no smoking allowed on the grounds at any of the Head Start facilities. Smoking is also not permitted while standing within 50 feet at the bus stops before or after the pick-up or drop-off times.

#### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

Parents are prohibited from bringing firearms, weapons (including tasers) or ammunition on the property of the Consortium or any other School Corporation, or possessing any firearm, weapon (including tasers) or ammunition while attending Consortium trainings.

All parents are expected to be free of alcohol and illegal drugs and not to sell, distribute, dispense, possess, or use or conspire to sell, distribute, dispense, possess, or use an illegal drug or alcohol on the Consortium's premises, or when engaged in the Consortium's business or an activity sponsored by the Consortium. In the event this should occur, the child will not be released to the adult and police will be notified.

# Section VI: Parents as Partners

#### PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN THE CONSORTIUM'S PROGRAMS

#### Parent Involvement

Parents are an essential part of our program. We rely on parents for support in a number of areas. We welcome parents to take advantage of the opportunity to help plan and shape our Consortium Programs by participating in the classroom, on committees, Policy Council, Family Summit, Parent Trainings, and Parent Site meetings.

Parents will receive training about the leadership and community service opportunities through Policy Council and site meetings, as well as in healthy relationships (i.e., marital and parent/child relationships) through the Family Summit, Love and Logic series, and Fatherhood trainings.

By taking advantage of partnering, parents will join The Consortium's forming a strong team to educate their child and enhance their family's opportunity to grow in parenting, relationship and leadership skills.

We will share information with you on a regular basis through parent meeting minutes, notes, newsletters and flyers. Parent information will also be sent home with your child. Please check your child's backpack daily for mail and to see what she/he was working on that day at school.

In the following pages you will learn how The Consortium's forms partnerships and depends upon the involvement of parents and other community organizations. The Consortium is unique in that it does not seek to simply teach children, but enhance families through learning and growing together.

You will find opportunities to interact with other families, The Consortium's staff and community leaders to gain knowledge, information and necessary services for your family as you partner with The Consortium. The Consortium needs you to plan for this involvement at many levels. The next few pages of this Handbook describe what is expected from both The Consortium and you as a family that benefit from its services.

If you have not already met with your Family and Community Specialist (FACS) you will soon have that opportunity. You will be asked to provide family information and set growth goals. This will require a partnership that depends upon The Consortium keeping its commitments. Each family will have to plan on keeping similar commitments as well.

#### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

#### Philosophy and Goals

The Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium is family centered and is designed to build upon a parent's role as the principle influence on a child's development. Our Consortium Program works to engage in a process of collaborative partnership with individual families to develop a "Family Partnership Agreement". This partnership between The Consortium and parents is required by the Department of Health and Human Services to help parents in developing their individual strengths and successfully meet personal and family objectives. Through these agreements, parents are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of The Consortium, including direct involvement in policy and program decisions that respond to their interests and needs. A Family and Community Specialist will be assigned to your family to assist you.

#### The general objective of Family Partnerships are...

- To establish mutual trust, identify strengths or need of services for each family, and the necessary services or supports to meet those goals.
- To establish new or build upon pre-existing family plans and goals by obtaining information from the family, provide information and/or opportunities available from other community agencies to enhance or meet those goals.
- To establish the roles that staff and families will play in addressing and meeting each goal.
- To work collaboratively with participating parents to identify and access those community services and resources that are responsive to their interests and goals.
- To ensure that parents are provided opportunities to enhance their own parenting skills, as well as, gain knowledge and understanding of the educational, developmental needs and activities of their children.
- To provide opportunity to participate in medical, dental, nutritional, and mental health education programs.
- Markers of progress to include family engagement opportunities.

#### About Community Partnerships

The Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium is a community organization that works to form collaborative partnerships with other child and family service organizations. The outcome is the forming of a "Community Partnership Agreement" with those community organizations that are responsive to the needs of children and families. These partnerships help to establish a wealth of information and opportunities that will enhance or improve the quality of service to The Consortium's Families.

Included in this binder is community resource information for you to access resources as needed. Please contact your Family and Community Specialist if you need assistance.

#### PARENTING SUPPORT

For families that experience behavioral concerns with their child in their home may address these concerns with their assigned Family and Community Specialist. Family Specialist will introduce the Triple P program with families to build strategies to help alleviate concerns.

Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) uses proven solutions that help solve current parenting problems and prevent future problems before they arise.

