

About the Policy Council

Policy Council speaker: I'd like to have a motion to approve the report for hiring. Hirings are approved.

Polly Greenberg: A very, very important element of Head Start was the concept of maximum feasible participation of parents. People have to be involved in determining what programs they need, and in running them. You don't do things for people. You don't do things to people. If you do, they're still disempowered.

Edgiton Farquharson: At first, I could not speak in front of anyone. You need a strong father beside these children.

It got rid of my shyness. I can advocate for someone, just like I advocate for the kids.

Yvette Rodriguez: Our dream is that whatever we help them develop while they are here in Head Start, it's skills and activities that they could carry on through the life of the children, through their education, and their career.

Beryl Clark: It's the wisdom of the founders of Head Start to recognize that parents, along with the community can work very well together, and can make a really important difference in the lives of children, no matter who they are.

Policy Council speaker: OK, next one on our agenda is our treasurer's report.

Narrator: A Head Start Policy Council is basically a group of parents and other people from the community working together to make decisions about the overall design and operation of a Head Start program's services. Doing this means joining with the governing body and Head Start staff to form a partnership that encourages openness and trust.

Policy Council speaker: The Parent Resource Center wants to encourage low-income parents to come in.

Narrator: The Policy Council is a way to make sure parents are heard.

Terry White: One thing about Policy Council, it teaches parents what they should know all the time, that the parent is the primary educator of his children. And there's nobody that has a better connection at teaching their children than the parent herself.

Gil Jackson: Sometimes the director can view the Policy Council as being a threat. That's an issue that directors have to really look at. I've recognized they have the ability to help me design a program that truly meets the needs of their own children. And it's been a truly wonderful partnership.

Narrator: We hope this video inspires and encourages you to learn more about your program's Policy Council and to work collaboratively with it to make your Head Start program the best it can be.