Triple P suggest simple routines and small changes that can make a big difference for families. It helps you understand the way your family works and uses the things you already say, think, feel and do in new ways that:

- Create a stable, supportive and harmonious family.
- Encourage positive behavior in your child.
- Build positive relationships with your children, so that conflict can be resolved.
- Plan ahead to avoid or manage potentially difficult situations.
- Take care of yourself as a parent.

#### **Family Summits** (Powerful information seminars)

These seminars are designed specifically to provide parental support in key areas of family life. They are offered at least two times a year and in convenient locations to attend. At these seminars, parents will receive support from experts on various family issues through informational training sessions. Subjects include:

- How to improve relationship skills in the family, improving a child's environment and enhancing their educational and social development.
- The value of a father's involvement in a child's life, how that relationship is different from a mother's and why it is necessary into a child's educational and social growth.
- Techniques from Love and Logic systems designed to improve a child's decision making skills.

#### **Parent Site Meetings**

Every parent or guardian of a child enrolled in The Consortium is a member of the Parent Site Meeting for that site. You should take the opportunity to attend and become active at your site meetings. At Site Meetings parents have the very important task of helping plan and conduct the Site Meetings and activities. You will also give input in program planning (example: giving input to teachers on ideas for the classroom.) At the first site meeting, held in September, parents will learn about what happens at future meetings and the leadership positions that will be elected. At the second meeting, in October, parents will be elected by parents to serve as officers and representatives for the parent site meeting and the Policy Council. The newly elected leaders will help plan and conduct the meetings for the rest of the year. Each site will be able to set project goals and activities to help improve the Site Meetings, families, classrooms and The Consortium in general.

A binder will be provided to those elected as a representative from each Site. It will contain the Head Start Performance Standards, Rules of Operation, and other parent information available for your review. All helpful information to help you fulfill your new role as a Consortium's parent/leader.

#### List of All Areas of Parent Involvement: Especially to generate in-kind services

- In the classroom;
- Attend Parent Site Meetings;
- As a member of an Advisory Committee;
- As a member of the Policy Council;
- As a regular volunteer, volunteer their talents/skills to the program;
- Do work at home to support the staff's classroom needs;
- Assist your child by completing homework packets;
- Family Summit;
- Love and Logic;
- Healthy Family Relationships; and
- Fatherhood Initiatives



#### Definition of In-Kind, Parent Responsibilities

#### In-kind and Parent's Role

Parents play a critical role when volunteering in their child's Head Start program. During the school year as parents participate in various activities and document the time, it converts toward an in-kind match like money, it tells the government we have taken our grant seriously and through the support of parents are able to meet the government's challenge.

Here's an easy example of how it works:

If you bought a house for \$10,000, the bank is willing to help you get started by giving you a loan for 80% of the houses value and the bank expects you to bring in a down payment of 20%.

So the figures will be:

House costs	\$10,000.00	(100% of the house costs)
Bank loan	<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>	(80% of the loan)
Your down payment	\$ 2,000.00	(20% of your match to buy the home)

In-kind is the same concept. We need to match 20% of our grant funds from the Federal Government to be supported by parents through in-kind by taking the hourly wage of our Teacher Assistant and multiple your hours of volunteerism to document your work toward meeting the match.

<u>What is in-kind?</u> In-kind is services (volunteers) or goods (items or supplies) that would normally be hired or purchased through grant dollars that are given for free.

#### Examples of In-kind:

- 1. Attending Home Visits and Parent/Teacher Conferences and generating child plans with your child's teacher.
- 2. Classroom volunteer or prepare classroom materials, clean the room, or a lunch-room assistant.
- 3. Doing the homework packets and assignments sent home to you from your child's teacher and documenting your time, signature, and send back to your child's teacher.
- 4. Doing other activities as a family that would relate to similar school activities and writing it on the in-kind form. Those activities include:
  - Sorting silverware for meals, laundry, buttons, vegetables, fruits.
  - Cutting out pictures or coupons from advertisement or junk mail.
  - Making homemade play dough and creating letters, numbers, or sculpture.
  - Helping parents make simple meals and discussing with parents the value of good foods.
  - Taking objects from home such as dry lima beans and grouping them into small sets like 3 white beans and 2 red beans equals 5 total beans. Making simple projects like that to reinforce math skills.
  - Read a story book every day to your child for about 15 mins.
  - Completing the homework packets.

If you have any questions regarding if your activities qualify for in-kind, please feel free to do the activity and fill out the form, we will determine if it counts. Mainly, get involved with your child is the most important message we can send here today. And, FILL OUT THE FORM WITH YOUR SIGNATURE.

#### Specific Partner Opportunities and Guidelines

Additional parent partner opportunities that are available have specific responsibilities that encourages professional development. There are several opportunities and guidelines listed in the next few pages. In each case your child's Teacher or Consortium's Staff can help you receive training and education to fulfill your duties.

You may find yourself serving in only one area, but many parents find joy in serving in several areas of The Consortium at the same time.

#### Mileage/Babysitting Reimbursement

Parents or guardians who participate in the Policy Council meetings and other parent involvement activities are eligible for reimbursement for mileage and babysitting expenses.

#### A Regular Volunteer

A REGULAR volunteer is defined as a volunteer who has applied for a specific volunteer position that requires direct contact with any Consortium's children and a written agreement, **or** is in the classroom 12 or more hours per month, **or** those on a set schedule that have direct contact with children, **or** those identified as a regular volunteer by the Executive Director, Parent Engagement Manager, Family and Community



Specialist, **or** Teacher due to the nature of the specific volunteer role.

Many community volunteers participate in our classrooms as well, however **all regular volunteers** must provide background information and proof of a Negative TB test and for Early Head Start a TDap immunization is required and sent to the Head Start Office. All regular volunteers will be required to complete a

Criminal background check and receive training regarding volunteer expectations. License facility volunteers working eight hours or more must have finger print paperwork on file.

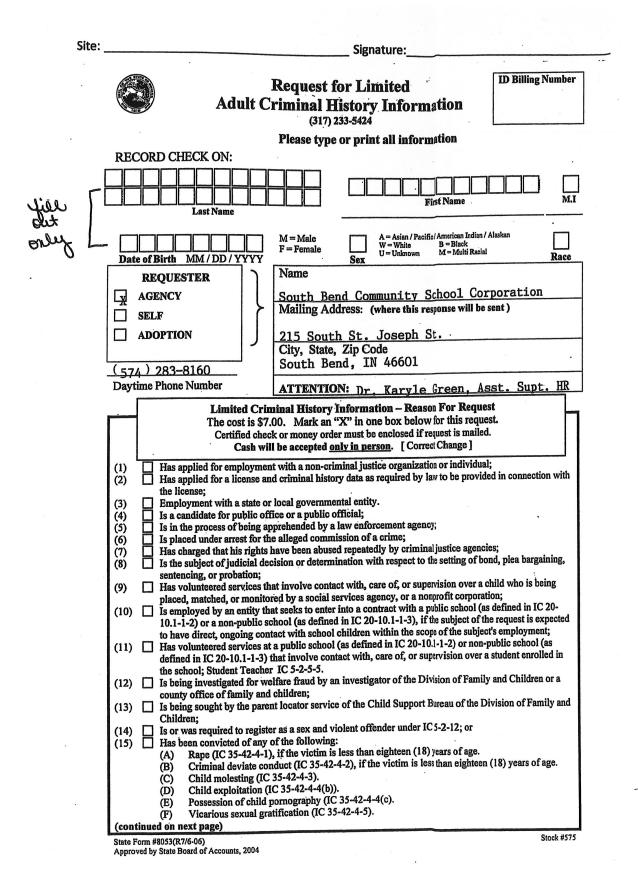
All volunteers are expected to sign and adhere to the following code of conduct:

- No cell phone usage while volunteering
- Follow Head Start dress code
- Confidentiality standards must be signed and kept

#### Site Meeting Leadership Positions

These positions are all elected by parents from within your particular site. The Consortium is required to provide that parents engage in shared decision-making with management team regarding program planning, development, implementation, evaluation, and training. This is done at several levels. It begins at the Site Meeting where parents are elected to lead the meetings and set goals for each site and the classes contained at that site.

Adult Criminal History Information (317) 333-5424 Please type or print all information RECORD CHECK ON:	Site: _	Signature:
RECORD CHECK ON: Last Name Last Name Last Name Last Name Last Name Last Name M = Male M		Adult Criminal History Information
Last Name       Figt Name         Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY       M=Male       A-Adam Padia/American India/Aladam         Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY       M=Male       B-Black       B-Black         MEQUESTER       Surth Bend Community School Corporation         AGENCY       SELF       South Bend, Chere this response will be sent)       215         ADOPTION       215       South St. Joseph St.       City, State, Zip Code         South Bend, IN 46601       ATTENTION: Dr. Karyle Green, Asst. Supt. H         Limited Criminal History Information - Reasos For Request       The cost is \$7.00. Mark an "X" in one box below for this request.         Certified obed or money order must be enclosed frequest is malled.       Cash will be accepted only in nerson. [Corred Change]         (1)       Has applied for alloeses and criminal history data as required by las to be provided in connection with the license;         (3)       Employment with a state or local governmental entity.         (4)       Is a candidate for public office or a public official;         (5)       Is blaced under arres for the alleged commission of a orime;         (6)       Is a composition involve contact with, care of, or supervision over a child who is being placed, antibuted or monitorid by a social services agency, or a nonoffic corporation;         (7)       Has applied for alloying contact with a state or local governmental entity.		Please type or print all information
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### 5.1

## HEAD START PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

As a recipient of federal Head Start funds, the Consortium must at all times comply with federal Head Start performance standards. All Consortium employees are responsible for complying with Head Start performance standards, including but not limited to the following:

- All staff, consultants, and volunteers will respect and promote the unique identity of each child and family and refrain from stereotyping on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, or disability.
- All staff, consultants, and volunteers will follow program confidentiality policies concerning information about children, families, and other staff members.
- No child will be left alone or unsupervised while under the care of a staff member, consultant, or volunteer.
- All staff, consultants, and volunteers will use positive methods of child guidance and will not engage in corporal punishment, emotional or physical abuse, or humiliation. In addition, they will not employ methods of discipline that involve isolation, the use of food as punishment or reward, or the denial of basic needs.
- Staff must supervise the outdoor and indoor play areas in such a way that children's safety can be easily monitored and ensured.

Adopted July 19, 2006

Signature:

Date:

Your Family and Community Specialist will give you a better explanation and training on what happens at Site Meetings, but the following is a brief overview of what elected leaders can expect.

#### What are Site Meetings?

#### What types of things happen at a site meeting?

- Goals are set for group partnership with The Consortium to improve programs
- Discussion of personal concerns for The Consortium
- Parents meet parents with common goals and experiences
- Discuss and plan parent activities that improve family and educational experiences for the children
- Opportunities for parent involvement in community

#### How does a meeting work?

- Parents are elected to leadership positions
- Each meeting is run by parents starting in October/November
- Each meeting follows a prepared agenda (help from FACS personnel)
- Each meeting has a record of what was discussed (minutes)
- Sign in sheets record attendance

#### What positions are available?

- Chairperson/Representative to Policy Council (May be the same person, but does not have to be)
- Assistant chairperson
- Secretary

#### What kind of responsibility does a parent/leader have?

- Faithful attendance
- Available time to fulfill duties
- Learn Roberts Rules of Order (Training will be provided)
- Learn/Understand leadership principles (Training will be provided)

#### Policy Council



There are many leadership opportunities available to someone elected to the Policy Council. (Complete training is provided for parents who are elected from the site meetings. It is not necessary for someone to understand all of the duties to fill this position; You just need a willingness to serve and learn.) The Policy Council is a parent committee established from among the families whose children are participating in the current year's Head Start. This committee provides opportunity for parents to share in decisions to be made about the program and its vision. Besides parents a portion of the Policy Council is made up of members that are representatives from the community. The Community Representatives are selected from among qualified people from both Elkhart and St. Joseph counties and serve one year terms until fulfilling the lifetime term limit of three (3) years.

Parent members are elected from their local sites as leaders and join together forming the Policy Council. The council meets regularly to learn about and conduct business on behalf of the parents and the program. There are lots of opportunities to grow in personal leaderships skills, to learn more about the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium processes and procedures and to share in the overall improvement of the program with their input and oversight.

Parents are elected at the site meetings early in the year and serve for a term of 1 year. Qualified parents may serve as many as 3 one year terms if they are elected.

Parents and Community Representatives do not need any prior experience to be elected or selected. If someone is elected/selected for a position on the Policy Council according to the Rules of Operation established by the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium, they will receive all of the training necessary to be able to successfully serve.

# Section VII: Policy Council

#### ITEM XII: COMMUNITY AND CONSUMER COMMENT POLICIES

#### Parent Comment/Dispute Resolution

Any parent receiving services through the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium program may initiate a concern. Such concerns may include but are not limited to the following program management and service areas: communication, disabilities, education, eligibility/enrollment/attendance, facilities, fiscal operations, health, nutrition, parent involvement, personnel, social services and transportation.

The resolution of all concerns is to follow Steps 1 and 2 below. If other Head Start parents share the same concern, the concern may be processed through the Site Committee and beyond via Steps 3 through 6. If the concern remains the concern of an individual parent only, the concern will move directly from Step 2 to Step 4.

A Parent Community Comment/Complaint tracking form will be utilized to keep a record of each step of the process. This form will be available from any employee of Head Start and a copy will be available in the Parent Binder located in each room, as well as from any Policy Council member.

# STEP 1 – Take the concern to the Head Start or Early Head Start manager or Consortium staff person directly responsible

An individual with a concern should first take the concern to the person(s) directly responsible for that program area. For example, a concern regarding the classroom should be discussed first with the teacher. If the concern is resolved at this level, no further action is necessary. If the concern is not resolved at this level, the individual should move on to Step 2.

A concern taken beyond Step 1 must be in written form and should contain the following:

- $\sqrt{}$  Description of the specific comment or concern
- $\sqrt{}$  Date of the incident or date when concern first arose
- $\sqrt{1}$  The name / signature of the person submitting the comment or concern
- $\sqrt{}$  Date written comment / concern submitted to The Consortium's staff

# STEP 2 – Take the concern to the Head Start/Early Head Start Supervisor / Manager

If resolution is not achieved at Step 1, the individual may submit a written description of the concern to the appropriate management staff person (for example: Area Supervisor or Transportation Manager). The management staff person will mail a written response within 24 hours acknowledging the receipt of the concern. The management staff person will meet with all parties involved within 3 working days of receiving the individual's written concern. If the concern is resolved, no further action is necessary. Within 5 working days of the meeting, the management staff person will provide the individual who submitted the written concern with a written summary of any action taken to resolve the identified concern. If the concern is not resolved at this level, the individual should move to Step 4. If the concern is not resolved at this level and other Head Start parents share the same concern, the parents should move to Step 3. Whether an issue has been considered resolved or not, a copy of the summary must be forwarded to the Consortium Grantee Administrative staff for review and kept on file in the Grantee office.

#### STEP 3 – Take the concern to the Site Committee

If the concern remains unresolved following the meeting outlined in Step 2, the individual should take the concern to the Site Committee. This invites parents with a similar concern to join in voicing and discussing the concern or help resolve the concern. The concern should be presented in writing to the Site Committee Chairperson with a request to have the concern placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Site Committee meeting. The written request should include a detailed description of the concern.

The Site Committee will address the concern at the Site Committee meeting. If the individual and a majority of the quorum of the Site Committee agree upon a resolution of the concern, no further action is necessary. The minutes of the meeting will reflect the resolution of the concern, including the steps needed to resolve the concern.

If a majority of the quorum of the Site Committee members present at the meeting agree that the issue is a concern for other parents and the concern is unresolved, the Site Committee should move on to Step 4. The Family and Community Specialist responsible for assisting the parents in the facilitation of the meeting will inform the Area Supervisor of the unresolved concern. If the concern is not resolved at the Site Committee meeting, the concern is then taken to Step 4.

#### STEP 4 – Take the concern to the Head Start Executive Director

Individual Parent Concern - If the concern remains unresolved following the meeting outlined in Step 2, the individual may within 3 working days make a written request to meet with the Head Start Executive Director. The written request should be sent to the Head Start Executive Director and include a detailed description of the concern.

The Head Start Executive Director will meet with all parties involved within 3 working days of the written request. If a resolution to the concern is agreed upon, no further action is necessary. Within 5 working days following the meeting, the Head Start Executive Director will provide the individual with a written summary of the action proposed to resolve the concern. The Head Start Executive Director will be responsible for communicating with Head Start staff involved in completing the steps necessary to resolve the concern.

If the Site Committee concern is not resolved at the meeting with the Head Start Executive Director, the concern is then taken to Step 5.

#### **STEP 5 – Take the concern to the Policy Council**

If the concern remains unresolved following the meeting outlined in Step 4, the concern should be taken to the Policy Council. The concern should be presented in writing to the Policy Council Chairperson with a request to have the concern placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Policy Council meeting. The request should include a detailed description of the concern.

The Policy Council will address the concern at the Policy Council meeting. If a resolution to the concern is agreed upon by a majority of the quorum of the Policy Council, no further action is necessary. The minutes of the meeting will reflect the resolution of the concern. Within 5 working days following the meeting, the Policy Council Chairperson will provide the Site Committee Chairperson with a written summary of the action taken to resolve the concern. At the next Policy Council meeting, the Head Start Executive Director will report to the Policy Council the steps taken to implement the agreed upon resolution.

If the concern is not resolved at the Policy Council meeting, the concern is then taken to Step 6.

# STEP 6 – Take the concern to the Executive Officers of the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium Board and the Policy Council

If the concern remains unresolved following the meeting outlined in Step 5, the Policy Council Chairperson/Parent Governing Board Member and the Head Start Executive Director will bring the concern to the next scheduled Governing Board meeting for discussion and/or recommendations for appropriate actions. At the next Policy Council meeting a written summary of the action taken to resolve the concern will be provided by the Executive Director and the Policy Council Chairperson. The Policy Council representatives will inform Head Start parents of the action taken to resolve the concern through the reports they give at their respective Site Committee meetings.

# **Community Comment Tracking Form**

Each step must be taken in the correct order to ensure a timely and effective response to your concerns. Advancing to an inappropriate step or person in charge will only slow the process as it must be documented that each step was appropriately followed. This form will help you to complete the process and insure that you have a record of who has been spoken to and what has been accomplished. Please feel free to attach additional appropriate documents that help to explain what has been accomplished.

Staff persons receiving a complaint should sign all complaints as having been made aware of the problem. A signature does not mean that you agree or disagree with the complaint. After recording the suggested solution, action or recommendation given, make a copy and place it in the family file.

Step 1 Date incident or problem occurred:			
Describe the nature of your comment, concern or co	mplaint:		
Suggested solution, action, or recommendation give	n:		
Person submitting comment or complaint:			
	× •	Relationship to child	d Today's Date)
Staff Person receiving the comment or complaint	(Signature	Position I	Date action taken)
Attach a written explanation of action taken.	(number of pages atta		
Step 2 (If Necessary)			
If resolution is not achieved at Step 1, the individua staff person.	l may submit a written d	escription of the concern	n to the appropriate managemer
Describe additional concern or failure to resolve the	issue. (Written by famil	y member)	
Management Staff receiving the comment or compla	aint:		
	(Signatur	e Posit	ion Date action taken)
Attach a copy of written response and explanation o	f action taken.	(number of pages a	ttached)

The management staff person receiving this comment or complaint will mail a written response within 24 hours acknowledging the receipt of the concern. The management staff person will meet with all parties involved within 3 working days of receiving the individual's written concern. If the concern is resolved, no further action is necessary.

## Step 3 – Take the concern to the Site Committee

Location or name of Site:				
Describe any additional info	ormation about your concern, so	o that it can be placed on the meeting	agenda.	
Name of Site Chairperson:	Signature	Date received		
	Signature	Date received	Date of m	neeting
Attach notes about the discu	ussion at the meeting/minutes o	f the meeting when they become avai	lable(number of j	pages attached)
Stop 4 Take the ser	asur 45 4b a Haad Start F	nontino Divertor		
Step 4 – Take the cond	cern to the Head Start E	xecutive Director		
		rresolved following the meeting ou with the Head Start Executive Direct		e individual may
tion to the concern is agree	ed upon, no further action is	arties involved within 3 working da necessary. Within 5 working days ritten summary of the action propose	following the meetin	ng, the Head Star
Today's Date:				
Describe any change or unre	esolved portion of the problem.			
Date Head Start Director red				
Attach response:(number				
(numbe	er of pages)			
Step 5 – Take the cond	cern to the Policy Counc	il		
The concern should be pre-		ng outlined in Step 4, the concern s cy Council Chairperson with a requineeting.		
Describe any change or unro	esolved portion of the problem.			
Chairperson receiving docu	mentation from parent and/or H	Head Start Director:		
			(Signature	Date)
Attach description of action	or resolution passed to correct	the problem or submit to the Govern		
			(numt	ber of pages)

Step 6 – Take the concern to the Executive Officers of Head Start Consortium Board

# Section VIII: Nutrition and Wellness Information

#### **NUTRITION**

If your child is in the Early Head Start program, he/she will receive 2/3 of his/her daily nutritional needs in Early Head Start. The program provides breakfast, lunch, and a snack.

Children in the Head Start program will receive one-third of his/her daily nutritional needs at Head Start. The program provides breakfast and a hot lunch for AM classes and a hot lunch and nutritious afternoon snack for PM classes each day.

The safety of children is our most important concern. We must restrict food prepared off site due to health considerations, including allergies, food sensitivities, choking concerns, and nutritional content, as well as religious food preferences. Therefore, we do not allow any outside food to be given to the children. Please do not bring any food or "treats" for birthday or holiday parties. If you would like to send in something to share with the class, some suggestions would be stickers, pencils, erasers, puzzles, etc. The only exception will be for Family Engagement Celebrations and notification will go home prior to the celebration.

If your child needs a specific diet for religious or medical reasons or has any food allergies, forms must be completed to request changes. These forms must be returned to Head Start FACS person so that the Head Start Nutrition Consultant may review and make necessary recommendations. Changes or substitutions because of food allergies for medical reasons <u>must</u> be documented by the child's physician. The Head Start Nutrition Consultant will arrange for all necessary meals or food substitutions by working with your family and the school kitchens.

The Nutrition Consultant also plans nutrition education opportunities for you and your child. Weekly food projects and nutrition activities are done in the classroom; by involving the children in nutrition activities they learn about new foods and enjoy eating them. From time to time a variety of nutrition topics may be offered to parents at site meetings. Health and safety information, as well as fun healthy recipes will be sent home for your enjoyment.

Head Start ensures that each child is nutritionally assessed while in the program. This is accomplished through:

- The Nutrition Assessment and Health History forms that you will complete before your child enters the program
- Height and weight measurements
- Dental reports (a dental exam)
- Blood hemoglobin levels
- Food eating habits/behaviors

The Dietician will evaluate the results and work with the staff and parents of any children with specific problems such as:

Anemia
 Overweight
 Allergies
 Underweight

## **DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

All children will receive sensory and behavioral developmental screenings within 30 calendar days of enrollment to identify areas of concern. The screenings are brief checks, which help identify children who may need educational interventions. Parents will be informed of the results of the screenings and will have the opportunity to work with Head Start personnel in planning educational experiences for their child.

Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium works closely with the child's home school district and other agencies to provide a full range of services including a free and appropriate education to meet the individual special needs of the child.

Parents are an important part of this process, and a vital link in the decision making process and educational experiences for their child. The strengths and

needs of the child and family will provide the basis for making decisions regarding services in the least restrictive and most appropriate environment for their child.

#### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

The promotion of positive social and emotional health is a major goal of the Head Start program, for all members of the Head Start Community, children, their



families and Head Start staff, both in the classroom environment and in the home. Head Start strives to provide a nurturing program which promotes feelings of competence, success, problem-solving skills, making new friends, a positive self-concept and respect for individual differences.

#### **STUDENT ASSISTANCE TEAM**

The purpose of the Student Assistance Team (SAT) is to identify and provide individualized services to children who are experiencing persistent behavioral/or learning difficulties within the classroom environment.

Families are very important members of the SAT, and are encouraged to participate anytime throughout the process. If you need further information, or have concerns regarding your child, please contact your child's teacher.

#### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Our goal at Head Start is to help your child cope with little difficulties and small emotional upsets before they become big problems that are more difficult to manage. We know that behavioral and emotional challenges can interfere with your child's learning and development. We believe that learning to manage emotions and behavior is simply another type of education we can provide, giving your child greater opportunity to be ready to learn when he or she reaches school age. A behavioral health specialist visits each Head Start classroom. The specialist can assist children who have difficulty managing their emotions or behaviors. The specialist will consult with teachers and parents at a Student Assistant Team (SAT) meeting to address each child's social/emotional needs. As a parent, you may have questions or concerns about your child's behavioral health. In extreme situations where a child endangers self or other, the child may need to remain at home until a SAT meeting is completed and needed services are in place.

#### REFERRALS

Mental Health referrals may be generated during SAT meetings with parents written consent. Mental Health referrals are facilitated and monitored by Mental Health Manager.

#### **DISABILITY SERVICES**

Serving children with disabilities is a very important piece of Head Start's work with children and their families. At least ten percent of enrollment opportunities in the program are made available for children with disabilities.

If a child qualifies for services, an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed with family and staff input. The IFSP/IEP must be developed before special services are provided. Many of our children come with an IFSP/IEP and are first served by the Consortium after the screening and assessment process.

#### CONSULTATIONS

When there is evidence of a suspected disability, with parent written consent, a request for consultation is made to the local school district to determine if there is a need for a multidisciplinary evaluation and if special services are indicated.

The child's educational program will be designed to provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences based on the child's needs. If further diagnostic testing is indicated, families will provide written consent. If test and assessment results indicate the need for an IFSP or IEP, the family is an active participant in this process and will receive a copy of the IFSP/IEP at a case conference. Together we will provide a quality educational experience for your child.

Those children entering the program with a diagnosed disability that have a current IFSP/IEP would be ready to begin special services following program entrance.

### THE CONSORTIUM'S TRANSITION

The goal of Transition Services is to help all The Consortium's families move success-

fully into their next educational envi-Most Early Head Start ronment. families transition into Head Start, while some may choose other preschool programs. Head Start families transition into Kindergarten. We also work with agencies providing early intervention services to assist families in transitioning from early intervention to Head Start. Our program will be working with the parent and the local schools and agencies to help the parent and their child with this transition. This process will continue throughout the program year.

Children with an IFSP/IEP will have an individual transition plan developed with the involvement of parents and staff or in some cases a preschool program other than Head Start or the child's home school district.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Indiana law requires that any Head Start personnel who knows or suspects child abuse or neglect will be responsible for reporting the suspected abuse or neglect and in accordance with the Governing Board Policy. As



employees of the Elkhart and St. Joseph Head Start Consortium, we are not here to make judgments as to whether a child is abused or neglected. We are legally mandated to report a suspicion of abuse or neglect. Our reporting is to help protect a child if the need exists and to help a family access any needed services. The care and well being of a child is of the utmost importance.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH SERVICES EDUCATION

Head Start is designed to meet the needs of each individual child. Children are introduced to learning experiences in a one-on-one interaction with teachers and small/large group situations. The activities of the classroom promote the children's intellectual, social, emotional, language and physical growth.

Emphasis is placed on building the child's positive self-concept and making their Head Start experience a pleasant one. Head Start gives your child lots of love, attention and guidance. Much effort is given to direct your child toward activities that will lead to success at completion.

Developmental appropriate practices are used in all classrooms. To support these practices the teaching staff will:

- Promote a positive climate for learning.
- Will know each child well and design activities based on their knowledge of each individual child's differing abilities, developmental levels, and approaches to learning.
- Plan and prepare a learning environment that fosters children's initiative, active exploration of materials, and sustained engagement with other children, adults, and activities.
- Provide a variety of concrete learning materials relevant to children's own life experiences that promote their interest, engagement in learning, and conceptual development.
- Encourage children's developing language and communication skills by talking with them throughout the day, speaking clearly and listening to their responses, and providing opportunities for them to talk to each other.
- Observe and interact with children in all situations to maximize their knowledge.
- Draw children's curiosity and desire to make sense of their world to motivate them to become involved in interesting learning activities.
- Ensure that curriculum goals address learning in all developmental areas: physical, social, emotional, language, aesthetic, and intellectual.
- Use the HighScope Child Observational Record to assess children's progress, examine children's work samples, and document their developmental or learning needs.
- Work in partnership with parents and community regularly to build mutual understanding and ensure that children's learning and developmental needs are met.
- Engage in ongoing professional development activities.

# Section IX: HighScope

### What is HighScope?

HighScope is the model for learning used in our Head Start Classrooms. Following the interests and choices of your child to develop independent thinking, the ability to make and follow through with a plan and creativity is what HighScope is all about.

HighScope in action!

When you visit your child's classroom you will see your child actively participating with others, objects, events, and ideas. HighScope calls this "Active Learning."

Our teachers work hard to create a safe secure environment for your child. You will see your child's teacher model and encourage positive social skills including conflict resolution, problem solving, and critical thinking. Teachers will encourage your child to think for themselves and experiment with ideas so they will become independent, responsible, and confident!

You will notice clean, organized, and identified areas within your child's classroom. Every day the children will follow a predictable daily routine both are designed to create security for your child so they are relaxed and free to explore and learn!

Your child is a teacher too. As your child interacts with the materials and peers in the classroom, his/her teacher learns about your child's developmental strengths and needs. Your child's teacher will take what she has learned and create additional learning opportunities for your child. Your child's teacher will share what she is learning and ask for ideas and observations during parent teacher conferences and home visits.

# Section X: Human Resources

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

#### **Employment**

The Consortium's parents are given priority for becoming paid employees of the program, i.e., positions such as:

- Administrative Staff
- Paraprofessionals
- Day to day substitutes
- Teachers or Teacher Assistants (appropriate degree required)
- FACS (appropriate degree required)
- Other positions as they become available

Parents interested in employment may complete an application at the Head Start office:

Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium 245 N. Lombardy Drive, Suite A South Bend, IN 46619

Parents are encouraged to apply for positions.

#### Career Development

Most jobs in Head Start require higher education (college degrees). The South Bend and Elkhart communities offer adult courses that lead to a high school diploma, or GED. Information about these courses may be obtained by calling the South Bend Community School Corporation at 283-8000 or Elkhart School Corporation at 262-5833.

Post high school classes are available at several local institutions, for example:

• Ivy Tech, Bethel, Indiana University (IUSB), and Goshen Colleges

The Consortium will strive toward the betterment of its employees and parents. Training is offered to enhance parent and employee marketable skills. Career development strategies include job enhancement, professional training, educational opportunities, and a sincere desire to maximize potential.

The Child Development Associate (CDA) program provides training for parents in child development and early childhood education to explore related areas with the objective of up-grading their skills and competencies in career development.

For information regarding career development, contact Human Resource Manager at 283-8133.

# **NOTES:**